

**Board of Education Summary  
March 15, 2011  
School Board Meeting**

**Chairman Fred Washington called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.**

Board Secretary Laura Bush made a motion that the District sustain the suspension of a professional employee of the District and authorize the Board Chairman to execute an Order on behalf of the Board terminating the employment of that employee, such Order having already been reviewed by the Board.

**Chairman Fred Washington called for the approval of the agenda.**

Board Secretary Laura Bush made a motion to approve the agenda with an amendment of removing the February 18 and March 1, 2011 minutes.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Media properly notified**

**Invocation**

Students from Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center gave the invocation. Students sang "Accent the Positive."

**Points of Celebration**

Donations for Senior Scholars Banquet from Pearson \$2,000; Applied Data \$2,500; and Voyager \$1,500

Donation for the Junior Jazz Foundation at Hilton Head High School from Community Foundation of the Low Country for \$1,600

Donation for a Piano to Beaufort Elementary School from Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Bursch for \$1,500

Donation for Bluffton High School Weight Room Equipment from Bluffton High School Booster Club for \$34,000

Donation for the Reimagining Education and Learning Center located at Whale Branch Early College High School from LEGO Education for \$17,333.15

School Social Worker Proclamation by Chairman Washington

Last Thursday evening, **twenty-three Seniors** were honored for outstanding academic performance at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Senior Scholars Banquet. Seniors that received this recognition were those that maintained a 3.5 grade point average, are in the top 10% of their class, and had at least an 85 average each quarter of their high school courses. The guest speaker for the night was a 2006 Salutatorian, Hannah DeZeeuw ( Dee-Zaa- U) from Hilton Head Island High School,

a 2010 graduate from Vanderbilt University. Her message for the night was follow your “North Star”.

**Beaufort High School** students captured 2nd place in State competition in the *Principles of Engineering* division. The team defeated South Carolina’s best High School engineering programs including magnet schools and career tech schools from Charleston, Spartanburg, Anderson, Columbia, and Greenville as they all converged yesterday at the University of South Carolina in competition administered by *Project Lead the Way*.

The *Principles of Engineering* team members include Zach Womack, Cody Weyandt, and Jacob Hull. These future engineers designed and built a prototype pole climber that went higher and cost less than all but one team in the state.

Christian Hart, Adam Lipsitz, and Alex Weller competed in the *Introduction to Engineering* division. They also made an excellent showing as they met or exceeded all the competition requirements with an outstanding presentation to the judges as they endured a grueling day of a reverse engineering project.

Students at **Broad River Elementary School** recently participated in Jump Rope for Heart. During the month of February, which is American Heart Month, all students learned the importance of their heart and how to take care of it; they learned a variety of ways to jump rope; and they learned how they could be “Heart Heroes” and make a difference in someone’s life by collecting money for the American Heart Association. 101 “Heart Heroes” collected \$3,275.59 in the fight against heart defects and disease. 15 classes met or exceeded their class goal of \$75 with Mr. Gallagher’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade class raising the most money by collecting \$379.89. BRES would like to thank the parents and community for supporting this worthwhile cause.

**Robots from Hilton Head Island High School and Battery Creek High School** are in Charleston waiting for the *First Robotics* 2011 Palmetto Regional Competition to be held March 24-26 at the Charleston Coliseum. Our students have spent months designing, building, and testing their robots. We wish each team the very best as they compete against teams from all over the southeast. Our student leaders from the Student Advisory Council will cheer our teams on next Friday.

**Battery Creek High School’s Marine Junior ROTC Unit** is the winner of the District’s First Superintendent’s Cup Competition. Over 650 students from each of our high schools’ ROTC units participated in the March 4th event at Battery Creek High School. Competitions included: There were five events in close order drill:

1. Color Guard
2. Armed Platoon
3. Armed Squad
4. Unarmed Platoon
5. Unarmed Squad

There were two physical fitness events:

1. 1-mile run (4-cadet team)

2. Physical Fitness Test (4-cadet team) consisting of:
  - a. Pullups
  - b. Situps
  - c. Pushups
  - d. ¼ mile sprint

One academic event: 1. A 50-question multiple choice test on Red Cross First Aid. Each school had a team of 3 cadets who took the test.

Three field events:

1. Dizzy Izzy (4-cadet team). This is a relay race where the first runner sprints 50 feet, spins around 10 times with their forehead on a pole, and then attempts to sprint back to the next team member.
2. Wooden skis (4 cadet team). Each team has a set of 8' long 4x4 boards with ropes. The team members must advance the skis while all four cadets are standing on them, using the ropes to lift the board and pull it forward.
3. 4-way tug of war rope (6-cadet teams). All four schools pulled at the same time using a rope that had 4 ends (2 ropes crossed in the center).

Each one of the 11 events was scored with 4 points for first place, 3 for second, 2 for third, and 1 point for fourth place. The total of points was then added to determine the overall winner.

(Photos)

Nathan Butts has qualified to represent **Bluffton Middle School** at the state level of the National Geographic Bee. What GREAT news!!!! Nathan will compete against students from all over the state on April 1 at the State Museum. The winner of the April 1<sup>st</sup> competition will receive \$100, a complete National Geographic DVD and a trip to Washington, D. C. to compete for the national title. Best wishes, Nathan.

**H.E. McCracken Middle School's Science Olympiad** team placed second overall in the recent State Science Olympiad Competition at Newberry College. Ten students are on the team and every student brought home several ribbons and medals for their events. This is the students' third year of competing in the tournament and to bring home a second place finish in its "young history", is truly remarkable.

**Hilton Head Island Elementary School** sponsored a special event for its parents last night: EDM University, Every Day Math University, to answer questions and practice math problems students are learning in school. HHIE teachers conducted the lessons which were very informative to help keep students on their pathway to success in mathematics.

**Beaufort High School** students participated in the recent **State Special Olympics** in Charleston. Teachers Keith Weaver, Steve Delaney, and Mary Thibault escorted these special athletes. Student Ray Collins brought home a gold medal, Skyla Green and Kirsten Cosby brought home silver medals, and two bronze medals were won by Dalton Moss and Drew Thompson. Congratulations to these student athletes!

In other wonderful news from Special Education, **Rashawn Young, a student at Hilton Head Island High School** will represent his school in the 2011 Special Olympics National Tennis Championship, Presented by Professional Tennis Registry; March 14-16, Van der Meer Tennis Center, Hilton Head. Special Olympics South Carolina is partnering with the Professional Tennis Registry for the 11th Special Olympics National Tennis Championship. Joining SOSOC will be North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Texas and Arizona. Athletes will compete in skills, short court, singles, doubles and unified doubles.

### **USCB Announces Emerging Artists Competition Scholarship Winners**

In conjunction with University of South Carolina Beaufort's first annual "Celebrate the Arts" festival, the University hosted its first annual juried high school arts competition recently awarding \$55,000 worth of scholarships to 22 local high school art students. Scholarship winners who meet USCB admittance requirements and major in Studio Art with 3.0 cumulative GPA, are eligible for a scholarship renewal, for up to 4 years. First place winner **Valérie Cabanilla Vigil (Bluffton High School)** is eligible for \$12,000, second place winner **Corey Randall (Bluffton High School)** is eligible for \$8000, third place winner **Badlyn Rolfe (Hilton Head Island High School)** is eligible for \$3000. The following finalists are eligible for \$2000 scholarships:

#### **Finalists**

Battery Creek High School:	James Childers and Caitlin Sedrick (Instructor John Cullinan)
Beaufort High School:	Pagan McLemore (Instructor Scott Gordon)
Bluffton High School:	Christian Lopez, Jose Bernal, Kelsey Borden, and Nicole Kustak (Instructor Andrea Pejeau)
Hilton Head Island High School:	Adrian Austin, Benjamin Warner, Breen Weir, Dakota Wilson, Jessica Smith, Kelsey Phillips, Kirsten Hutton, Malin Rosengren, Miles Helman, Santiago Tovar (Instructor Patty Schoelkopf-Lewis)

The **Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center's** Literacy Teachers held a "Hands-On Literacy" Night recently for parents. Staci Hays, Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center's Literacy Teacher, along with ESOL teachers, Beth Sexson, Gloria Carmines, Lorelei Yuill, Kindergarten teacher, Ashley Severe, and Curriculum Specialist, Barbara Tedford shared ideas and literacy strategies that families can use at home to support learning. (photo)

Kindergarten students at the Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center recently presented the musical, **A WORLD OF RAIN**. Pictured on the screen are (from left to right) Sofia Ramirez, Kirsten Troupe, Ashley Avilla, Jackson Crouch, and Sinaith Moreno "I Can't Stand Still Under Those Raindrops".

**Mitt Patel, a student and Hilton Head Island Elementary School** was a first place winner in the intermediate level of the poetry and poster contest held recently by the National Career Development Association and the Office of Career and Technology Education at the South Carolina Department of Education. Each state winner receives a print and art calendar from South Carolina artist Jim Harrison of Denmark. Poetry winners will have their poems bound and printed. Sun Printing, an international printing company with a facility in West Columbia, will donate 6,500 posters displaying national winners.

Congratulations to science teachers **Heidi McAlister, Hilton Head Middle, Mary Bowen, Beaufort Elementary, and Paula Andrews, Beaufort Middle**, who have been selected to attend the 2011 Science PLUS Institute at the Roper Mountain Science Center. Funded by a South Carolina Education Improvement Act grant, the Institute provides intensive training in science teaching methods and activities. Teachers will spend a week at the Institute over the summer. Congratulations!

Mr. Speaks.....a big thank you is extended to you for taking time from your vacation to “Drop Everything....and Do Math”. Mr. Speaks went to Battery Creek High School recently and taught a math class.

And, in closing.....A student representing **Mossy Oaks Elementary School** recently won highest honors in this year’s WordMasters Challenge – a national language arts completion entered by approximately 220,000 students annually. Third grader Sarah Lawrence earned a perfect score! Other students who also achieved outstanding results include: Sydney Lawrence, Rhea Desai, and Tucker Baron.

### **Public Conversation**

Students from Whale Branch Early College High School shared their success and accomplishments thus far in the school year at Whale Branch Early College High School.

### **Showcase**

Chief Instructional Services Officer Dr. Sean Alford shared some highlights from the River of Words completion.

Principal, Carole Ingram, Beaufort Middle School, gave an overview of the Palmetto’s Finest Awards process. Beaufort Middle School is a finalist for this prestigious and highly competitive award and will be traveling to Columbia on March 22, 2011 for the awards ceremony.

Scholarship Resources – Chief Instructional Services Officer, Dr. Sean Alford presented a link on the District’s web site for students and parents to access scholarship information and resources.

### **Board Business Action**

*Motion:* To establish a salary step schedule for classified staff to be presented at the Board's work session in July. Motion failed. Board Chairman Washington stated the entire compensation schedule for classified staff should be reviewed and aligned with other salary schedules in the district.

### *Approval of E-Rate Application Authorization*

Vice Chairman George Wilson made a motion to approve the E-Rate application. Motion passed.

*2011-12 Calendar*

Dr. Sean Alford presented the 2011-2012 Calendar information. Vice Chairman George Wilson made a motion to approve the 2011-2012 calendar as presented. Motion passed.

*Approval of Playground Equipment for James J. Davis Early Learning Center*

Board Member Earl Campbell made a motion to approve the playground equipment for James J. Davis Early Learning Center. Motion passed.

**Committee Report**

*None*

**Superintendent's Report**

Chief Instructional Services Officer, Dr. Sean Alford, presented a roadmap to help the district's minority students achieve at higher levels. Board Member Dr. Wayne Carbiener made a motion to suspend the discussion of the minority report concept to April 5, 2011. Motion passed.

This presentation is posted on the District web site.

Data Coordinator, Daniel Fallon presented data on the graduation rate.

Chief Operational Services Officer Phyllis White presented Legislative Updates and the Impact on Beaufort County School District.

Risk Manager Jennifer Staton presented to the Board the Annual Insurance Coverage, Performance Expectation 5.0.

Informational Items

- ACE Finance Proposal
- Subcontractor Job Fair
- Energy Newsletter
- America's Promise 100 Best Communities for Youth
- Letters from lady's Island Parents

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Washington read a response from an allegation regarding unsafe public schools: *"Normally, the District does not respond to unfounded allegations. In this instance, however, the claim that students were permitted to attend classes on BCSD property while in ankle cuffs and/or while under arrest for murder must be addressed. This has never occurred. The young man mentioned by an earlier posting was not even enrolled in our system at the time of his arrest, and no student has ever been allowed to come to school while wearing ankle bracelets due to incarceration. This attempt to stir up fear among the Beaufort community is, in the District's opinion, uncalled for. Additionally, other unsupported accusations such as students being routinely permitted to leave school to go to Starbucks will hopefully be viewed by thoughtful readers as outlandish."*

**Consent Agenda**

- Second Quarter Financial Statements
- Semi-Annual Construction Report

- Cleaning and Maintenance
- Donations from Pearson, \$2,000; Applied Data \$2,500; Voyager \$1,500
- Donation from Community Foundation of Low Country \$1,600
- Donation from LEGO Education \$17,333.15
- Donation from Mr. & Mrs. Bursch for \$1,500
- Donation from Bluffton High School Booster Club \$34,000

Board Secretary made a motion to approve the consent agenda (amended). Motion passed.

Board Member Ronald Speaks asked Chief Operational Services Officer, Phyllis White to come and speak to the public about the use of school facilities (school walking tracks specifically) during school hours. Phyllis White explained the use of school facilities (school walking tracks specifically) is shared and welcome with the community. However during school hours those facilities are not to be used by the community, they are for students. An additional reason is that maintenance applies chemicals to the track to keep it operational and students use them for physical education classes during school hours.

## **Adjournment**