

## **Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: November 15, 2016**

Chair Mary Cordray called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Coming out of executive session, there was no action taken.

Motion to approve the agenda. Approved.

Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by Rev. Michael Rivers.

### **Public Comment**

A community member commented on the results of last week's education sales tax referendum. A second community member encouraged Board members to delay discussions of funding capital improvements until two newly elected Board members take office. Board member Geri Kinton responded that her decision to change her vote on school make-up days was her decision and was not influenced by anyone else.

### **Points of Celebration (as delivered by Dr. Moss):**

Character Ed Student of the Month

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 October was "Courage," which is defined as "Doing the right thing in the face of difficulty, and following your conscience instead of the crowd."

We're happy to announce that our October Character Education Student of the Month for northern Beaufort County is a student from Whale Branch Elementary School. Would Assistant Principal Michelle Sackman please come forward to say a few words and introduce our Character Education Student of the Month, Nadija Peterson.

### **Chair's Report**

Ms. Cordray reminded the Board of Wednesday's special called meeting on the superintendent's evaluation and also on the Board's two-day work session Friday and Saturday.

### **Committee Reports**

Curriculum and Instruction – The committee will hold its next meeting at 4 p.m. December 13.

Finance and Operations – The committee met on November 10 and directed staff to exercise due diligence concerning property discussed for potential purchase. Two administrative rules were sent back to staff with a request for additional information. The committee also discussed possible rental fees of tennis complexes at district high schools.

Student Services – The committee’s next meeting is scheduled for November 22.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

Beaufort High School Principal Corey Murphy and Whale Branch Early College High School Principal Mona Lise Dickson updated Board members with reports on their schools. Both principals answered questions from Board members.

Dr. Moss updated Board members on families whose holiday schedules conflict with weather make-up days determined by the Board. Dr. Moss said that to his knowledge, schools have been working successfully with affected families to resolve any scheduling issues, and that if Board members were aware of any parents who were experiencing problems, they should send those parents directly to him. Board member David Striebinger asked about fees being charged for credit recovery, and Dr. Moss and Beaufort High Principal Corey Murphy responded.

Chief Instructional Services Officer Dereck Rhoads reported on the district’s 2016 on-time graduation rates that were released earlier in the day by the South Carolina Department of Education. The district’s overall graduation rate improved for a sixth consecutive year in 2016 to an all-time high. Dr. Rhoads supplied background to Board members about efforts to improve graduation rates and how graduation rates are calculated. Districtwide, the percentage of students who complete high school “on time” and get a diploma in four years – improved to 83.4 percent, up from 78.7 percent in 2015 and up from 75.1 in 2012. The district’s 2016 rate of 83.4 percent exceeded the state rate of 82.6 percent, and for the first time ever, graduation rates at all district high schools were higher than 80 percent. Dr. Rhoads responded to Board members’ questions.

Chief Auxiliary Services Officer Gregory McCord introduced a compilation of student-produced videos that carried a strong message about students who are working to stop bullying. Dr. McCord said that more than 4,500 Beaufort County students have seen anti-bullying performances by drama students at Beaufort High, and also that students continue to report incidents of bullying using the anti-bullying app that is installed on all district-owned mobile computers. Dr. McCord responded to Board members’ questions.

Dr. Moss congratulated the two newly elected Board members – Patricia Felton-Montgomery and Christina Gwozdz – and said that an orientation workshop would be offered to provide them with background information on Board and district operations.

Dr. Moss also congratulated Rev. Rivers for his recent election to the South Carolina House of Representatives.

Dr. Moss briefed Board members on his first Spanish-language town hall meeting, which drew nearly 100 parents and gave them opportunities to express their concerns and get answers to their questions. Dr. Moss said that due to the success of the first meeting, others will be held in the future.

In recognition of American Education Week, Dr. Moss praised the district’s teachers and school staff, who he said go “well above the call of duty” to provide opportunities for all students to succeed academically.

Dr. Moss introduced former District Teacher of the Year Cely Johnson, who reported on a recent survey of district teachers who were asked their opinions concerning a proposed Board policy that would use a

third-party hearing officer to resolve cases where teacher dismissals are contested. Of 820 responses, 700 classroom teachers (85 percent) favored the proposal.

### **Board Business Action**

Motion to approve a resolution celebrating American Education Week November 14-18. After a discussion in which Board members expressed strong support for the district's educators, the motion was approved. Following approval, Board members and the audience stood and applauded.

Motion to approve on second reading Board Policy 3.10 (Teacher Dismissal Hearing Process). General Counsel Drew Davis responded to Board members' questions, and Board members discussed details of the proposed procedure. Motion to amend the original motion to establish 60-minute time limits for oral arguments made to the Board. After a discussion, the amendment was defeated. Motion to amend the original motion to stipulate that all documents presented to the hearing officer will be presented to the Board no later than 15 days after the hearing. Amendment approved. The original motion was also approved on second reading.

Motion to approve a donation from BFG Communications in the amount of \$29,200 to purchase equipment for Beaufort High School's football program. Approved.

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the corrections to the minutes. Approved.

Motion to adjourn approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 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.bcgov.net/departments/community-services/county-channel/index.php>*