

## **Board of Education Summary – November 1, 2011**

Board Vice-Chairman George Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM

(Chairman Washington and Mr. Morello were absent. Dr. Carbiener participated by phone).

The Board approved the sale of a property on St. Helena's Island for \$15,000.

The Board approved a motion not to sell any district facilities or property unless it was already on the market or declared surplus.

The Board approved an extension of Superintendent Valerie Truesdale's contract through June 30, 2015. Consistent with its decision to provide no increase in compensation for teachers and staff this past year, it did not recommend any additional compensation for Dr. Truesdale at this time. The Board also targeted specific areas for improvement.

In an official statement, the Board summarized its position on Dr. Truesdale's contract renewal by saying that it "appreciates and is extremely satisfied with her outstanding performance in instructional leadership, financial management, facilities management, community relations, human resources and Board relations."

### **Approval of Agenda**

The Board approved the agenda with one exception. Mrs. Bush made a motion to remove the October 18 Minutes from the Consent Agenda. The Board approved.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Invocation**

Mr. Burnes led the invocation.

### **Statement of Media Notification**

### **Points of Celebration (as spoken by Dr. Truesdale)**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,

- We begin our Points of Celebration this evening by thanking community partners for their outstanding contributions to our schools. Last Friday, BI-LO Charities presented a \$5000 check to our Robotics Program at Battery Creek High School. A big thank you is extended to BI-LO and parent Debra Trevithick who wrote the grant application.
- The President of Sodexo, Steve Dunmore, and Steve Hortin of the US Department of Agriculture were in town last week to honor our 29 schools and nutrition teams who were winners in the Healthier US School Challenge sponsored by the USDA. Congratulations again to our school winners. According to the USDA, Beaufort County led the way in the US for the number of schools in one district honored by this prestigious award.

- And, Sodexo is again being recognized. This time for their recent \$4500 multi-year contribution to the Backpack Buddies Program benefitting our students. The Backpack Buddies Program helps to ensure that children in our high poverty schools receive nourishing food for themselves (and often their families) over the weekend.
- Beaufort Middle School is focusing efforts this year to develop students as “Strategic Readers.” Strategic readers are focused and in-charge of their reading. They develop a tool kit of formal and informal strategies to focus and monitor thinking before, during, and after reading. They are curious knowledge seekers who choose to read because they know reading opens doors of learning. *Specifically, a strategic reader works actively to construct meaning, is independent, and reads to learn.* As part of the Strategic Readers program, teachers have polled both students and their parents to analyze reading habits. They learned that 78% of students like to read at home; 80% enjoy going to the library; and 74% seek reading materials when they need information about a topic.

An analysis of recent PASS and MAP data indicated that Informational Texts, meaning non-fiction texts such as textbooks, newspapers, biographies, and primary source documents are an area of weakness. Beaufort Middle teachers are in the process of developing a school-wide strategy to address this area of need. The results of surveys and standardized testing give them good information to develop classroom strategies and activities that will increase the students’ strategic reading.

- Members from The Foundation for Educational Excellence surprised 14 teachers recently with checks for Teacher Innovative Mini-Grants. Grants ranged from \$281 for special reading materials to \$500 for classroom technology and robotics. This is the fourth round of grants the Education Foundation has made possible since 2009. We are so very appreciative of the Foundation members and thank them for their hard work on behalf of our children and teachers. As you know, the organization’s primary fundraiser is held in the spring. We hope you will all join us on March 2 at the Country Club of Hilton Head to Celebrate Inspiration at “Jewels and Jeans.” Mark your calendars for a great night to benefit the Foundation for Educational Excellence and the children of Beaufort County.
- It might be fall break for our students, but learning continues across the district! Here we have students at Lady’s Island Middle School studying robotics (photo). Teacher Michael Rentz reports that he has 12 students from Lady’s Island Middle school and Whale Branch participating in his class. The students are doing robotics using Fischertechnik. Yesterday they learned about mechanical systems and gear ratios and how to program. Today through Friday, students will be applying their knowledge of programming and mechanical systems to solve problems given to them by building automated systems. Problems range from building a car to a robotic arm.
- Forty young men from the Youth Leadership Academy were honored on October 21 at a special luncheon at the Callawassie Island Clubhouse. Youth Leadership Academy students spent long hours this past summer investing in their future through leadership training and academic endeavors. The young men in the program were identified as leaders by their teachers and counselors last year. Not all were “leaders” for the right reasons, but had the potential if just

pointed in the right direction. The luncheon was a great success with students being joined by their parents including a great many fathers. Our thanks to the students and Academy mentors N’Kia Campbell and Dr. Alford for making this program a success.

- Hilton Head Island High School’s Girls Golf Team is the State Champion! Congratulations to Coach Rawn Grant, Sr. and team members and their final round scores:

Nathalie Lezcano 79 & 80

Lily Bartell 85 & 87

Jackie Budidharma 81 & 87

Meredith Langs 95 & 98

Meredith Wipper 117 & 115

Special State Honors:

*Nathalie Lezcano: All State, All Region*

*Jackie Budidharma: All Region*

*Lily Bartell: All Region*

- Also from Hilton Head High School, The Lady Seahawks Health & Fitness Expo was held recently at the Hilton Head Island High School Community Stadium and was a big success. There was a boot camp, football obstacle training, turbo kick and Zumba, local health care professionals and fitness staffs. The money raised benefitted Lady Seahawk athletic teams.
- Bluffton Middle School 7<sup>th</sup>-grade students recently cruised Port Royal Sound aboard “Discovery” for a field trip jointly sponsored by the Port Royal Sound Foundation, the Waddell Mariculture Center, Lowcountry Institute, and Lowcountry Master Naturalists Association, The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The “Discovery” Education Vessel anchored in Port Royal Sound on The Colleton River, using Waddell Mariculture Center as base. Aboard the ship, students collected and studied marine animals while observing and exploring the features that make the Port Royal Estuarine system unlike any other marine system in North America! The cost of the vessel, \$1000, was generously paid for by the Port Royal Sound Foundation. A BIG THANK YOU to this partnership for this wonderful opportunity for our students!
- Bluffton Middle School also recently hosted it’s a Student Centered Health Fair under the leadership of Nurse Meg Hendy, RN at BLMS. Students visited booths to learn about germs (good hand washing, rated #1!), Nutrition, How the Pancreas Works, and Heart Rates (students could hear their own heart beats with a stethoscope, also top rated!) Students from ACE Health Sciences Department hosted the booths. Also present at the fair were representatives from the American Red Cross Palmetto Chapter who spoke to the students about disasters and how the American Red Cross works and Valerie Muelhman, a registered dietitian from Comp-Health who taught the students how to be nutrition label readers.

- The Beaufort County Schools' Beaufort Cluster will present a Tri-Centennial Revue, showcasing 300 years of local history through song and dance on November 10 beginning at 5:30 pm at the Arts Center at Beaufort High School. All 10 schools in the Beaufort Cluster have been busy researching Beaufort history and translating facts into a 5-minute performance. Proceeds from the \$5 ticket sales will benefit the Tri-centennial memorial monument and the Foundation for Excellence in Education for teacher mini-grants.
- The Beaufort County School District was recently awarded a grant (\$231,000) from the SCDE At-Risk Student program to implement critical supports that influence student perseverance in school ultimately increasing graduation rates. The grant will fund 1) the development and implementation of an early warning system to build the District's capacity in earlier identification of students who may possess one or more critical factors associated with increased risk for dropout. Earlier identification affords the opportunity to deliver appropriate remediation and interventions to influence increased persistence among these students. In addition, key personnel at the middle and high schools will be trained in the Check and Connect Model --an evidenced-based program aimed at keeping kids in school. Personnel at each middle and high school will receive training in key strategies and interventions designed to positively impact persistence in school. The initiative will be implemented over a three year period.

Gunnery Sgt. Robert Shannon, JROTC instructor, presented a video on the JROTC Program at Battery Creek High School. The Board was very impressed with the program's leadership building and responsibility emphasis.

#### **Showcase:**

Mr. Dennis Dotterer, Director of the Teacher Advancement Program at the South Carolina Department of Education, presented "Value Added Growth Data of the TAP Program."

Fifteen Beaufort County schools participate in the TAP Program. Based on spring 2011 PASS data:

- All Beaufort TAP schools met at least 1 years growth
- 2 schools met a typical year's growth (Value Added 3) – Beaufort Middle & Shell Point Elementary
- 2 schools were significantly above a typical years' growth (Value Added 4) – Broad River Elementary and Robert Smalls Middle
- 4 schools were highly significantly above a typical year's growth (Value Added 5) – Beaufort Elementary, St. Helena Elementary, Whale Branch Middle, and Whale Branch Elementary

Mr. Dotterer told Board members that the two highest-achieving TAP schools in the state last year were Beaufort Elementary School and Whale Branch Middle School. Fifteen of South Carolina's 58 TAP schools are located in Beaufort, the most of any district in the state, and teachers at eight of those 15 were eligible for performance pay for the 2010-11 school year. High-achieving teachers at the Value Added Schools will be eligible for performance pay bonuses ranging from \$580 to \$4,800.

Dr. Truesdale thanked the County's Broadcast Services Department for producing the outstanding video on the JROTC Program at Battery Creek.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Sean Alford introduced Dr. Melissa Sheppard and world language teachers who presented an update on the World Language Program. The teachers spoke about the programs on the Elementary, Middle and High School levels. A teacher consensus was that curriculum mapping and essential mapping has been extremely beneficial providing not only an improved curriculum but an opportunity for teachers across the district to work together.

As information, Dr. Truesdale presented information on the Teacher Cadet program stating that there were 101 teacher cadets across the county.

**Consent Agenda:**

The Board approved the following items from the Consent Agenda:

- October 4 Minutes
- Annual Recruiting/Retention Report
- Nepotism Report
- Grievance Procedure
- Update on Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)
- Annual Student Services Report
- Distribute Discipline Policy
- Monthly Human Resources Status Report
- Monthly AE/Home Schooling

The Board adjourned at 7:49 PM.