

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Community Meeting -Johnston Elementary Cafeteria

The board met for a community meeting prior to the regular board meeting at Johnston Elementary School. Mr. Brad Covar called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Covar recognized Mr. Andy Livingston, Mayor of Johnston and Mr. Bill Clyburn, Representative.

Dr. Mary Crenshaw opened with a power point presentation. Mr. David Fallaw updated the community on the budget. Dr. Carol Lenderman presented information on instruction followed by questions/answers from the community.

Adjournment: 6:58 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EDGEFIELD COUNTY
JOHNSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MAY 10, 2011

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Brad Covar, Chairman
Dr. John Carroll Wates, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Bridget Clark, Secretary
Mrs. Sallie Cooks
Mr. Chris Hoffmann
Mr. William Herrin
Mr. Jame Bibbs

ALSO PRESENT WERE:

Dr. Mary Rice-Crenshaw, Superintendent
Dr. Carol Lenderman, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services
Mr. Greg Anderson, School Board Attorney
Mr. David Fallaw, Interim Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Shawn Clinkscales, Director of Human Resources
Mr. James Courtney, Director of Facilities/Operations/Transportation
Mrs. Lunette Patten, Recording Secretary

NOTICE TO MEDIA: In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 3-4-80 (d), as amended, the following have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting: The Advertiser, The Citizen News, The Aiken Standard, The Augusta Chronicle, The North Augusta Star, Channel 12, Channel 6, Channel 26, WLTX News 19 and Edgefield Daily.

CALL TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER - Rev. Eldwin Griffin, Mt. Alpha Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

(EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA FOLLOWS REGULAR MEETING IN CLOSED SESSION)

Dr. Crenshaw requested permission to add one item under Public Comments and Input and one item under Office of School Board in Open Session.

Mr. Bibbs requested permission to add one item under Office of School Board in Open Session.

APPROVED AS AMENDED: COOKS/WATES (7/0)

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1) Spotlight - State Superintendent's Writing Awards

Dr. Crenshaw, Mrs. Clark and Mr. Wates made presentations to the following:

Essay winners from each school:

Douglas Elementary	Brettford Wise
Johnston Elementary	Weston Whitfield
Merriwether Elementary	Trevor Starnes
W. E. Parker Elementary	Julia Crim
JET Middle School	Morgan Reel
Merriwether Middle	Olivia Bernard

District Winners - Weston Whitfield
Olivia Bernard

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND INPUT

1) Mr. Joel Pedersen - Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County

Mr. Pedersen, from the Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County spoke regarding the upcoming Teacher's Vision Grants. The foundation provides grants and aid for the public schools in Edgefield County.

Mr. Pedersen, stated the foundation is in the process of raising money for the grants. The last two years the foundation has managed to raise \$16,000 on about twenty five different grants. The goal this year is \$17,000.

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

A. REQUEST TO USE SCHOOL PROPERTY

NO ITEMS

B. TRIPS AND PROJECTS FOR APPROVAL

NO ITEMS

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C1 - April 19, 2011 - Board Meeting

APPROVED WITH CORRECTION ON PAGE FOUR: COOKS/CLARK (7/0)

C2 - April 19, 2011 - Budget Workshop

APPROVED: COOKS/CLARK (7/0)

C3 - March 31, 2011 - Discipline Hearing

APPROVED TO RATIFY: COOKS/CLARK (7/0)

D. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

D1 - Testing Update

Dr. Lenderman updated the board on the testing schedule.

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

E. FACILITIES/OPERATIONS/TRANSPORTATION

E1 - Update on Express Bus

Motion by Cooks, second Hoffmann approve administration recommendation to continue, the (not to exceed) \$12.50 per rider per weekly charge for the 2011/2012 school year.

APPROVED: COOKS/HOFFMANN (7/0)

F. FISCAL SERVICES

F1 - Budget Update

RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

G. HUMAN RESOURCES

G1 - Summer Grant

Mrs. Clinkscales updated the board on the summer grant of \$39,000 (The Bridge Program) which will start on June 13, 2011 through the end of July. The students will attend the program on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

H. OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

H1 - Census Implication for Edgefield County
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

H2 - Meeting with Sheriff Dobey
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

H3 - Fox Creek Information
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

I. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

NO ITEMS

J. OFFICE OF SCHOOL BOARD

J1 - Legislative Update
Mr. Bibbs gave an update on legislation.
RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

J2 - Mr. James Bibbs - Policies

Mr. Bibbs addressed concerns for policies CCB, BBAA, BC and BCA.
Mr. Bibbs read the emails sent out by a board member on April 22, 2011 and requested that the emails and discussion be placed in the minutes.

**ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AND ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:
HERRIN/WATES (7/0)**

Board Minutes
May 10, 2011
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Dear Dr. Crenshaw,

I applauded your remarks in support of our district's fine arts program at the Fine Arts Festival. We've already discussed my thoughts on how next year's calendar fails to demonstrate that support. I trust you realize my great disappointment at the lack of support I received in my attempt to remedy the situation.

Mr. Bibbs stated this statement within itself is a violation of policy BC. Policy BC is Board Member Conduct.

My concern has risen to outrage with regard to Mr. Hampton's plan to cut arts education in half at JET Middle School. Our district aired the DVD that discussed the statistical evidence of the link between the arts and scholastic achievement. Incredibly, against all such data, Mr. Hampton is planning on cutting arts education in an attempt to increase test scores! AMAZING.

Mr. Bibbs stated violation of policy BCA.

There is no way to implement an A-B schedule without severely hurting a beginner band program. No child can learn to play an instrument every other day. Let's follow the results of such a move. At the end of their middle school career next year's sixth grade band students at JET will have exactly one half the training and experience of Merriwether Middle School students in the same grade. STHS Rebel Regiment will immediately feel the impact of the ninth graders from JET that will not be prepared and will find it increasingly difficult to maintain their current top echelon status in the state. With STHS' band program seriously hampered what will Merriwether students choose?

Fox Creek's place in all this can't be ignored. At present STHS attracts a large number of students from Merriwether because of their arts programs. (My family chooses to drive 26 miles to school to STHS to participate in the band program.) As Fox Creek comes of age and grows their arts programs Thurmond's advantage will begin to decrease. Add to this JET's decision to cut their arts training in half, and you create the scenario in which Thurmond will lose Merriwether arts students for good without the hope of attracting them again.

Dr. Crenshaw, how will JET hope to keep a competent band director when the program is doomed to mediocrity because of the A-B schedule? I'll answer for you: They won't! Any competent band director will head for a district that supports the arts in reality not in rhetoric!

Dr. Crenshaw, please support the arts for all students in our district. Please stop this ill-advised plan at JET Middle School.

Sincerely,
Chris Hoffmann

May 2, 2011

Good afternoon, I am responding to the email that was sent to Dr. Crenshaw and copied to me last week. Mr. Hoffmann, the information that was relayed to you was inaccurate. We are changing the schedule at JET in order to meet the instructional needs of our students and the professional development needs of our staff. In our discussions about this schedule several ideas were put on the table and discussed. After consulting with the band directors at JET and Strom Thurmond, we decided it was best to make sure that our students would have band classes every day. We accommodated this need on Thursday, April 21st which was the week before last. Our schedule is still developing and evolving as we continue to consult with our teachers to make sure that we do the best we can for all the students at JET.

Thanks

Stephen-Hampton Ed. S.

Principal

“We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools”

May 2, 2011

Dear Mr. Hampton,

Thank you for the update but I still have very grave concerns about you altering the established band program. It is wonderful that there are 110 students coming into the 6th grade band program. Do you realize that if those children remain in band that they are statistically assured of graduating? That’s right; the Pittsburg school district confirmed a 100% graduation rate for band students of three or more years. That is the reason for my harsh email from last week. We cannot do anything to jeopardize a positive experience for those beginning band students. A study of minority children in band found that 36% of the students surveyed chose their band director as a role model, more than any other department including physical education.

We cannot jeopardize Mr. Craig’s opportunity with his students. It is imperative that he is given the class time to meet the needs of next year’s 6th grade class. Giving half those students to another teacher or loading 110 children into one mega class is not an option.

Mr. Bibbs: “Mr. Chairman, I submit to you that is not an option. If not a suggestion he is telling the principal what to do.”

Either plan will risk some children’s success and that is unacceptable. The arts cannot be sacrificed for math, science and language arts. The fine arts provide the catalyst for higher scores and more successful students now and throughout their lives. I can fill your office with studies that prove just that, but there is no need. I know you know this. I know your background. I can fully appreciate the pressure you feel from all the testing. I’m glad that you want your school to excel.

But in that pursuit we must include the arts or we won't succeed anyway.

Sincerely,

Chris Hoffmann

Mrs. Cooks stated what about the other 4,000 students?

Mr. Bibbs stated you acknowledge that you sent a harsh letter to the superintendent and copied her subordinates.

Mr. Bibbs: First policy BBAA (Board Authority and Responsibilities)

Purpose: To establish the basic structure of the authority and responsibilities of the board and its members.

The board and its members will deal with administrative services through the superintendent and will not give orders to any subordinates of the superintendent either publicly or privately, but may make suggestions and recommendations.

Mr. Bibbs stated is that not a violation of the policy?

Mr. Covar stated you are to go to the superintendent first. The issue is Policy CCB. Some of us may not want her here, but she is the superintendent. Let's respect her. Mr. Covar reminded board members to work together and to follow policy.
Board and principal relations:

The school principal has no direct administrative relations with the board. His/Her relations to the board are through the superintendent since the principal is directly responsible to the superintendent. The superintendent will present matters that require board, action to the board. There is a process a procedure by which we need to work as board members. All seven of us are elected board members.

Mr. Hoffman stated who was my original email to? If I copied too many email addresses on there I apologize. I apologize to Dr. Crenshaw. My concern what prompt it all was this is the second year in a row that an AB school schedule was initiative suggested for the JET band program. We have a policy in this county as a school board to support the Fine Arts. I did it and I will do it again. I told you to report to me about the Fox Creek hot dog issue and the lock down at Thurmond you did not.

Mr. Covar took comments from board members.

Mrs. Cooks: If we don't implement the change of command like we suppose to we cannot expect other people to.

Dr. Wates: I spoke to the superintendent. I told her I will first bring the issue to you. If it is not resolved I will bring it to the board. We need to operate as a school board. Time for all of us to refer them to you.

Dr. Crenshaw: We will have to have respect for each other. If you ask me to do something I know Mary Rice Crenshaw will do what you ask. I need to make this point my name is Mary Rice Crenshaw not you. All I ask is that you respect me. Team work is important. I do not like for anybody to point their finger in my face because, I will not do that to you. I will not call you, you. I will call you by your name. All I ask that you respect me and, I will do my job to the upmost.

Mrs. Clark: A bigger problem is to talk about things but we haven't. Huge chain of command issue. I do know what my role is as a board member. I have violated it. It's time we dealt with the issues.

Mr. Covar: We have some things we need to work on administratively. Do not put our people in jeopardy. If we change a schedule in our school the board is going to approve it. Every board member needs to operate on the rules and guidelines we have. We need to do it the right way. All board members please review your policies. If you follow your policies then you can surely expect the administration to follow their policies.

Mr. Bibbs: I want to bring to your attention these articles (Warren County Schools to Lose Accreditation) (Judge Urges Removal of School Board Members) (Warren Board Problems Not Unique). In the articles you will see that if we as a board continue down this path we could lose our accreditation for not following our own policy. Warren County, Fairfield, S.C. and I think Williamsburg County is in trouble now with SACS doing what Mr. Hoffmann is doing. Our school district is accredited by the same organization.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA

A. STUDENT (APPEALS, REQUESTS, CONCERNS)

A1- A3 - Transfer requests (3)
APPROVED: BIBBS/WATES (7/0)

The school district receives requests, routinely, from parents to gain permission to either permit their children to attend school in the district or release them from the district to attend school elsewhere or home school.

B. CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

NO ITEMS

C. OFFICE OF SCHOOL BOARD

NO ITEMS

D. OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

NO ITEMS

E. LEGAL BRIEFINGS

NO ITEMS

F. HUMAN RESOURCES

NO ITEMS

G. PERSONNEL ITEMS

G1 - Staff Recommendations (2)
APPROVED: BIBBS/WATES (7/0)

G2 - Leave Request (1)
APPROVED: BIBBS/WATES (7/0)

H. VOLUNTEERS

NO ITEMS

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

VOTING ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT: 8:45 p.m.

Mr. Brad Covar, Chairman

Mrs. Bridget Clark, Secretary

Mrs. Lunette Patten, Recording Secretary
