

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: February 5, 2019

Chair Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, motion to approve Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the January 1, 2019 to January 31, 2019 Personnel Ratification Report (approved). Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the monthly Adult Education/Home School report for February, 2019 (approved). Motion in accordance with S.C. Code of Laws 59-29-80, that Student A be exempt from physical education requirements on the grounds that participation would jeopardize the student's health and well-being (approved).

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. Board member Cathy Robine wanted to add (to the Announcements section of the agenda) that this is School Counselor Week, and also that there is a rally for education reform scheduled to take place in Charleston. Board member Earl Campbell wanted to add information about the Charleston rally. Board discussion. Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the three announcements and moving the Motion for Contingency Construction Funding Mechanism for River Ridge Academy Additions to the beginning of Board Business. (approved).

Pledge of Allegiance. Moment of silence in honor of Whale Branch Early College High School senior Malik Spencer, who passed away recently.

Statement of media notification.

Beaufort Middle School Gryphon Chamber Strings performed "Theme from Canon in D" by Pachelbel under the direction of Brad Williams.

Points of Celebration

Character Education Students of the Month - Joshua Chaplin, 11th-grader at Whale Branch Early College High (October); Jamyah Moore, 11th-grader at Whale Branch Early College High (November); Tyler Newton, 3rd-grader at Port Royal Elementary (December)

Our Character Education program was formed to support parents' efforts to develop good character in their children. Tonight we celebrated three Character Ed Students of the Month who exhibit the Character Traits of "Courage/Tolerance," "Respect/Gratitude" and "Compassion."

"Courage" is defined as doing the right thing in the face of difficulty and following your conscience instead of a crowd. "Tolerance" is defined as realizing that everyone is at varying levels of character development. We were happy to announce that the Character Education Student of the Month for October was a student from Whale Branch Early College High School. School Counselor Karen Vaughn came forward and introduced her student.

“Respect” is defined as showing high regard for an authority, other people, self and country. “Gratitude” is defined as showing that you are thankful for what others have done for you. We were happy to announce that the Character Education Student of the Month for November was another student from Whale Branch Early College High School. Ms. Vaughn introduced the student.

“Compassion” is defined as a feeling of wanting to help someone who is sick, hungry or in trouble. We were happy to announce that the Character Education Student of the Month for December was from Port Royal Elementary. Principal Chavon Browne and Rosellyn Cassidy introduced their student.

Coach Deandre Johnson – Battery Creek High School

We had a special presentation for one of Battery Creek High School’s coaches. Assistant Principal Denise Lessard and Captain Daniel Byrne of Burton Fire and Rescue presented the Burton Fire Department Citizenship Award to Coach Deandre Johnson, who took quick action when a fire broke out at a dwelling near his home.

Public Comment

A community member spoke against using 8 percent funds to build additions at River Ridge Academy and against using P-card rebate funds to purchase a time and attendance-keeping system. A Hilton Head Island High School parent spoke and advocated reinstating the principal. A parent spoke regarding the absence of a K-8 committee on the Board’s website and the lack of transparency with the committee. She also spoke about the legality of closing a school. A parent spoke regarding the funding of classroom additions at River Ridge Academy. A community member spoke against using 8 percent funds for additions at River Ridge Academy.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the December 13, 2018 Finance Committee meeting minutes (approved).

Motion to approve the December 11, 2018 minutes (approved).

Motion to approve the January 15, 2019 minutes (approved).

Motion to approve the January 16, 2019 minutes. Board discussion. Motion to approve the January 16, 2019 with corrections as discussed (approved).

Chair’s Report

Dr. Gwozdz announced committee assignments. Board discussion.

Board discussion of legal services for the Board of Education.

Superintendent’s Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

Robert Smalls International Academy Principal Jennifer Morillo reported on her school’s academic initiatives and addressed the Board’s questions.

Chief Instructional Services Officer Bonnie Almond presented on dual enrollment during the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year and addressed the Board's questions.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

Chief Financial Officer Tonya Crosby provided a brief update on the impact fee survey.

Other Matters for Board's Information

General Counsel Wendy Cartledge provided an update on Administrative Rule SS-42 (Student Wellness) and addressed the Board's questions.

Chief Operations Officer Robert Oetting introduced the new Director of Transportation, Eldridge Black Jr., and provided an update on the Community Project Review Committee.

Director of Grants Management Terry Bennett presented a proposed BCSD 2019-2020 calendar and addressed the Board's questions.

Board Business

Board member Rachel Wisniewski read a statement and made a motion to include a contingency funding mechanism for the construction of RRA additions through 8 percent funds only in the event that a November 2019 referendum does not pass or come to fruition, barring any significant reductions to the District's 8 percent borrowing capacity between now and November. Board discussion. Motion failed.

Motion to accept the donation of a sculpture piece titled "Beach Umbrella" from Casey Schachner in the amount valued at \$12,000 to Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts (approved).

Ms. Crosby reviewed the time and attendance system proposal and addressed the Board's questions. Motion to approve the purchase of a time and attendance system in an amount not to exceed \$400,000. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Motion to approve the Board of Education of the Beaufort County School District authorizing the Superintendent (or in the absence of the Superintendent, his/her designee, and/or the Chief Instructional Officer/Chief Financial Officer) to apply for, sign, submit and administer federal, state, local and foundation grant applications and cooperative agreements for the 2019-2020 school year (approved).

Ms. Crosby provided background on federal E-rate funds. Motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education (Board) authorize the filing of E-rate Funding Year 2019 applications for eligible E-rate Category 1 Services, and that by doing so, the Board acknowledges it will budget sufficient funds to pay for the District's share of services not supported by the E-rate Program (approved).

Motion for Board Members to have the option to have mobile devices. Board discussion.
Motion approved.

Public Comment

A community member reminded the Board about the K-8 discussion in regard to a comprehensive plan. A parent reminded the Board of their discussion at the January meeting regarding contingency funds and spoke about the comprehensive plan. A community member asked Board members to speak into their microphones during meetings. A community member suggested closing underutilized schools in the northern part of the county.

Announcements

Ms. Robine noted School Counselor Week and shared information about a Rally for Reform on February 11 in Charleston. Board member Earl Campbell shared more details on the rally.

Motion to adjourn approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

District staff seeking more detailed information about Board actions can view Board meetings in their entirety, at any time, on the County Channel. Archived meetings may be viewed at this link: <http://www.bcqov.net/departments/community-services/county-channel/index.php>