

>
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>

> On May 18, 2019, at 9:11 PM, Mike Gleason

<gleasonmj@gmail.com <mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com> <mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com>>
wrote:

>

> That was in January, all fluffy with campaign promises and unicorns. I supported it and spent a lot of time doing needs assessments traveling around the County. Little did anyone know the deep dark staff secret of a huge \$7.7 million hit to reserves which leaves insolvency a reality. We are borrowing money to meet payroll and so called budgeted needs. We use questionable sources to provide the certain debt. If any of our family members were on such a downward spiral caring family members would hold an intervention.

>

> The current Board did not create this mess, for sure. They barely recently discovered it when the staff let the bad news cat they've known about out of the bag. And the CFO got applause! Congrats! You just bought the largest operations tax increase in County history. I was glad to hear about the 8-2 vote to take action against the County to recover the deficit in an attempt to determine accountability. Who's handling that? Lame Duck Dr. Berg wasn't there when that happened. Accountability needs to happen, but could only happen in a court room. It'll take years.

>

> Meanwhile, keep borrowing money to keep the ship afloat. We can add up the damages later, maybe. Real leaders find ways to cut losses and the largest target is personnel and benefits. Real Leaders know where to extract it without a gap to serving students. So far, no furloughs of headquarters staff are on the table. More money will be paid to a new Superintendent to relocate. It's easy to spend money. Real leaders determine how to stop the bleeding before they ask for more money.

>

> The future of the mission to educate students responsibly hangs in the balance. Thank you for your service Board members. Time to hunker down.

>

> With great respect,

>

> Mike Gleason

>

> On Sat, May 18, 2019 at 8:02 PM jerry at the beach

<gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>

.mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>> wrote:

> Beaufort County school board lays groundwork for

November 2019

referendum<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.islandpacket.com%2fnews%2flocal%2feducation%2farticle224601205.html&c=E,1,txCXlgpmLPoqJebsb1-mZrkb0fogc9TEXHxm2T_m-_3vvgm4oyDnXcwjl-Q8DaZB07hW4VN73Jp5de6jPmfe__w_vuMuSXY_M_rlZEscD6c9J92_KoGP&typo=1>

>

>

<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.islandpacket.com%2fnews%2flocal%2feducation%2farticle224601205.html&c=E,1,LRqggpvak2o3vpkcmv7IYZe8qEoX5I8-FFVylA3zt8C6kjXsZbaeq1Y2Wv9ZvswCeddqO9cu-7NYlaV5kC9OzUb9nJ2kXdvklyuol_9j_-mX&typo=1>

> Beaufort County school board lays groundwork for

November 2019 referendum

>

> The Beaufort County, South Carolina school board voted to allow interim superintendent Herb Berg to start planni...

>

> Sorry Dr. Berg,

>

> When you stated; the most common characteristic of a successful referendum is unanimous support from the board,... you missed the most important ingredient.

>

> The most common characteristic of a successful referendum Dr. Berg, is unanimous support from the ELECTORATE. Until an in depth forensic audit of our school district has been completed, and proof that taxpayer dollars are being carefully spent with diligent board oversight...there will be no new money.

>

> G.A. Smith

> Well represented in Dist. 11.

>

>

> On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 1:58:45 PM EDT, fran bisi <eyelandart@yahoo.com <<mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com>> <<mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com>>> wrote:

>

>

> Until trust is regained by getting rid of Compass and the former McNair (who conveniently now has a new name), there will be no support for a referendum by any thoughtful voter.

>
> BTW: how can the board vote on a budget when they have no information as to the efficacy of the myriad licensed programs on which the district currently spends million of dollars?

>
> Or to put it another way, where is Bonnie Almond? She is MIA just when she's needed the most!!

>
>
> fran bisi
>
>
> On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 12:38:23 PM EDT, jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com> <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>> wrote:

>
>
> Thank you for an excellent and thoughtful post Lyn,
>
> I could not agree more on your compliments to Fran and Richard.

>
> Regarding:
>
> These new school board members may have to learn a tough lesson in school finances if a forensic audit is not done before they ask the voters to approve an enormous financial referendum. Community confidence needs to be restored and they cannot count on a new Supt. to do this in such a short time without some positive oversight action coming from the school board so that he can relate that to the citizens the corrections that are being made to bring financial accountability back into the school district.

>
> May I request you send the above to all our school board members? I agree...they still don't get it. Our 'New Board' needs to understand; the victims of the boards lack of fiscal oversight and managerial responsibilities are and will continue to be...the students.

>
> Jerry
>
>

> On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 12:00:14 PM EDT, Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com> <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com>> wrote:

>
>
> Fran: you and Richard are the best informed citizens when it comes to this school districts operation.
> Keep up the good work!!
> These new school board members
> May have to learn a tough lesson
> in school finances if a forensic audit is not done before they ask the voters to approve an enormous financial referendum.
> Community confidence needs to be restored and they cannot count on a

> new Supt to do this in such a short time without some

> oversight action coming from the school board so that he can relate that to the citizens the corrections that are being made to bring financial accountability back into the school district,

> Regards,
> Lyn
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On May 18, 2019, at 10:48 AM, fran bisi
<eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com>>
wrote:

>
> How's this for a blast from the past. I wrote this to the whole board on Dec 9, 2017 at 1:29 PM:

>
>
> "What I find extremely interesting and troubling is:
>
> * Firing auditing firm Greene, Finney & Horton, which had given the district a clean audit report in January, and Compass Municipal Advisors, the financial firm that has Thomas' brother-in-law as a partner.
>
> The fact that Compass, a firm that Moss and Crosby put a lot of trust in has been fired, is just another reason for a complete independent audit. "
>

> The board didn't listen then..will they now?

>

>

> fran

>

>

> On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:10:42 AM EDT, Dowling, John R <John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us> <mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us>> wrote:

>

>

> Jerry,

>

> I don't think the idea of Oversight has really registered with some of the Board Members as of yet. If you listen to our public conversations, you will hear some of the newer members say things such as "We must Trust our Superintendent", or "They are the Professionals" or in the case of a 25 year veteran of the Board "Don't tie the Superintendent's hands". There's a big difference between an Advisory Council and a Governing Body.

>

> I've heard this before, in the Moss era. I don't know, but I suspect, that you might have heard similar sentiments in Berkeley County.

>

> Trust but verify. Challenge every assumption. Ask why?

Questions are not accusations.

>

> You are well represented.

>

> JOHN DOWLING

> DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE

> BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

> On May 18, 2019, at 9:27 AM, jerry at the beach

<gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>

<mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>> wrote:

>

> ** 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. **

was/is.

- >
- > Let's connect the dots. How much of this sounds familiar?
- >
- > The Berkeley CFO was under FBI investigation, just as Moss

FBI investigation.

- > Unnecessary and extravagant junkets,... in our case unidentified travel expenses on Transparency Reports.
- > And what a coincidence; Our school district has relied heavily on Heizer and Nurick for years as our bond counsel and advisor,... just as Berkeley did.

- >
- > But wait, there's more!
- >
- > School district audit finds more P-Card problems - The Colletonian<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fthecolletonian.com%2fschool-district-audit-finds-p-card-problems%2f%3ffbclid%3dlwAR21MyW5Plm8NM5HzeIMFWcSfeFzxXZNZIIV9yCXG_-9NbrfW9LBLC0uGlc&c=E,1,gdE9UQY643JGfTGB2gZiqUKCxuo1PDlkEtkKN7KaQG6hfIMSj9aa93UcsIO5uG9__f3C6OxWn8_MWwLxliiu_TGLQ3cgV1eDculrfnsPnq&typo=1>

- >
- >
- <https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fthecolletonian.com%2fschool-district-audit-finds-p-card-problems%2f%3ffbclid%3dlwAR21MyW5Plm8NM5HzeIMFWcSfeFzxXZNZIIV9yCXG_-9NbrfW9LBLC0uGlc&c=E,1,B5KTCiqQRfx_NCqI4dSvVhxuhaQGv2jBTcdq2BhnDgGF5ZbqjPltjJJ7vLnvC3clRH94slbhHWwUx_iKtK6O9XBaOmpOY62FKO9FaQVXRZJWw8ZM9IWvEg3Tkvjb&typo=1>

Colletonian

- >
- > School district audit finds more P-Card problems
- >
- >
- >
- > Thank you JoAnn for bringing this important information to the surface. Where is our Firewall against fraud?
- > When will our 'new board's' fiduciary duties kick in?
- >

> Before any more talk of another referendum, our board should be talking about an Audit.

>

> Rest assured, the 'old electorate' will not grant the 'new board' any more money until completion of a procurement audit of the school district's funds, including a random audit of the district's P-Cards demonstrating current school dollars are being spent wisely, legally with complete transparency.

>

> At the very least I agree with the Representative from Dist. 6 urging [reconsidering] doing business with Heizer and Nurick until there's a resolution to the allegations.

>

> Once again I am proud to be able to sign off as,

>

> G.A. Smith

> Well represented in Dist. 11.

>

>

> ~Jerry

>

>

> On Friday, May 17, 2019, 4:27:10 PM EDT, Rick Caporale <rpc1@hargray.com <mailto:rpc1@hargray.com> <mailto:rpc1@hargray.com>> wrote:

>

>

>

> John:

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>

>

> You might want to consider keeping them at arm's length with regard to any potential referendum.

>

>

>

> However, in fairness to everyone, I have to admit I have always had a great deal of faith and trust in Frannie Heizer,

>

>

>

> My only problem with that company is David Tigges. I wouldn't do business with him personally on a bet.

>

>

>

> Rick

>

>

>

> From: Dowling, John R <John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us
<mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us> <mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us>>

> Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 2:55 PM

> To: Orischak, Josephine A

<Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
<mailto:Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>>

> Cc: gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com

<mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com> <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>;

info@windrunnerstables.com <mailto:info@windrunnerstables.com>

<mailto:info@windrunnerstables.com>; rpc1@hargray.com <mailto:rpc1@hargray.com>

<mailto:rpc1@hargray.com>; jdpc@hargray.com <mailto:jdpc@hargray.com>

<mailto:jdpc@hargray.com>; bisi@roadrunner.com <mailto:bisi@roadrunner.com>

<mailto:bisi@roadrunner.com>; eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com>

<mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com>; gleasonmj@gmail.com <mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com>

<mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com>; jiaco@wtoc.com <mailto:jiaco@wtoc.com>

<mailto:jiaco@wtoc.com>; efarrell@islandpacket.com <mailto:efarrell@islandpacket.com>

<mailto:efarrell@islandpacket.com>; bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com>

<mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com>

> Subject: Re: Attachment

>

>

>

> This is a serious cloud hanging over their heads. Should we reconsider doing business with them until there's a resolution to the allegations?

>

> JOHN DOWLING

>

> DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE

>

> BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

>

>

>
> Sent from my iPad

>
> On May 17, 2019, at 2:46 PM, Orischak, Josephine A
<Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
<mailto:Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>> wrote:

>
> All,

>
>
>
>

> I recently shared the below information with our Board. As
you know, Berkeley County School District's CFO (Brantley Thomas) was recently imprisoned
for embezzlement, fraud, etc. The Berkeley County School Board is suing a number of folks on
the periphery, such as:

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>
> - Their auditing firm, Greene, Finney, & Horton LLP
>
>

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.berkeleyind.com%2fnews%2fbcsd-files-suit-against-former-auditing-firm%2farticle_3d7548d8-f411-11e8-aa6b-9715b3770b93.html&c=E,1,TvaSta25byt_O0TUGt4KDI80YaBbi6jE7IxAHDeuhje6z81L8yh-mExs7yQ3EANVt2Gf9g-RU6dg4QmXAzAQZU-HA9MM1imjGydVOOsbwKLNOBXZ5irXEA,,&typo=1<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.berkeleyind.com%2fnews%2fbcsd-files-suit-against-former-auditing-firm%2farticle_3d7548d8-f411-11e8-aa6b-9715b3770b93.html&c=E,1,RxoO9yLsLiZsPN-AL6cjv64xsc2uZdzLcxwfYp4xwhaqV__35icisNrfOgk6WSBkgTHJ5LEfleODGFnnUV27TuCvhj48APxpW0P3lfPSWtf9_44tJeVI1uTEMow,&typo=1>
<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.berkeleyind.com%2fnews%2fbcsd-files-suit-against-former-auditing-firm%2farticle_3d7548d8-f411-11e8-aa6b-9715b3770b93.html&c=E,1,TvaSta25byt_O0TUGt4KDI80YaBbi6jE7IxAHDeuhje6z81L8yh-mExs7yQ3EANVt2Gf9g-RU6dg4QmXAzAQZU-HA9MM1imjGydVOOsbwKLNOBXZ5irXEA,,&typo=1%3Chttps://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.berkeleyind.com%2fnews%2fbcsd-files-suit-against-former-auditing-firm%2farticle_3d7548d8-f411-11e8-aa6b-9715b3770b93.html&c=E,1,RxoO9yLsLiZsPN-AL6cjv64xsc2uZdzLcxwfYp4xwhaqV__35icisNrfOgk6WSBkgTHJ5LEfleODGFnnUV27TuCvhj48APxpW0P3lfPSWtf9_44tJeVI1uTEMow,&typo=1%3E>

>
>

Nurick

>
> - Their bond counsel and advisor, Frannie Heizer and Brian

>
>
>

> I am attaching the complaint against Heizer, Nurick, and others for your review. Basically, the complaint asserts the imprisoned CFO could not have succeeded with such an intricate web of deception and fraud without the aiding and abetting of Heizer, Nurick and some others. The law firm representing the Berkeley County School Board is Smyth Whitley LLC. Lawyer, Joshua Whitley serves on the Berkeley County Council and is the Council's Finance Committee Chairman.

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>

> Feedback welcomed after you read the attached complaint.

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>
>

> JoAnn Orischak

>

> Beaufort County Board of Education

>

> District 11 (29928)

>

> Hilton Head Island

>

> C. (843) 338-1737

>

> Sent from my iPad

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> <berkeley-school-complaint-against-advisors-030619.pdf>

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>

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

> <1558275047075blob.jpg>

> <1558275047075blob.jpg>

From: Rick Caporale <rpc1@hargray.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 10:55 AM
To: 'Mike Gleason'; 'Orischak, Josephine A'
Cc: 'Campbell, Melvin P'; 'Robine, Cathy G'; bisi@roadrunner.com; 'Marilyn Bullard'; 'Bennett, Terry G'; 'Berg, Herbert M'; 'Campbell, Earl'; 'Smith, William C'; 'Joan Deery'; 'Dowling, John R'; 'Fidrych, Patricia'; 'Striebinger, David R'; 'Gwozdz, Christina S'; 'Murphy, Reggie D'; 'Saunders, William H'; 'Crosby, Tonya V'; 'Geier, Richard P'; 'Liz Farrell'; 'David Lauderdale'; 'jerry at the beach'; 'Wisnefski, Rachel K'; 'Mock, Lori N'; 'Thenerve.org Rick'; eyelandart@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: Attachment

Mike:

Former Superintendent Herman Gaither used the same approach to restore confidence in the BOE when the 1995 Referendum was passed. It worked quite well.

RC

From: Mike Gleason <gleasonmj@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 9:40 AM
To: Orischak, Josephine A <Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Cc: Campbell, Melvin P <Melvin.Campbell@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Robine, Cathy G <Cathy.Robine@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; bisi@roadrunner.com; Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com>; Bennett, Terry G <Terry.Bennett@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Berg, Herbert M <Herbert.Berg@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Campbell, Earl <earl.campbell@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Smith, William C <William.Smith2@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Joan Deery <jdpc@hargray.com>; Dowling, John R <John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Fidrych, Patricia <Patricia.Fidrych@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Striebinger, David R <David.Striebinger@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Gwozdz, Christina S <Christina.Gwozdz@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Murphy, Reggie D <Reggie.Murphy@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Rick Caporale <rpc1@hargray.com>; Saunders, William H <William.Saunders@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Crosby, Tonya V <Tonya.Crosby@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Geier, Richard P <Richard.Geier@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Liz Farrell <lifarell@islandpacket.com>; David Lauderdale <dlauderdale@islandpacket.com>; jerry

at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>; Wisnefski, Rachel K
<Rachel.Wisnefski@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Mock, Lori N <Lori.Mock@beaufort.k12.sc.us>;
Thenerve.org Rick <rick.brundrett@gmail.com>; eyelandart@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: Attachment

JoAnn:

Thank you for your response, I appreciate it. An Audit Committee is a fabulous idea. Please allow me to support that below.

My father was the son of Irish immigrants, one of 8 children. He didn't have much money, and never had the opportunity of college. He was a great mechanic, a skill he learned in the US Coast Guard during World War II. That got him a job with the NY Telephone Company repairing trucks. Every payroll he bought a share of AT&T stock. In the mail every year he received an Audited Statement. I was naturally curious, so he told me to read them and tell him what I learned. I would prattle on about the numbers and he stopped me and asked: "Did you notice who was on the audit committee?" It was local business people everyone respected. I asked why that was important and he said "They keep Management honest." I've been a financial statement geek ever since.

I hope I didn't offend you, I apologize if I did so. The reason I follow the Board and show up for meetings when I can is because of my respect for Board Members' service. Your mission is critical. Like every group mistakes will happen and the ability to learn from past mistakes is well within the caliber of our currently assembled Board. I am hopeful for the future and thankful for each and every board member.

With great respect,

Mike

On Tue, May 21, 2019 at 9:03 AM Orischak, Josephine A
<Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us> >
wrote:

Mike,

The late (and great), Jim Bequette, spoke to the Board about forming an audit committee. The committee would help choose the BCSD's auditing firm among other related tasks. The composition would be, well, folks like you with 30 odd years of banking management. Stay tuned. Perhaps the Finance Committee might see its way to recommending the creation of such a committee to the full Board.

Take heart, Mike; no invitation is meaningless. We all sit up a little straighter when you're in attendance.

JoAnn Orischak

Beaufort County Board of Education

Finance Committee Chair

District 11 (29928)

Hilton Head Island

C. (843) 338-1737

Sent from my iPad

On May 21, 2019, at 8:42 AM, fran bisi <eyelandart@yahoo.com
mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> > wrote:

It is very frustrating when questions go unanswered.

For example, I have asked why there isn't a Policies and Procedures document for the Bank of America card showing the monthly limit for each. I have received no answer. I believe in the past the website showed a monthly limit of \$25,000 each. This policy must have been eliminated since here are the card totals for March that exceed that dollar amount along with the number of transactions. Totals over \$25,000 occur routinely every month.

March 2019

BEAUFORT HIGH SCHOOL	count: 142	\$50,600.64
BLUFFTON HIGH SCHOOL	count: 97	\$36,409.50
FINANCE DEPARTMENT	count: 102	\$372,260.33
HILTON HEAD HIGH SCHOOL	count: 101	\$39,859.14
HUMAN RESOURCES	count: 56	\$30,810.34
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICE	count: 170	\$298,175.42
MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT	count: 225	\$175,010.50
MAY RIVER HIGH SCHOOL	count: 122	\$50,309.88
MC RILEY ELEM SCHOOL	count: 107	\$39,012.73
OPERATIONS	count: 19	\$55,490.02*

*03/14/2019 \$38,662.00 PALMETTO CHEVROLET CO INC – Fleet Vehicle CHEVY
EXPRESS SERVICE UTILITY VAN

OPERATIONS 2	count: 11	\$141,835.93
RED CEDAR ELEMENTARY	count: 49	\$30,178.06

RIVER RIDGE ACADEMY

count: 87

\$34,287.43

*why is a vehicle being paid for with a credit card?

fran bisi

On Monday, May 20, 2019, 9:02:15 PM EDT, Mike Gleason
<gleasonmj@gmail.com <mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com> > wrote:

Thank you for your response Mrs. Orischak. The fact that the Board is on the verge of passing an historic tax increase is undisputed. Of course one more 8% tax levy is on the agenda as well. We don't actually vet Bond Counsel, nor has SCAGO ever been vetted by this Board. But it will continue as if nobody noticed.

Respectfully, the last time I attended your Finance Committee meeting my input was limited to the standard 3 minutes Board Policy. I'd love to help put over 30 years of Banking management to work to create a road map on how to examine a quarter billion dollar budget but that's impossible in 15 minutes. Maybe you can get a special Papal dispensation from the Chairperson on this. I doubt that will happen as she needs to look out for the needs of her Bluffton district first and keep the unclean and unwashed in the cheap seats.

Thanks for the meaningless invitation to sit mute at meetings. Your heart was in the right place,

Mike Gleason

On Mon, May 20, 2019 at 5:16 PM Orischak, Josephine A
<Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us> >
wrote:

Mike,

Sorry, all I heard was "historic tax increase" and couldn't get beyond that.

Please know your suggestions are well-received on how the Board might
better manage budget discussions in the future.

The Finance Committee will be discussing a revised budget timeline at our
June meeting.

I sure hope you'll join us.

JoAnn Orischak
Beaufort County Board of Education
Finance Committee Chair
District 11 (29928)
Hilton Head Island
C. (843) 338-1737

From: Mike Gleason <gleasonmj@gmail.com
<mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com> >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 5:00:38 PM
To: Campbell, Melvin P
Cc: Robine, Cathy G; bisi@roadrunner.com <mailto:bisi@roadrunner.com>
; Orischak, Josephine A; Marilyn Bullard; Bennett, Terry G; Berg, Herbert M; Campbell, Earl;
mith, William C; Joan Deery; Dowling, John R; fran bisi; Fidrych, Patricia; Striebinger, David R;
Gwozdz, Christina S; Murphy, Reggie D; Rick Caporale; Saunders, William H; Crosby, Tonya V;

Geier, Richard P; Liz Farrell; David Lauderdale; jerry at the beach; Wisniewski, Rachel K; Mock, Lori N; Thenerve. org Rick

Subject: Re: Attachment

Mr. Mel Campbell:

Thank you for your questions to John. I can't speak for John, but I respectfully have a question for you. Wouldn't best practices for vetting a 1/4 Billion Dollar budget start with assigning a line by line review of current spending by the Finance Committee months before a new Budget is considered? As it stands, little of this was assigned to the Finance Committee. Playing Q & A with 11 members in a few meetings doesn't seem very comprehensive particularly in view of a historic tax increase. We can't assume a previous Board conducted any diligence before the current budget was approved.

Thank you for considering this. Any Board member is also welcomed to comment.

Mike Gleason

On Mon, May 20, 2019 at 12:50 PM Campbell, Melvin P
<Melvin.Campbell@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:Melvin.Campbell@beaufort.k12.sc.us> >
wrote:

John

Does discussion comes before vetting, is the act of vetting, or does not belong in the process at all...just curious?

Mel ...for board openly discussing...

Sorry,...district 10

Sent from my iPhone

On May 20, 2019, at 11:04 AM, Robine, Cathy G
<Cathy.Robine@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:Cathy.Robine@beaufort.k12.sc.us> > wrote:

The video is now posted. Molly delivered it to the County
Channel on Friday.

Best Regards,

Cathy

Cathy G. Robine

Beaufort County Board of Education

District 8

610-888-5296

From: bisi@roadrunner.com <mailto:bisi@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 8:48 AM
To: Orischak, Josephine A; Marilyn Bullard
Cc: Bennett, Terry G; Berg, Herbert M; Campbell, Earl; Smith, William C; Joan Deery; Dowling, John R; fran bisi; Fidrych, Patricia; Striebinger, David R; Campbell, Melvin P; Gwozdz, Christina S; Murphy, Reggie D; Rick Caporale; Saunders, William H; Crosby, Tonya V; Geier, Richard P; Liz Farrell; David Lauderdale; Mike Gleason; Robine, Cathy G; jerry at the beach; Wisnefski, Rachel K; Mock, Lori N; Thenerve. org Rick
Subject: Re: Attachment

Spoke with the County Channel this morning. They will post the video as soon as the school district sends it. Left a voicemail message for Molly who is responsible for sending the video. Stay tuned....

---- "Orischak wrote:
> All,
>

> I realize that some of you were unable to attend our last board budget meeting on May 16 to see first hand what was and was not said.

>

> I looked on the County Channel website, but the 5/16 video has not been uploaded yet. Perhaps a request directly to Jim Foster (or board officers) for the video would help you understand the specifics. The budget discussion begins about one hour into the meeting.

>

> JoAnn Orischak

> Beaufort County Board of Education

> District 11

> Hilton Head Island

> C. (843) 338-1737

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

> On May 19, 2019, at 8:07 PM, Marilyn Bullard

<bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com> <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com>>
wrote:

>

> I have now been told it's not the school districts fault for the deficit, but the County- and they will be issuing a report on this soon.

> Lyn

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On May 19, 2019, at 3:20 PM, fran bisi

<eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com>>
wrote:

>

> The new superintendent needs to clean house and replace slackers, incompetents and ethically challenged individuals...we all know you're out there because everyone is watching.

>

> fran

>

>

> On Sunday, May 19, 2019, 2:40:26 PM EDT, Marilyn Bullard

<bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com> <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com>>
wrote:

>

>

> Unfortunately these so-called professionals who handle construction/major repairs or "company finances " or charge charge spending are so lax that they border on incompetency in their responsibilities.

> This is not the way a school district should operate.

>

>

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On May 19, 2019, at 2:27 PM, jerry at the beach

<gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>

<mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>> wrote:

>

> I wish to go on record as requesting not only my elected Beaufort County School Board Representative,

> but all school board members abstain from or vote against a budget they are unable to see in it's entirety.

>

> Moss is gone and so is his majority. If as board members you want to move the district forward, this would be a good place to begin.

>

> G.A. Smith

> Feeling disenfranchised in Dist. 11.

>

>

> On Sunday, May 19, 2019, 1:06:00 PM EDT, fran bisi

<eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com>> wrote:

>

>

> If they ("the professionals") consider the board to be only an advisory body, why perpetrate the sham of having you vote at all..what's the point if only to present the illusion of "transparency"? The fact that you have only superficial knowledge of the budget should be exposed publicly at the meeting when you are called on to vote.

>

>

>

>

> fran

>

>

> On Sunday, May 19, 2019, 12:11:54 PM EDT, Dowling, John R
<John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
<mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us>> wrote:

>

>

> For the past ten years or so, the prevailing wisdom has been
that the Board does not “micromanage” by getting into the detail of the Administration’s
Operation (Budget, Personnel, etc). This is called Strategic Governance. It can work, but only
with rigorous Oversight. The previous Administration and Board “discouraged” real oversight,
with the Administration stage managing any attempts at it by those who were working for
reform.

>

> The result is that the Board has developed an attitude and
belief that it is more of an advisory function, that we have to “trust the professionals” and
accept the Superintendent as the “12th Member of the Board”. The concept of a Governing
Body has been watered down to an extreme. We discussed the budget for nearly two hours
Thursday before it dawned on some that we should make Motions and not just state opinions.

>

> The Finance Committee of the Board is zeroing in on some
very important areas and is to be encouraged in that focus. For now, at the Board level, it is
still considered “the administration’s budget” and not the Board’s. That’s just my opinion, but
it’s not the first time I’ve encountered the symptoms. Not my first rodeo.

>

> JOHN DOWLING, AD
> DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE
> BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

> On May 19, 2019, at 11:56 AM, jerry at the beach
<gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>
<mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com>> wrote:

>

> Hi John,

>

> I don't understand why the board is being shown a very
'superficial level' budget? Can you explain WHY our elected representatives are being kept in
the dark, and more importantly by whom?

>
 > Moss has been gone for 9 months, and we have a 'new board'. The school district and board cant keep blaming Moss and the old board.
 >
 > At what point does our 'new board' accept responsibility?
 >
 > ~Jerry
 >
 >
 > On Sunday, May 19, 2019, 11:48:53 AM EDT, Dowling, John R <John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us> <mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us>> wrote:
 >
 >
 > If you watch the video of Thursday night's meeting, you'll hear and see some members state that the budget IS already an austerity budget. I can't agree or disagree, because I've only been shown the budget at a very superficial level. The analogy is "from 50,000 feet".
 > The cuts that were proposed were the easy ones that required no work. They affected Direct Labor and did not even attempt to surgically remove embedded fat and institutional waste. And yet, the Board is being pressured to certify on the 21st, when the drop dead date to the Council is the 28, according to the Council's liaison to us
 >
 > We then lose a week of potential further vetting, if there is will to vet at all.
 >
 > JOHN DOWLING, AD
 > DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE
 > BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE
 >
 > Sent from my iPad
 >
 > On May 19, 2019, at 10:30 AM, Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com> <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com>> wrote:
 >
 > Time for an austerity belt tightening
 > budget until finances get back on tract. Oh no- how do we do that!
 > Finance Dept gives the impression
 > of bill paying without oversight.

track with

- > Generally finance makes sure the flow of payments are on

- > school budget.

- > The more you know about these operations the more you become disillusioned about the ineptness of the employees.

- > Lyn

- >

- > Sent from my iPhone

- >

- > On May 19, 2019, at 10:19 AM, fran bisi

<eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com>> wrote:

- >

- > I'm pretty sure she got a standing "O" for her not so clever analogy that depicted a chicken sandwich to represent what it would cost to do her voodoo economics. Just more smoke and mirrors to cover up a huge gaffe, oops, and placate the sheeple...an insult to voter intelligence at its finest!! How about coming up with a plan for a realistic budget instead?

- >

- > <1558275047075blob.jpg>

- >

- > Time to end good ol' boy politics and deal with the huge problems that threaten the students in this district. Huge amounts of money are being wasted by this bloated budget that could be going to solve the achievement gap, not fatten the wallets of the unethical...where's the FBI when you need them..stay tuned.

- >

- >

- > fran

- >

- >

- > On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:05:35 PM EDT, Marilyn

Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com>

<mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com>> wrote:

- >

- >

- > OMG - what a mess! The CFO got

- > got applause because of announcing the District is on the verge of insolvency? This is nuts for sure. The referendum has nothing to do with operating funds. It's for construction and major repairs.

- > WOW, even though I can't believe it,

- > I do believe it.

> Thanks for that info Mike. A lot to absorb here.

> Lyn

>

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On May 18, 2019, at 9:11 PM, Mike Gleason

<gleasonmj@gmail.com <mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com> <mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com>>
wrote:

>

> That was in January, all fluffy with campaign promises and unicorns. I supported it and spent a lot of time doing needs assessments traveling around the County. Little did anyone know the deep dark staff secret of a huge \$7.7 million hit to reserves which leaves insolvency a reality. We are borrowing money to meet payroll and so called budgeted needs. We use questionable sources to provide the certain debt. If any of our family members were on such a downward spiral caring family members would hold an intervention.

>

> The current Board did not create this mess, for sure. They barely recently discovered it when the staff let the bad news cat they've known about out of the bag. And the CFO got applause! Congrats! You just bought the largest operations tax increase in County history. I was glad to hear about the 8-2 vote to take action against the County to recover the deficit in an attempt to determine accountability. Who's handling that? Lame Duck Dr. Berg wasn't there when that happened. Accountability needs to happen, but could only happen in a court room. It'll take years.

>

> Meanwhile, keep borrowing money to keep the ship afloat. We can add up the damages later, maybe. Real leaders find ways to cut losses and the largest target is personnel and benefits. Real Leaders know where to extract it without a gap to serving students. So far, no furloughs of headquarters staff are on the table. More money will be paid to a new Superintendent to relocate. It's easy to spend money. Real leaders determine how to stop the bleeding before they ask for more money.

>

> The future of the mission to educate students responsibly hangs in the balance. Thank you for your service Board members. Time to hunker down.

>

> With great respect,

>

> Mike Gleason

>