

Berkeley County School Board Meeting

January 10, 2017

Submitted by: Mev McIntosch

Videos: Board Meeting - <https://vimeo.com/199022831>

Workshop - <https://vimeo.com/199022273>

Board members present: Ramsey, McQuillin, Wofford, Kelly, Spann, Wright, Conder

Board member absent: Shannon Lee

Media present: Brenda Rindge

No citizen comments

- Deputy Superintendent Archie Franchini reminded board of school policy updates/reviews. BCSD is currently not in compliance and has three options:
 1. Contract with SC School Boards Association
 2. Appoint committee of district staff and board members to update
 3. Consult with district staff with review of each policy and suggested updatesFranchini recommended option #1
- Chief Administrative Officer Deon Jackson presented reasons to accelerate Tanner / Foster Creek attendance zone implementation. 31 students currently attending GCHS have option of beginning at HHS or remaining at GCHS. HHS will lose approx. 140 students to the new PSHS off Clements Ferry Rd. Wofford asked, "Have students began athletic eligibility yet?" Jackson was not sure but stated athlete can only move schools once in order to qualify for scholarships, etc. Blackburn suggested she and her office staff would handle any student appeals in this situation.
- Financial audit for period ending June 30, 2016 – audit revealed a "good, healthy fund balance"; BCSD was \$2.6M over budget in terms of the positive side with revenues and \$1.8M under in terms of expenditures.
- Audit presenter suggested all school districts in their official financial statements should indicate the revenues lost due to tax abatements imposed by counties (aka Fees in Lieu of Taxes – FILOTs). This information should be available from the county/state. McQuillin asked, "So that means we will need to communicate with the county to get that information?" **Note: McQuillin was named Berkeley County legal counsel on Jan. 6, 2017.* Spann asked, "Sir, would you please provide a definition of fund balance?" Audit presenter explains, "all the assets a district owns subtract what the district owes and the remainder is the fund balance..." Ramsey noted compared to districts nearby, BCSD has an "extremely strong fund balance..."

- Blackburn asked Chief Financial Officer Brantley Thomas how many years the district has received this rating. Thomas replied, "I've been in this position since 1993 and we've had this rating each year..."
- Board asked Director of Human Resources Glenda Levine to revise section of policy J-H – Student Activities. Wofford explained the section requested for removal "prohibited parents from being volunteers." Wofford said a number of programs suffered from this policy, particularly female sports programs. McQuillin noted, "when counsel reviewed this...it was agreed that politics needed to be set aside and we needed to do what is best for students..." The first reading of this revision passed.
- Superintendent Blackburn provided her Superintendent's Report; mostly reminders to board members to meet with her one-on-one, deadlines for registering for upcoming trainings and conferences, etc.
- Board entered executive session at 7:34 pm and returned at 8:45 pm. Results for student attendance appeals and student expulsion appeals were noted only.