

Dorchester School District Two (D-2) Board Meeting

October 23, 2017

Observer: Vicki Westberg

Meeting Highlights

Meeting called to order 6:04 PM. There were no public comments on agenda items. Previous meeting minutes were approved.

“Partners in Education” breakfast to be held at 8 am this Thursday, October 26th in the Adult Education Center to thank and engage business leaders and educators to share ideas for education programs that lead to successful careers.

State of the District report (9/1/16 – 9/30/17) covered shortage of qualified candidates and costs of D-2 personnel goals, including comparisons with previous years, recruitment efforts, competition with Charleston & Berkeley districts, lack of support from the state to make sure education funding keeps up with population increases. Mr. Pye said that “we need a champion for education in the legislature”.

Budget YTD on track in all areas and “about the same as last year.” Staff & principals are doing a good job of budget management with limited funds.

Audit was completed with good results and showed good improvements in child nutrition and Title One compliance. The audit is conducted using a risk-base approach. District fund balance is steady at about 13% (a buffer of about 2 months of operating costs) with a max of 15% specifically imposed on D-2 by the legislature. Mr. Pye and Justin Farnsworth said that this max should be raised to 24% - 30% which is more in line with industry standards.

Tax abatements and fees (paid by businesses instead of taxes) removed approximately \$42 million from the funding pool for D-2 which the board estimated to be the equivalent of about 67 teachers.

Facilities and Construction: It was reported that 83% of projects are complete. Final inspection at new Rollings Middle School is scheduled for Dec 6th. Bids for relocation of District Offices work will happen in January with work to be complete by December, 2018.

System for work orders is in process of being improved, with special attention to repairs for safety issues. Several specifics were cited.

Personnel reports were approved by the Board.

Leadership Workshop: Chairwoman Gail Hughes and Board Member Tanya Robinson gave a positive review to the leadership workshop they recently attended and recommended that the speaker be invited to a duplicate the workshop with the rest of the board.

Chairwoman Gail Hughes and two audience members spoke highly of this year's inter-city trip to Rock Hill & Fort Mills sponsored by the Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Hughes said that all community leaders should consider making the trip to see the benefits of public-private partnerships with an emphasis on parks and recreation.

Public Comment made to support H5024, a bill to require the State Dept. of Education to provide all reading/literacy coaches and literacy teachers with training on **dyslexia**.

Meeting adjourned to executive session.