
From: Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Saturday, August 18, 2018 11:50 AM
To: jerry at the beach; bullardpiwko@aol.com; ahoward@bcgov.net; rickc@hargray.com; srodman@bcgov.net; psommerville@bcgov.net; yglover@bgov.net; mcovert@bcgov.net; jstewart@bcgov.net; tvaux@bcgov.net; brianf@bcgov.net; sfobes@bcgov.net; gdawson@bcgov.net; lawrence.conneff@blufftontoday.com; theislandnews@gmail.com; btolley@islandpacket.com; dlauderdale@islandpacket.com; gsmith@islandpacket.com; Jim Bequette
Cc: eyelandart@yahoo.com; Gwozdz, Christina S; Dowling, John R; usn1066@gmail.com; Orischak, Josephine A; Anderson, Evva A; katiekwilts@gmail.com; Striebinger, David R; mangst@islandpacket.com; bisi@roadrunner.com; Kinton, Geraldine C; Cordray, MaryM; Payne, Wilbur M; Payne, Wilbur M; info@windrunnerstables.com; Gregory, Cynthia W; Kinton, Geraldine C; dan.hunt@blufftontoday.com; Campbell, Earl; Dunkle, Joseph R; jdpc@hargray.com; Foster, James H
Subject: Re: Controlling Finances

Thank you and that is my intent..the problems and issues will be reviewed professionally, studied and hopefully solved..

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From: jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 18, 2018 11:38:26 AM
To: bullardpiwko@aol.com; ahoward@bcgov.net; rickc@hargray.com; srodman@bcgov.net; psommerville@bcgov.net; yglover@bgov.net; mcovert@bcgov.net; jstewart@bcgov.net; tvaux@bcgov.net; brianf@bcgov.net; sfobes@bcgov.net; gdawson@bcgov.net; lawrence.conneff@blufftontoday.com; theislandnews@gmail.com; btolley@islandpacket.com; dlauderdale@islandpacket.com; gsmith@islandpacket.com; Jim Bequette
Cc: eyelandart@yahoo.com; Gwozdz, Christina S; Dowling, John R; usn1066@gmail.com; Orischak, Josephine A; Anderson, Evva A; katiekwilts@gmail.com; Striebinger, David R; mangst@islandpacket.com; bisi@roadrunner.com; Kinton, Geraldine C; Cordray, Mary M; Payne, Wilbur M; Payne, Wilbur M; info@windrunnerstables.com; Gregory, Cynthia W; Kinton, Geraldine C; dan.hunt@blufftontoday.com; Campbell, Earl; Dunkle, Joseph R; jdpc@hargray.com; Berg, Herbert M; Foster, James H
Subject: Re: Controlling Finances

Hi Jim,

With the arrival of Dr. Berg, I have renewed confidence in school district leadership. I respectfully submit;

- A) We wait for the conclusion of the FBI investigation before continuing discussion of this important topic
- B) Allow Dr. Berg time to do his own investigation and determine if he requires an in-depth audit
- C) Wait until January when a new board is seated before making important decisions, i.e. superintendent search

I am very encouraged by the actions of Dr. Berg to date, and believe he brings a fresh set of eyes, experience and workable solutions to the district. I think our good school district employees will be falling all over themselves to help Dr. Berg become acclimated to the issues and situation. Additionally there are some excellent candidates running for the board in November.

I respectfully submit; any major decisions should not be allowed to be tainted by the current Campbell Board Majority. I believe after the election and swearing in of new board members in Jan. and items A & B are achieved, Dr. Berg will bring any and all important items of interest and requirements to the attention of our newly elected board of trustees.

~Jerry

On Saturday, August 18, 2018, 9:12:03 AM EDT, Jim Bequette <jwbterp@aol.com> wrote:

Embezzling is not too difficult when you do not have good internal controls, a knowledgeable audit committee, and internal auditors when you have major spending with many people involved.

With Moss now gone there should be a detailed audit of his credit card use and all expenditures he authorized for himself or his activities. This should be followed by a forensic audit of all district expenditures of 2017. If that audit uncovers many expenditures not properly authorized. then the audit should go back to the beginning of hiring of Moss.

In my career I have known about many of the same type thefts as reported in our neighboring County in today's paper.. One of Beaufort's nonprofits had the same theft as that one a few years ago when a bookkeeper embezzled \$120,000. Smart people figure out a system to beat the controls without proper staffing. Simply a Controller and normal accounting staff are not adequate to do all the details to catch a smart thief.

Both the School District and County need internal auditors that report to an audit committee of their Boards. We are talking about more than **\$500 million** spending when you add capital expenditures to operations.

Jim Bequette
Retired CPA and major corporation financial executive

In a message dated 8/18/2018 8:18:12 AM Eastern Standard Time, bullardpiwko@aol.com writes:

It will be interesting to know if the former Supt was reimbursed for expenses while he traveled and consulted for ERDI by the school district, was he paid his school salary while consulting for ERDI and since he was paid a consulting fee for a service he provided for ERDI, did ERDI reimburse him for travel, other expenses along with the consultant fees.

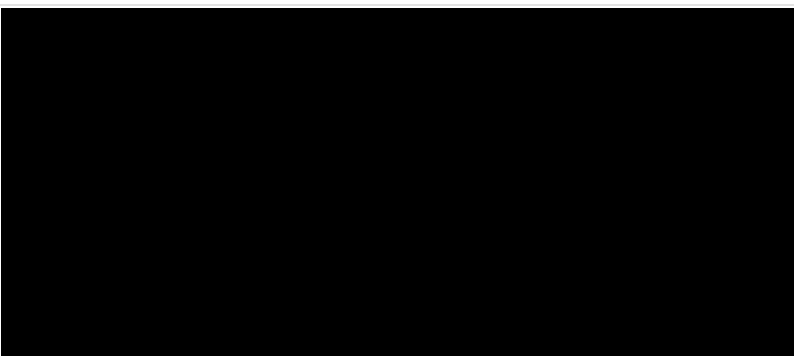
Did contract language cover outside income, time will tell.

Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 18, 2018, at 6:49 AM, jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com> wrote:

[Jasper Co. woman was supposed to watch over public funds. Police say she stole \\$274K instead](#)



Jasper Co. woman was supposed to watch over public funds. Police say she...

A Ridgeland, SC, woman was charged with embezzling more than \$274,000 from Jasper County public funds while she ...

Smith wrote numerous invoices for Ken's Tree Service — which does not exist — sent them to the Jasper County Treasurer's Office and got the invoices paid in full each time to a South State Bank account, the warrant said.

Hi Fran;

Lucky for us we have a vigilant Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary on our school board, diligently reviewing the monthly **Transparency Reports** in order to prevent this type of mischief.

Had Ms. Smith utilized a large number of legitimate companies with an established long term association, they could have funneled the money back in the form of contract or purchase bonuses. Something that elaborate would take a large organization like the FBI to uncover.

G.A. Smith

Well represented in Dist. 11.

From: Stu Rodman <sturodman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:34 AM
To: Herb Berg; PANU, AL; Richard Gough
Subject: County Liaisons
Attachments: Liaison and Board Appointments.pdf; Council Committee Member Assignments.doc

All,

Attached is the recent County Liaison appointments. Comments;

1. Added a Liaison for the School District
2. Placed all three in an education cluster within the Executive Committee, which I chair, that is comprised of the chairs of Council's 5 standing committees (also attached).

As to the latter, it is a way 1) to elevate education within the County structure, 2) to better address capital needs, 3) for me to be more engaged, and 4) perhaps convene meetings when there are overlapping interests.

Cheers,

Stu

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BEAUFORT COUNTY GOVERNMENT ROBERT SMALLS COMPLEX
100 RIBAUT ROAD
POST OFFICE DRAWER 1228
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29901-1228
TELEPHONE: (843) 255-2180
www.bcgov.net

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CHAIRMAN

D. PAUL SOMMERVILLE
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GERALD DAWSON
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YORK GLOVER, SR.
CHRIS HERVOCHON
ALICE G. HOWARD
MARK LAWSON
LAWRENCE P. MCELYNN
JOSEPH F. PASSIMENT, JR.

JOHN L. WEAVER
INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

CONNIE L. SCHROYER
CLERK TO COUNCIL

2019 – 2020

COUNCIL BOARD AND LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

LOCOG (Governmental):

Brian Flewelling
Chris Hervochon
Gerald Dawson
Mark Lawson
Paul Sommerville

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Executive):

Airports - Larry McElynn
Economic Development Corporation – Stu Rodman
Heritage Tourism Corporation – Paul Sommerville
Southern Alliance – TBD
Southern Alliance – TBD

QUALITY OF LIFE (Community Services):

Alcohol & Drug Abuse – Larry McElynn
Disabilities & Special Needs – York Glover
Hospital – Paul Sommerville
Keep BC Beautiful – Chris Hervochon
Library – Alice Howard
Military – Brian Flewelling
Parks & Recreation – Mark Lawson
Voter Registration – Gerald Dawson

PLANNING (Natural Resources):

All NOB Members – North County Planning
All SOB Members – SoLoCo
Rural and Critical Lands Preservation – Alice Howard

MUNICIPALITIES (Governmental):

Beaufort – Paul Sommerville
Bluffton – Mark Lawson
Hardeeville /Jasper – Joe Passiment
Hilton Head Island - Larry McElynn
Port Royal – Alice Howard
Yemassee – Gerald Dawson

EDUCATION (Executive):

BCSD – Joe Passiment
TCL – Alice Howard
USCB – Michael Covert

INFRASTRUCTURE (Public Facilities):

BJWSA – York Glover
CTC – Chris Hervochon
LATS – Paul Sommerville
Solid Waste – York Glover
Stormwater – Alice Howard

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CLERK TO COUNCIL

2019 – 2020

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Lawrence McElynn, Chairman
Michael Covert, Vice Chairman
Gerald Dawson, Member
York Glover, Member
Chris Hervochon, Member

GOVERNMENTAL

Paul Sommerville, Chairman
Mark Lawson, Vice Chairman
Brian Flewelling
Alice Howard
Lawrence McElynn

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Brian Flewelling, Chairman
York Glover, Vice Chairman
Michael Covert
Mark Lawson
Joseph Passiment

FINANCE

Joseph Passiment, Chairman
Chris Hervochon, Vice Chairman
Gerald Dawson
Mark Lawson
Paul Sommerville

NATURAL RESOURCES

Alice Howard, Chairman
Gerald Dawson, Vice Chairman
Michael Covert
York Glover
Chris Hervochon

EXECUTIVE

Stewart Rodman, Chairman
Brian Flewelling, Vice Chairman
Alice Howard
Lawrence McElynn
Joseph Passiment
Paul Sommerville

All members of Council who are not assigned as a named member of a particular committee (excluding the Executive Committee) shall be considered as ex-officio members

of each committee and shall be entitled to vote on issues requiring a decision and/or recommendation.

From: Stu Rodman <sturodman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:39 AM
To: Herb Berg; Joe Passiment
Subject: School District Liaison
Attachments: Procedures.pptx

Herb and Joe,

Allow me, having told each of you about the other, to connect you.

Joe, following are Herb's numbers, if you would take the initiative of contacting him so you can set up a time to meet:
(843) 322-2409
(571) 480-2268

Don't schedule around me, but if you let me know when you are meeting, I will try to join you.

Herb, as you can see from Joe's assignments he has:

- Finance Chairmanship
- Executive Committee
- BCSD Liaison
- Jasper Liaison
- SoLoCo (south county regional planning)

My thinking in working through the assignments was a nexus between both of you with respect to education, education funding, south County growth, Jasper issues, and education coordination (cluster with USCB and TCL).

My plan is to bring the District Budget through the Executive, rather than the Finance, Committee so Joe and I can work it together, given that he has a full plate and I have a lot of institutional knowledge.

Joe, Herg and I had an opening to meet yesterday on short notice, otherwise I would have included you.

Herb, three follow up items to our discussion:

1. Attached is a overview of how committee and Council have evolved and are still evolving.
2. With respect to committees, I find them to be useful for two reasons:
 - A. More efficient than working as a committee of the whole with respect to engaging the staff and public.
 - B. Provides an opportunity for the full board to reflect on committee recommendations rather than trying to address issues in one meeting.

While it has been many years since i was involve, I envision your Board might have the following committees;

- A. Academics (student focus)
- B. Personnel (staff focus)
- C. Facilities (current & future)
- D. Finance (operating performance)

3. With respect to the Referendum, recognizing it is none of my business):
 - A. Having exhausted much of the 8% on the May River HS, there is a need to get back in balance:

1. 8% for overhaul, maintenance, etc.
 2. Referenda for new school and additions
- B. An option may be:
1. Proffering, via a Referendum, the 2 new Bluffton schools and additions if planned.
 2. Cycling more of the typical 8% through shorter borrowings cycles.

With regards to the latter, I recognize that it leads to a higher near term tax rates; but it 1) is withing the full control of the BoE, 2) minimizes the risk if the Referendum fails; and 3) perhaps, improves the likelihood of passage of the Referendum by having a reduced ask.

Happy to discuss.

Cheers,

Stu

Beaufort County Council Committees

Changes (last 12 years)

- 10 to 5 Committees
- 5 Member Committees
- Executive Committee (5 Committee Chairs)
 - Items spanning multiple Committees
- Mondays pm for Committees & Council
- Right to bring defeated Item to Council
- All Members present voting
- Public Comment at Committee
- Expanded Agenda Reviews

Opportunities

- Chair's 3 Reading Options:
 - Committee & then 1st Reading
 - 1st by Title only & then Committee
- Courtesy Nominations
 - Selected Appointments
 - Directly to Clerk bypassing Committee
- Sub-committees to include Staff
- Limit Published Back-up

Beaufort County Council Caucus & Council

Changes (last 12 years)

(20 Meetings / 100 down to 50 hours)

- **Caucus**
- **Executive Session at Caucus**
- **Consent Agenda**
- **Hard to Electronic Copies**
- **Administrator Approval Level - \$25 to 50K
(w/ Notification of over \$25K)**
- **Administrator's Report Reinstated**

Opportunities

- **More Member Discussion at Caucus**
- **Limit Published Back-up**
- **Start Time?**
- **Committee Chairs to Highlight:**
 1. **Prior Committee Meeting**
 2. **Upcoming Committee Meeting**
 3. **Committee Activities**
 4. **Liaison Appointments**

From: Rodman, Stewart <srodman@bcgov.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 4:19 PM
To: fran bisi
Cc: Herbert M. Berg; Tonya V. Crosby
Subject: RE: such a deal

**** WARNING:** This email originated from outside of Beaufort County School District's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ******

Fran,

I initiated a discussion with the District to verify that there would be no adverse impact to Council deferring consideration of the so-called "surcharge" Millage to the fall. They confirmed that there would be no adverse impact.

As part of the conversation, I indicated that the originally proposed budget, which passed Monday, would most likely pass at 2nd Reading but not unanimously. I further stated that an expenditure reduction would increase the probability of unanimous support.

I also indicated that I was not talking to other Council Members on this matter, that I was not speaking for Council, and that the impact of reducing the budget was purely my opinion.

Cheers,

Stu

From: fran bisi [eyelandart@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 10:38 AM

To: rachel wisnefski; Will Smith; Earl Campbell; melvin campbell; Christina Gwozdz; Cathy Robine; john dowling; Orischak, Josephine A; richard geier; tricia fidrych; david striebinger
Cc: Herbert M. Berg; Tonya V. Crosby; William H. Saunders; Terry G. Bennett; Rachel Jones; Rick Caporale; Joan Deery; Jerry at the Beach; Mike Gleason; Reggie D. Murphy; Richard Bisi; Liz Farrell; Passiment, Joseph; Rodman, Stewart; Hervochon, Chris; Dawson, Gerald; Lawson, Mark; Sommerville, Paul
Subject: such a deal

Thanks to board members JoAnn Orischak, Rachel Wisnefski, John Dowling and Will Smith for not buying into the bizarre presentation made last night by Herb Berg and CFO Crosby. The duo stood before the board to share the “good news”. It seems Stu Rodman revealed that the council would be satisfied if a million was cut from the budget. This was presented as quite a triumph and they seemed to be waiting for the customary round of applause.

I wonder how Stu Rodman feels about having these coffee klatch negotiations aired publicly? Did everyone on the council know about this before last night and do they agree?

What the other six members seemed to forget was that they had directed the CFO to cut 2% not a fraction of a percent from the budget. Of course, the board was assured over and over again (ad nauseam) that they can always make cuts at a later date. It is highly unlikely to happen, but even if it does, it demonstrated how easily the majority of this board can be manipulated.

fran bisi

From: Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 3:06 PM
To: Rodman, Stewart
Subject: As I too remember

Stu,

Thanks for the summary. Because of Ms. Bisi's comments, I'm holding off on more fully responding until I can review the video tape of the meeting. Both my memory and intension was parallel to what you wrote. Standing at the podium for 45 minutes of interaction, I can't say I recall every word I said.

What I do know is that we have you to thank for reaching out and for the help and understanding of the power of the double unanimous SB and council vote. We weren't able to achieve it on our end. I'm always working with that goal in mind. In my experience, when a Board is split on any/most topics, the public surmises something is wrong and that is not good for the Board or the public. As the Superintendent, I take responsibility on those splits in that I did something wrong.

I'm an 11-0 kind of guy!

Thanks again for your help. I will be back after I see the exchange.

Herb

From: Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2019 2:19 PM
To: Stu Rodman
Cc: Crosby, Tonya V
Subject: Re: Budget

Are u available now? Tonya and I are available Herb

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From: Stu Rodman <sturodman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2019 11:30:52 AM
To: Berg, Herbert M
Cc: Crosby, Tonya V
Subject: Budget

WARNING: This email originated from outside of Beaufort County School District's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Herb and Tonya,

It might be useful to have one more off the record discussion before the BoE Meeting tomorrow and Council on Monday.

I assume that:

1. I will continue to prevail on the full look-back, 9.5% millage increase, and
2. Breaking the 388 cap, requiring 8 Council votes (delayed to the fall), is problematic and unlikely to pass.

It is my understanding, the District's opponents argue two Expenditure reduction numbers:

1. \$1 million cut recommended by Staff (original \$2 million less the 1.1).
2. \$4 million (perhaps misunderstood \$5 million which may or may not have been voted by the BoE less the 1.1)

Thus two questions emerge in my mind:

1. With only the 9.5% increase (and assuming the \$254 million passes Council), what is the resulting Reserve % (vs. 10% minimum)?
2. If the Reserve is less than 10%, what cut is required to get to 10%?

At the end of the day, my take:

1. Council will most likely pass the \$254 and the 9.5%.
2. The broader issue may be:
Does the District win narrowly on Council and BoE votes on the Budget, but
Risk the Referendum because opponents point to such split votes.

Happy to discuss privately,

Cheers,

Stu

From: Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2019 8:50 AM
To: jerry at the beach; S. Rodman; G. Dawson; Paul Sommerville; York Glover; Alice Howard; Brian Flewelling; Joseph Passiment; Michael Covert; Chris Hervochon; Mark Lawson; Lawrence McElynn
Cc: Fidrych, Patricia; Campbell, Earl; Gwozdz, Christina S; Wisnefski, Rachel K; Campbell, Melvin P; Smith, William C; Striebinger, David R; Robine, Cathy G; Dowling, John R; Orischak, Josephine A; Rachel Jones; Geier, Richard P; Richard Bisi; Fran Bisi; Joan Deery; Mike Gleason; Rick Caporale; Windrunnerstables Info; Liz Farrell
Subject: Re: Just say NO

Jerry: Might I inquire where your children attended school? I'd be interested in seeing where you chose to educate them. Herb

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From: jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2019 7:33:40 AM
To: S. Rodman; G. Dawson; Paul Sommerville; York Glover; Alice Howard; Brian Flewelling; Joseph Passiment; Michael Covert; Chris Hervochon; Mark Lawson; Lawrence McElynn
Cc: Fidrych, Patricia; Campbell, Earl; Gwozdz, Christina S; Wisnefski, Rachel K; Campbell, Melvin P; Smith, William C; Striebinger, David R; Robine, Cathy G; Dowling, John R; Orischak, Josephine A; Rachel Jones; Geier, Richard P; Richard Bisi; Fran Bisi; Joan Deery; Mike Gleason; Rick Caporale; Berg, Herbert M; Windrunnerstables Info; Liz Farrell
Subject: Just say NO

WARNING: This email originated from outside of Beaufort County School District's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

[Three things Beaufort County must do to improve schools | Opinion](#)

Three things Beaufort County must do to improve schools | Opinion

Beaufort County SC School District interim superintendent
Herbert Berg tells of district's promise and challenge...

Chairman Rodman, members of Council and school board representatives;

I am beginning to believe the primary responsibility of a superintendent of schools is fundraising and the board's role is going along to get along. When our Chair Christina Gwozdz was seeking a seat on the board one of her campaign slogans was 'do more with less.' I am asking Ms. Gwozdz to honor her statement.

How can our school district expect to rebuild community trust, when by their own admission they tell us; our school district can't provide basic maintenance services that would prevent leaking roofs, and broken toilets? Yet the school district **can afford** pizza parties, expensive cake balls, airline tickets,

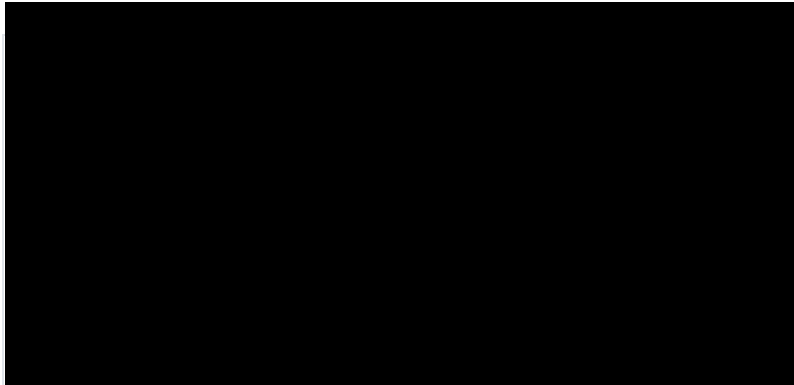
hotel stays, unlimited P card spending coupled with unsupervised P card rebates. I ask, **where are their priorities?**

I fail to see how improvements to athletic facilities at numerous district middle and high schools, playground improvements at early childhood centers, elementary and PreK-8 schools will help Johnnie and Jose read or become proficient in math and English.

As to the improved graduation rates...I submit the grade scale has been changed and the standards lowered to help make graduation numbers look somewhat acceptable.

Here is an eye opener

[Explore Robert Smalls International Academy](#)



Explore Robert Smalls International Academy

Rankings, stats, and reviews on academics, teachers, student life, and more.

Robert Smalls International Academy is a public, magnet school located in Beaufort, SC. It has 727 students in grades PK, K-8 with a student-teacher ratio of 13 to 1. **According to state test scores, 23% of students are proficient in math and 22% in reading. This school boasts an average teacher salary of \$52,964.**

Chairman Rodman and council members, please join me in saying no new money until an audit has taken place to insure the tax dollars currently in place are being properly managed, transparently reported and wisely spent. Please also consider a lot of the constituency are also on fixed/limited incomes. Additionally I call on our school board to establish fiscal responsibility and transparency as part of our new superintendents as yet to be disclosed contract.

G.A. Smith

Well represented in School Dist. 11.