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AGENDA
JOINT INITIATIVE COMMITTEE
COUNTY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, June 1, 2010
4:00 p.m.
Executive Conference Room
Administration Building

County Council Committee Members:
William McBride, Chairman
Stu Rodman, Vice Chairman
Paul Sommerville

Board of Education Committee Members:
Fred Washington, Chairman
Bob Arundell
Laura Bush

Staff Support:
Bryan Hill
David Starkey
Phyllis White

- 4:00 p.m. 1. CALL TO ORDER
2. REVIEW OF MINUTES – APRIL 6, 2010
3. BEAUFORT COUNTY / BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FY
2010 FUND BALANCE PROJECTIONS AS OF APRIL 2010
Chief Financial Officer David Starkey
Chief Operational Services Officer Phyllis White
4. DAUFUSKIE ISLAND COUNTY AND DISTRICT FERRY
Councilman Stu Rodman
5. PROS & CONS OF CLOSING THE DAUFUSKIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Councilman Stu Rodman
6. DISCUSSION OF ANY OPEN DISTRICT BUDGET ISSUES (IF ANY)
Councilman Stu Rodman
7. IMMIGRATION
Board of Education Chairman Fred Washington
8. ADJOURNMENT

A quorum of Council may be in attendance at all Committee meetings.
Please silence your cell phone during the meeting

County TV Rebroadcast	
Monday	1:30 a.m.
Tuesday	8:30 p.m.
Friday	1:30 a.m.

**JOINT INITIATIVE
COUNTY COUNCIL/BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE
APRIL 6, 2010 MINUTES**

Corrected Version

The electronic and print media were duly notified in accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

The Joint Initiative County Council/Board of Education Committee met on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 4:00 p.m., in the Executive Conference Room of the Administration Building, Beaufort, South Carolina.

ATTENDANCE:

Beaufort County School Board Members: Fred Washington, Jr., Jim Bequette, Laura Bush, George Wilson

Beaufort County Council Members: William McBride, Stewart Rodman, Jerry Stewart, Paul Sommerville

Beaufort County School District Staff: Valerie Truesdale, Phyllis White, Terry Dingle

Beaufort County Staff Members: Brian Hill, Brian Starkey, Morris Campbell

Other Attendees: Brad Samuel – SCANA
Russell Byrd – U.S. Marine Corps Air Station

Beaufort County School Board Chairman Fred S. Washington, Jr., chaired the meeting.

The Joint Initiative Meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred S. Washington, Jr. Mr. Wilson made the motion to accept the minutes from November 3, 2009, and February 2, 2010. Mr. McBride second the motion, and both sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

COORDINATION OF FERRY SERVICE FOR DAUFUSKIE ISLAND UPDATE

Mr. Morris Campbell presented a summary that is the chronology of Daufuskie Island Ferry service for students and residents for the past 20 years. Mr. Campbell indicated that the services started before 1990, but his tenure started in 1990. From 1990-1994, service was provided for students and the public by a private carrier on a converted shrimp boat. Separate contracts were administered by the County and the School District. The contracts were terminated after official complaints were received on the safety, dependability, health and accessibility issues from the national office of NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. The combined estimated budget was \$65,000.

During the period of 1995 – 2003, the County and the School District merged their resources in response to the complaints mentioned previously, and to secure safer and more dependable ferry service. Haig Point Ferry was hired to provide the service. Students and residents shared service during the school year. Trips were based on the school schedule and shared by residents. The County paid a portion of the contract during the school year for residents to ride

with students. The School District paid the majority. However, non-school day trips were completely funded by the County. The combined estimated budget was \$125-140,000. The period 2004-05, the County and the School District continued to share the ferry service and the cost with the new carrier, Melrose/Daufuskie Island Club Resort. School trips were shared with residents; additionally, residents had access to all other ferry trips made by the carrier. The combined annual budget was \$125 – 140,000.

The period 2006-08, the School District elected to secure a separate carrier, Palmetto Ferry Company to transport 9 – 12 students. The County continued to use the resort ferry for residents. The School District's Budget: \$145 – 150,000. The County's Budget: \$100,000. The combined budgets: \$245 – 250,000.

In 2009-10, the School District continues use of a separate carrier, which is now Haig Point Ferry Company to transport 9 – 12 students daily. The carrier allows only Haig point's members, guests, employees, contractors to ride with students; parents of students can ride for school-related meetings. The County secured access to J&W Corporation and Palmetto Ferry Company to help meet ferry transportation needs of other property owners and residents not described above. The School District' Budget: \$145 – 150,000. The County's Budget: \$125,000. The combined budgets: \$260-275,000.

Mr. Campbell presented the following considerations:

- 1) Seriously evaluate options of merging students' transportation needs with those of residents to maximize use of public funds for coming year.
- 2) Negotiate with current carrier for permission to allow the limited number of islanders seeking or has secured employment on the mainland permission to ride with students and others for the remainder of this fiscal year.
- 3) Continue to function separately in meeting the needs our students, property owners and residents of the land.

Mrs. Phyllis White clarified some points made by Mr. Campbell. She started with the fact that in this fiscal year, the School District and the County had planned on a joint RFP for blended services for Ferry Services. During the process, the District was informed by Dave Thomas, the County Purchasing Agent, that the School District should proceed with the RFP separately from the County. So the District had attempted to share the cost. Haig Point was the bid that was received for transporting students. Their bid was very specific. They only wanted to transport the students, staff, and teachers. Mrs. White had spoken with Mr. Dempsey, who represents Haig Point, and their intention of the bid was only for transporting the students. Mrs. White had indicated that this will be the third year for rebidding these services. She indicated that this will be costly. Mrs. White asked the question, that if this was rebid, what would change?

Mr. Campbell believes if it is rebid, it will allow Haig Point to reconsider their position, but also allow the other carriers to reconsider their positions. There were a couple of carriers who

didn't understand that this would be a combined effort, or did not think that they could economically do it. Mr. Campbell agreed that after the process got started, Haig Point was the only carrier that expressed carrying the students. Haig Point had the best offered at that time. Mr. Campbell says that they are receiving complaints from the residents of Daufuskie. They don't understand why they cannot ride the ferry, when employees, staff, and guest of Haig Point ride the ferry. Mrs. White indicated that the contract is written for students, staff, and teachers only. Haig Point does not provide a separate run for the school district. This is a private carrier who only has a contract with the School District. Their run is incorporated with their regular scheduled runs for their guests, contractors and employees.

Mr. Rodman's believes that we should go back and rebid it jointly. The County has a voucher system that was used by multiple vendors, and is somewhat difficult to channel it down to one. There is money to be saved by doing a joint RFP. Mr. Washington clarified that the contract with Haig Point is for the students and staff, and not for residents.

Mr. Washington went back to Mr. Campbell's recommendations. Mr. Rodman says that #2 consideration should be taken off the table. It was agreed that the #1 consideration needs to takes place first. Discussions are that Mrs. White, and Mr. Campbell with their staff should have a meeting. Mrs. White believes this can take place in the next two weeks. They will bring a report back to this committee in June. Mrs. White said for a RFP they will need 60 days. Dr. Truesdale clarified if the County wants to seriously work on a joint RFP.

Dr. Truesdale wanted to correct a statement that in 2006, the School District did not elect to secure a separate carrier. She reminded the Joint Committee that the District had the DOE case, and that there were legitimate concerns for student safety.

PRESENTATION/BEAUFORT COUNTY/BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR-END FUND BALANCE ESTIMATES

Mr. David Starkey presented the Beaufort County & Beaufort County School District Fiscal Year-End 2010 Fund Balance Estimates as of February 28, 2010. (See attachment #1)

Mr. Starkey stated that he, Phyllis White, Bryan Hill, and Tonya Crosby, had met a couple of times over the past few weeks to work on a better process for the year end budgeting as to what the fund balance would look like and budgeting for fiscal year 2011. This template will give out what was collected to date, and projections. Tax Year 2009 Collections are as follows as of 2/28/ 2010; 90% collected for County Ops, 90% Collected for County Debt, 90% Collected for the County Purchase Property, 88% Collected for BCSD Ops, and 90% Collected for BCSD Dept. This should help both the County and BCSD come up with the same percentage. Through the Manitron system they can produce a report that gathers this information.

Questions were asked why the columns for BCSD General Fund and BCSD Debt were blank? The information should be provided to the Board members first prior to disseminating the information before the public.

Mr. Bequette wanted to know if Mrs. White was happy with the same methodology. Ms. White agreed with methodology, and it has been agreed upon that the School District and the County will use this template. Projections will change, but by using this process everybody will have the same information and will know where the information is coming from. This will be updated monthly. It is important to update the plan for next year.

Mr. Rodman asked if the Audit of Financial Statements would be included in July/August time frame. Mr. Starkey will be working on the value of the mil. As he gets the data from the assessor and the auditor he will keep the School District in the loop.

The budget process will begin on April 23 & 24th for the School Board. The dates April 26th and May 17th works for committee meetings. The first reading is May 10th. May 4th is the scheduled date to certified the budget.

Mr. Bequette spoke about the School Board Foundation that was formed. He announced about the fund raiser on April 23, 2010. One of the purpose of the foundation is to fund grants for teachers. 8 grants have been granted so far. The fund raiser is an Art Auction, with the feature guest, Jonathan Greene.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

Mr. Washington addressed the rumors that if Beaufort County School District would not serve illegal immigrants, that we could save \$38million dollars. Mr. Washington proposes that representatives from the School Board, County Council, the Legislative Delegation, the Business Community, Sheriff Department, and members of the minority communities, should sit down and develop a process that identifies what the problem really is, and who has responsibility to do what, and what we can and cannot do. We need to dispel some of the myth.

Mr. Washington wants to know what level of illegal immigrants are in the community? How is it being addressed? The question, if we do have so many, is there a demand? Mr. Washington wants to develop a process to address this in a meaningful way for the community of Beaufort County. A committee should be put together to develop a process, and would be able to help address some of these questions.

Mr. Sommerville says that he believes he knows where the number comes from. The demographics from the school district's ESOL students are 3800 students and it costs \$3,800 to educate them. The implication is that the ESOL students are all illegal immigrants. Mr. Sommerville wants know what is the objective of this group? The question was asked, "Do we have the right to challenge a student's immigration status?"

Dr. Truesdale made a clarification for the Joint Committee. She said that it cost about \$2-3 million dollars for students who do not speak English as their native language. The School District receives only a portion from the federal government. It is incorrect to say all of the

Latino learners are not legal residents. The Supreme Court directs the school district to serve all children who come through the door.

Mr. Jerry Stewart indicated that in a meeting with the Sheriffs and the Solicitors that they are very pleased with what is going on in the county as far as dealing with illegal immigrants, but they don't have information about what is going on with the municipalities. He said that it is hard to get information from the municipalities. We need to participate as a whole.

Mr. Washington said that the process will include the municipalities.

Mrs. Laura Bush said the information needs to go the public. Mr. Wilson agreed that we should work together as a small group, than expand the group.

Mr. Stewart said his constituents want to know if there has been a decrease in ESOL. If so, what is that number?

Mr. Washington tabled the discussion until the next meeting which has been scheduled for June 1, 2010. Mr. George Wilson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was second, and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

DRAFT

**Beaufort County & Beaufort County School District
Fiscal Year-End 2010 Fund Balance Estimates
As of February 28, 2010
(Attachment 1)**

	<u>County General Fund</u> <u>BCSD Debt</u>	<u>County Debt</u>	<u>County Purchase Property</u>	<u>BCSD General Fund</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	20,940,144	4,361,432	2,364,079	
Actual Current Taxes through 2/28/2010* Actual	63,629,387	5,728,261	3,370,566	
Delinquent Taxes through 2/28/2010** Actual	1,497,547	133,890	79,087	
Auto Taxes through 2/28/2010 Actual Other	2,162,567	191,637	114,279	
Revenues through 2/28/2010 Total Actual	13,306,022	3,900,775	24,135	
Revenues through 2/28/2010	80,595,523	9,954,563	3,588,067	
Projected Current Taxes (3/1/2010 - Year-End)***	290,174	25,517	15,312	
Projected Delinquent Taxes (3/1/2010 - Year-End)****	2,714,283	244,359	143,782	
Projected Auto Taxes (3/1/2010 - Year-End)***	1,051,484	92,963	55,198	
Projected Other Revenues (3/1/2010 -Year-End)***	13,641,971	51,844,238	107,254	
Total Projected Revenues (3/1/2010 - Year-End)	17,697,912	52,207,077	321,546	
Actual Expenditures through 2/28/2010 Projected	64,875,439	11,651,254	3,353,194	
Expenditures (3/1/2010 - Year-End) Total	33,254,234	49,608,426	888,143	
Projected Expenditures (FY 2010)	98,129,673	61,259,680	4,241,337	
Projected Change in Fund Balance for FY 2010	163,762	901,960	(331,724)	
Projected Ending Fund Balance	21,103,906	5,263,392	2,032,355	

* - Tax Year 2009 Collections are as follows as of 2/28/2010:90% Collected for County Ops, 90% Collected for County Debt, 90% Collected for County Purchase Property, 88% Collected for BCSD Ops, and 90% Collected for BCSD Debt

** - Tax Years 2008 and prior as of 2/28/2010.

*** - Same amounts collected 3/1/2009 through FY 2009 fiscal year-end.

**** - Estimated collections of 40% of outstanding tax year 2009 due (net of TIFs) as of February 28,2010.