

## **Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: March 2, 2021**

Chair Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to exercise the USDA COVID-19 waiver and extend the food service management contract with Sodexo for a period of one year ending June 30, 2022 (approved).

Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for March 1, 2021 (approved).

Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the February 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report (approved).

Motion to approve the agenda as presented (approved).

Pledge of Allegiance. Moment of silence. Statement of media notification.

**Student Performance:** Mossy Oaks Elementary second grader Saeria Lecor singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" under the direction of Jordan Plair.

### **Points of Celebration**

Board Chair Dr. Christina Gwozdz recognized Catherine Donaldson as the Champions for Public Education Award, presented by SCSBA President Cheryl Burgess.

### **School Counselors of the Year**

School counselors are vital members of the educational team. They help all students in the areas of academic achievement, personal and social development, and career development, helping to ensure that today's students become tomorrow's productive and well-adjusted adults.

Dr. Rodriguez commended the district's Middle School Counselor of the Year, Jillian Powers from River Ridge Academy; Elementary School Counselor of the Year, Latesha Jennings from Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary; and Rookie School Counselor of the Year, Lisa Ditroia from Hilton Head Island High School.

Battery Creek High School Counselor Latoshia Middleton is the Beaufort County School District's 2021 School Counselor of the Year. A recent graduate of The Citadel's Educational Leadership master's degree program, Middleton is passionate about helping young people explore their options for the future.

Battery Creek High Principal Chad Cox described Middleton as organized, interpersonal, and a strong communicator. He credits Middleton with developing an incredible rapport with students, working with district office personnel in developing programs to engage the entire

community, organizing and supporting numerous events, mentoring new staff members, and helping teachers integrate technology to enhance their instruction.

Principal Cox says, “There are no words grand enough to describe how valuable Ms. Middleton is to Battery Creek High School. She is willing to help students and other teachers with instructional needs at all times.”

Congratulations to Ms. Middleton and all the District’s School Counselors of the Year.

### **School Social Worker’s Week**

Governor Henry McMaster has issued a proclamation that March 7-13 is National School Social Worker’s Week. Dr. Rodriguez read the Governor’s proclamation and expressed his gratitude that Beaufort County School District has such a dedicated group of professionals to work with our students and thanked them for their service.

### **Palmetto Champions**

The South Carolina Football Coaches Association recently honored 26 players and 10 coaches for their annual Palmetto Champions All-Star Football Team. Two of those Palmetto Champions are from Whale Branch Early College High – Jaylen Reeves was named the A Lower State Back of the Year and Henry Tome was named the Division A Kicker of the Year. Whale Branch’s football coach Jerry Hatcher shared what an honor the award is for the students.

### **Chairman’s Report**

Chair Gwozdz gave an update from the South Carolina School Board Association conference.

**Legislative Update**– Lynn Stokes Murray, Burr Forman & McNair, presented a legislative update and addressed the Board’s questions.

### **Committee Reports**

Operations Committee – Committee Chair Tricia Fidrych led a discussion regarding P.E. 5.A.5.6 Nepotism. Motion to accept oral report (accepted).

Ms. Fidrych shared that the committee held a special called meeting on February 23 to discuss the referendum projects labeled with yellow. Chief Operations Officer Robert Oetting and Robert Corbin (CBR Herry) presented a project funding update and addressed the Board’s questions.

Ad Hoc Bluffton Committee – Committee Chair Rachel Wisnefski shared that the committee met on February 25 to discuss the preliminary results of the survey sent to parents of students who left the district. As a result of that meeting, the committee will be speaking with ISD and the Office of Early Childhood Education at their next meeting, as well as discussing an update on the relators’ survey.

Academic Committee – District Attorney Wendy Cartledge presented three Administrative Regulations: AR IS:33 Adult Community Education; AR IS:60 Alternative Programs (Combining of Promising Students and Right Choices); and AR IS:16 Discipline of Students with Disabilities.

Chief Instructional Services Officer Dr. Mary Stratos presented the 2021-22 academic calendar options and addressed the Board's questions. Motion to adopt the 85/95 calendar (approved).

Motion to move the report from Riverview next on the agenda (approved).

Riverview Charter 2020 Annual Report – Reece Bertholf, Riverview Charter Board Chair, and Sarah Cox, Interim Director, presented the Riverview annual report and addressed the Board's questions.

Motion to postpone agenda item 8C: TSI update until March 16 and extend the meeting until 10:30. Board discussion.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Goal #1 Student Achievement

Priority Schools Update – Whale Branch Middle Principal Freddie Lawton and Hilton Head Middle Principal Pat Freda gave a priority schools update from each of their schools and addressed the Board's questions.

COVID-19 Update - Dr. Rodriguez provided two-week data on COVID-19 and shared that Governor McMaster announced today that 1B opens for vaccinations on Monday, March 8.

### **Board Business**

Motion to accept a donation from the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry for the purchase of Ramsey Financial Literacy Curriculum to Beaufort High School in the amount valued at \$7000.00 (approved).

Motion to extend the meeting to complete items 9C. IT Amendments and 10.A.B. Consent Agenda and move item 9B. Graduation Ceremony to a future agenda (approved).

Mr. Oetting provided information on IT amendments for referendum projects.

Motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #3 with H.G. Reynolds Construction which authorizes an increase in the Guaranteed maximum Price (GMP) not to exceed limit in the amount of \$737,762.77 for the revision to Technology Packages T1-T7 & general conditions expansion due to the shortened summer 2021 work schedule (approved).

Motion that the Board of Education approve the use of the contingency funds as presented on the March 2, 2021 referendum update not to exceed \$9,590,000 (approved).

**Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve the February 16, 2021 Board meeting minutes (approved).

**Future Agenda Topics**

Chair Gwozdz stated that she had the following items: learning loss and standardizing the reports.

Board member Richard Geier wanted to talk about Board/District culture.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 p.m.

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