

Superintendent's Board Meeting Summary: April 20, 2021

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

Motion to approve the agenda as presented (approved).

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

Student Performance: Hilton Head Island High School cast of *Matilda the Musical* performing "Bruce" under the direction of Kimberly Guinn. <https://youtu.be/syVeStyZsgI>

Points of Celebration

Character Education Students for the Month of March

Our Character Education program was formed to support parents' efforts to develop good character in their children. Tonight, we celebrated the Character Ed students for the month of March.

March's character trait was "self-control." Self-control is defined as "the ability to have control over your feelings or actions oneself, in particular one's emotions and desires or the expression of them in one's behavior, especially in difficult situations".

March's student of the month for north of the Broad is Khristopher Ford, fourth-grade student at Mossy Oaks Elementary School.

Khristopher was nominated because he has modeled exceptional self-control during a time of constant change. Khristopher arrived at MOES last year as a third-grade student.

Ms. Holdt, Khristopher's classroom teacher shared that, "Khristopher has made such great strides since he started with us last year. He has been able to control himself even when the work may be too hard for him. In this time of COVID when things are constantly changing, Khristopher has taken it all in stride. He displays self-control in handling everything as new and fun, as well as by helping others both in feeling welcome to MOES and being an example of how the rules and Essential 12 are implemented at our school. This lets us know how much Khristopher has matured in such a short time span. I am so very proud of his constant ability to be in control and stay focused and on task with everything he is asked to do."

For south of the Broad, the March student of the month is Luke Lowry, a first-grader at Pritchardville Elementary School.

Luke's teacher, Ms. Robbins, shared that she has observed tremendous growth in Luke, especially in the area of self-control. Like many students, Luke struggled with the virtual format of learning. However, since returning to school, she witnessed how hard this first-grader has worked to catch up on completing assignments and to remain focused throughout the day. Ms.

Robbins is most proud of how his focus and commitment to learning have manifested in his current reading levels.

In addition to his academic progress, Luke works to maintain a positive attitude every day. He is a leader who steps forward to “help” in our classroom setting every day. He practices patience and has worked hard to move from interrupting when he has something to share to instead waiting patiently and raising his hand when he has a question.

Ms. Robbins shared that she couldn’t be prouder of the young person Luke is becoming. When he is upset or feeling emotional, he will self-advocate, express his emotions and work on a solution. She is so proud of his growth this year and excited to celebrate his achievements!

Congratulations Khristopher and Luke!

Hilton Head HS Palmetto Dramatic Association & SC International Thespian society 2021 Awards

Earlier this spring, the Seahawk Stage Company competed in the statewide Palmetto Drama Association One Act and the SC International Thespian Society Thespy Competition. Drama teacher Kimberly Guinn spoke about the Seahawk Stage Company and the awards.

Red Cedar Guinness World Record

Earlier this month, Red Cedar Elementary successfully set a Guinness world record for consecutive cereal boxes knocked over domino-style, toppling over 3,730 cereal boxes in the school’s gymnasium, breaking the previous world record of 3,416 set in 2017. All of the boxes were donated after the event to Bluffton Self Help, a nonprofit that combats hunger and other hardships in the Lowcountry.

Chairman’s Report

Board chair Christina Gwozdz gave an update on SCSBA Officer/Board Nominations, 2021-22 Proposed Legislative Resolutions and SCSBA Proposed Constitution Changes.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Self Evaluation Committee – Committee Chair Mel Campbell shared that the committee met to create an instrument to continue to evaluate the Board.

Motion from Ad Hoc Self Evaluation Committee recommending to the full Board that the Board agree to complete the Self Evaluation Form as presented once a month.

Chair Gwozdz read the evaluation questions and rating system. Mr. Campbell provided information about the evaluation tool. Board discussion.

Motion approved.

Ad Hoc Results Committee – Committee Chair Cathy Robine shared that the committee is working with Daniel Fallon and Dr. Rodriguez on a proposal on achievement data. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5.

Finance Committee – Committee Chair Dick Geier presented information on fiscal autonomy. Attorney Bick Halligan provided a history on the school district and County Council and addressed the Board's questions.

Motion that the Board direct the Superintendent to work with legal counsel to draft a proposed ordinance regarding fiscal autonomy. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility – Chief Financial Officer Tonya Crosby presented the monthly transparency report, monthly \$100K report, and Board monthly budget.

COVID 19 - Coronavirus Update – Dr. Rodriguez gave an update on the two-week active window of students and teachers. Dr. Bradley and Dr. Rodriguez addressed questions regarding the mask requirements and the number of guests allowed at high school graduations.

Update on Performing Arts District Wide – Chief Instructional Services Officer Dr. Mary Stratos presented an update on the performing arts and addressed the Board's questions.

Update on Grant Writer – Dr. Stratos provided information on the grant writing vendor and announced that the school district has received a \$12.8 million Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant to develop *Med-Tech 7*, an evidence-based, whole-school STEAM arts-integrated magnet program designed for the Beaufort and Whale Branch clusters.

Board Business

Employee Bonuses – Ms. Crosby provided information about employee bonuses and the budget.

Motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to active employees from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates:

- * full-time teachers and other staff - \$1,000,
- * part-time employees working an average of:
 - 5 days per week - \$1,000
 - 4 days per week - \$800
 - 3 days per week - \$600
 - 2 days per week - \$400, and
 - 1 day per week - \$200

Average days per week will be calculated for the time frame from 2/20/2021 to 4/16/2021. The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed \$3.2 million. Board discussion.

Motion to postpone this vote until the April 23rd Work Session. Board discussion. Motion failed.

Amended motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to active employees, defined as any employee actively employed 120 days of the 2020-2021 school year from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates:

- * full-time teachers and other staff - \$1,000,
- * part-time employees working an average of:
 - 5 days per week - \$1,000
 - 4 days per week - \$800
 - 3 days per week - \$600
 - 2 days per week - \$400, and
 - 1 day per week - \$200

Average days per week will be calculated for the time frame from 2/20/2021 to 4/16/2021. The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed \$3.2 million. Board discussion.

Second amended motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to currently active employees. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Withdrawn motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to active employees, defined as any employee actively employed 120 days of the 2020-2021 school year from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates:

- * full-time teachers and other staff - \$1,000,
- * part-time employees working an average of:
 - 5 days per week - \$1,000
 - 4 days per week - \$800
 - 3 days per week - \$600
 - 2 days per week - \$400, and
 - 1 day per week - \$200

Average days per week will be calculated for the time frame from 2/20/2021 to 4/16/2021. The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed \$3.2 million. Motion approved.

Motion to extend the meeting (approved). Motion to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m. (failed).

Motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to current active employees who have been determined to have worked 120 days from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates:

* full-time teachers and other staff - \$1,000.

The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed 3.2million. Motion approved.

Ms. Crosby will present a recommendation for part-time employees at the Budget Work Session on Friday, April 23.

Employee Step Increases – Ms. Crosby presented and addressed the Board’s questions.

Motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a lump sum step increase to all eligible employees from the General Fund operating budget. The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the step increases. Board discussion. Motion approved.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the April 6, 2021 Board meeting minutes (approved).

Future Agenda Topics

Board member Ingrid Boatright would like to revisit how the Board handles adjournment.

Announcements

Chair Gwozdz announced there will be a joint Board/SIC meeting via Zoom on April 29 at 6 p.m.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:03 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: <https://www.beaufortcountysc.gov/the-county-channel/index.html>