

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: February 21, 2017

Chair Patricia Felton-Montgomery called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, there was no action.

The removal of New Business on the agenda was discussed. The agenda was approved as presented.

Pledge of Allegiance, invocation.

Musical performance by representatives of the Seahawk Singers of Hilton Head Island High School under the direction of Joshua Wall.

Points of Celebration (announced by Dr. Moss)

World Affairs Council of Hilton Head Donation

One way our community demonstrates their appreciation for our students and teachers is through their generous donations. Tonight we recognize a donation of \$1,125 to the Bluffton High School Model United Nations team from the World Affairs Council of Hilton Head. Would Bluffton High School social studies teacher and Model UN advisor Erin Reichert come forward to introduce a representative from the World Affairs Council of Hilton Head and talk about this donation?

Character Ed Student of the Month (Floencia Imperial)

Our Character Education program was formed to support parents' efforts to develop good character in their children. School counselors identified a list of character words and definitions that focus on attitudes and personal qualities that build a foundation for success in life and work. A student from each school is selected as that school's Character Education Student of the Month. Then that student goes on to compete for Character Education Student of the Month for the entire school district. The character education word for the month was "Compassion," which is defined as "A feeling of wanting to help someone who is sick, hungry or in trouble; sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others." We're happy to announce that our Character Education Student of the Month for southern Beaufort County is a student from Hilton Head Island High School. Would Principal Amanda O'Nan please come forward and introduce our Character Education Student of the Month?

Dr. Moss thanked the 2017 Best Practices Day presenters as well as the teachers who attended.

Public Comment

A community member spoke about the District's pre-K program and immigration. Several community members advocated for the construction of a performing arts center at Whale

Branch Early College High School. Several community members spoke about how revised school start times affect their sports participation, work schedules and transportation. A community member spoke against using 8 percent funds to construct a performing arts center at Whale Branch Early College High School.

Comment Corrections

Board member Joseph Dunkle stated that the school district's teacher pay is the state's second-highest. He also said that in accordance with court decisions, the school district does not ask students about their immigration status. Earl Campbell spoke about the students of Whale Branch Early College High School. Geri Kinton and JoAnn Orischak commented on the November bond referendum's specifics regarding time frames to complete individual projects. JoAnn Orischak spoke about time delineation in regard to the referendum. Bill Payne said that his primary concern for district students is academic achievement. Dr. Moss spoke about construction costs and timelines, teacher salaries and student academic achievement.

Chair's Report

Chair Patricia Felton-Montgomery thanked the community for their comments. She thanked three Board committee chairs for convening their committees. Montgomery spoke about Best Practices Day and mentioned several teachers as well as sessions she attended. She thanked three Board members for attending the School Counselor of the Year breakfast and commended the three counselors of the year. She noted that Bluffton High School has been approved to offer the AP Capstone program, and also that Bluffton Middle School's School Improvement Council has been named a finalist for the 2017 Riley Award, a statewide honor that recognizes SIC accomplishments in parent and civic engagement.

Committee Reports

Curriculum & Instruction

Ms. Orischak reported Bill Payne had been elected vice-chair. She reminded the public that committee meetings are public. The committee discussed performance expectations with Director of Instructional Services Dereck Rhoads, reviewed the textbook selection process and decided on future topics for meetings.

Finance

Mr. Payne announced that Libby Anderson was present at the committee's most recent meeting to discuss traffic impact at Lady's Island's schools. The committee received an Island Recreation Center construction update, a second quarter financial report, a FEMA report and an update on the Port Royal playground agreement. The committee discussed restroom access at River Ridge Academy's athletic fields. The committee discussed the Robinson Junior High School historical monument. Board member David Striebinger was elected vice chair.

Human Resources

Mr. Dunkle announced that the next committee meeting will be at the Bluffton Library at 3:30 p.m. on March 21 in the small conference room.

Legislative

Mr. Campbell said he was concerned about House Bill 3052. The proposed “Jacob Hall School Protection Act” would allow school districts to issue public school concealed weapons permits. These permits will be for the limited purpose of responding to live shooters or the imminent threat of live shooters in school buildings. House Bill 3050 would provide that the State Department of Education shall establish and enforce a statewide mandatory dress code program requiring school uniforms be worn by public school students. Board member Mary Cordray asked the Legislative Committee to investigate the dress code bill further.

Policy

Board member David Striebinger announced that the committee met on February 13, and Ms. Cordray was elected vice chair. Mr. Striebinger suggested a future Board work session to revisit establishing goals, expectations and progress measurements. The committee will investigate the cost of having the state review the Board’s policies. Dr. Moss volunteered to provide data points to the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13 at 5 p.m.

Student Services

Evva Anderson stated that the committee will be reviewing student discipline and the district’s student dress code.

Superintendent’s Report

Bluffton Middle School principal Pat Freda presented first-semester student achievement data as well as notable initiatives at her school.

Dr. Rhoads presented an update on MAP testing. Dr. Moss presented a financial analysis of expenditures of 8 percent funds, and he and Interim Chief Financial Officer Reggie Murphy answered Board members’ questions.

Dr. Moss updated the Board on current staffing meetings. Pritchardville Elementary will be over capacity next school year, and Dr. Moss discussed options such as installing mobile classrooms or rezoning some Pritchardville students to other schools. He answered Board members’ questions.

Board Business Action

Motion to approve a donation in the amount of \$8,200 from Pure Edge, Inc. for the purchase of 1,700 copies of the book “Yoga Poga Shimoga” for all first-grade students. Motion approved.

Motion to approve a donation in the amount of \$8,000 from May River Dermatology, LLC for the purchase of a “shade structure” on River Ridge Academy’s playground areas. Motion approved.

Motion to approve a resolution to consider modifying ACT 388 School Funding. Motion approved.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion approved.

Public Comments

A community member spoke regarding the Pritchardville Elementary school over-capacity discussion. A community member addressed the Whale Branch Early College High School performing arts center. A community member spoke about separate but unequal educational opportunities in the school district.

Motion to adjourn approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 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>