

Berkeley County School Board Meeting

February 28, 2017

Observer: Jane Pulling

Agenda & Actions Taken

The Head Start Budget expenditure reports for November 2016 and January 2017 were approved.

Heidi Clower, audiologist, was recognized as the South Carolina Academy of Audiology (SCAA) Audiologist of the Year.

Citizen Comments -

Linda Riney - supports current school board. Says people were not satisfied with previous school board but they support current one.

Terry Hardesty - Republicans care about education. He donated his settlement to the Berkeley County Republican Party to be used to support good school board candidates. He finds criticism of current board "obnoxious". He said Angie Simmons is mentioned in an FOI report as meeting with Chris Kovach and Doug Cooper. Commended board chair, Sally Wofford.

Bill Healy - Concerned about food waste in cafeterias. Wants transparency. Why isn't all budget information on the Web site? Represents Citizen's Committee of Hanahan.

David Royce - thanked board for firing Mr. Thomas, not placing him on leave and firing previous law firm. Unwavering support for Josh Whitley who is "honest and only cares about Berkeley County".

Jim Royce - commended board on its handling of financial issues. Complimented Josh Whitley as a local boy who knows the issues in Berkeley County. "We don't need fancy school law firms."

Pat Exstein - wants a breakdown of projected cost and actual cost for 2012 referendum projects.

Facilities Update –

- Berkeley Education Center (old Berkeley High School) asbestos abatement is completed. Exterior brick pointing, window removal, and interior gutting nearly complete.
- Phillip Simmons HS will be ready to open in fall of 2017A video of current state of construction was shown.
- Bowen's Corner - site clearing is complete
- Foxbank Elementary - started detail design of floor plan.

Budget - Finance director reported on all budgets. All are in good shape.

Superintendent's Report –

- Goal 3 Communication from the One Berkeley Strategic Plan was reported on by Archie Franchini.
- District Ambassadors - will meet at Cross elementary on 3/23 @ 6:00pm.
- BSCD will host Leadership Berkeley. Have met with realtors, clergy. Active in Berkeley Chamber and Charleston Area Chamber

Executive Session -

The board hired a forensic auditor to perform a forensic audit in light of the recent embezzlement by former financial manager, Brantley Thomas.