



Dear Teacher Forum Members,

Congratulations on being recognized as one of our district's best teachers, and thank you for going the extra mile to be part of the Teacher Forum. You are here for a reason: You have effectively led your classrooms and are respected by your peers.

I look forward to hearing your questions, concerns and opinions. It is vital to have your feedback and share understanding as we continue to make improvements throughout the district and enhance both the job you do every day and the education our students receive.

At its best, this forum can serve as the voice and the ears for your colleagues. I invite and encourage you to participate actively in our conversations and give honest feedback. Dive into the legislative issues and let your voice be heard. I challenge you to do all these things, not only because I know you are capable, but also because of the profound difference it will make throughout our growing community.

Your time and input is valuable. Thank you again for participating. It's going to be a great year!

Best regards,

Dr. Frank Rodriguez
Superintendent



2021-2022 Teachers of the Year

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Beaufort County Teacher Leadership Forum is to celebrate the profession of teaching; develop leadership among teachers; provide teachers a collaborative voice in educational issues; and use our professional knowledge and passion to create a positive environment of growth.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE BEAUFORT COUNTY TEACHER LEADERSHIP FORUM

ARTICLE I

The organization shall be called the Beaufort County School District Teacher Leadership Forum, herein known as the BCSD Teacher Forum.

ARTICLE II

The purpose of the BCSD Teacher Forum is as follows: celebrate the profession of teaching, develop leadership among teachers, provide teachers a collaborative voice in educational issues, and use our professional knowledge and passion to create a positive environment of growth.

ARTICLE III

The membership of the BCSD Teacher Leadership Forum shall consist of the following:

1. The BCSD Teacher Forum Chairperson shall be the previous year's District Teacher of the Year.
2. The BCSD Teacher Forum Vice Chairperson shall be the current District Teacher of the Year.
3. The BCSD Teacher Forum Secretary shall be appointed by the Chairperson from the Finalists of the previous year.
4. The Advisory Council shall consist of all District Teachers of the Year and Finalists for a minimum of three years.
5. The BCSD Teacher Forum shall be current and one-year previous Teachers of the Year and the current Advisory Council. Teacher Forum members, other than Advisory Council, shall serve for a two-year commitment. Advisory Council members serve for a minimum of three years.

6. The Teacher Forum District Advisor.

ARTICLE IV

BCSD Teacher Forum Membership Appointment

1. In the event that the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, or Secretary is unable to serve, Advisory Council (hereafter referred to as AC), the governing body of the BCSD Teacher Forum, shall elect a Chairperson from the Advisory Council.
2. In the event of a resignation from a member of the AC who is serving a first, second, or third year term as part of the Top 5 responsibility to the Forum, the Chairperson may appoint an individual to fill the position with approval of a majority of the remaining members of AC. The Chairperson shall recommend the appointee from the current BCSD Teacher Forum and the appointee shall be selected by consensus of the AC in attendance of a regularly scheduled meeting.
3. If a member of the AC accepts a position at the district-level, they may remain a member of the AC for the duration of their three-year term with supervisor approval. Supervisor approval should be provided in writing. A member of the AC, still at a school, may remain on the AC after their third-year term if they elect to do so.
4. In the event a Forum member leaves the school they were named Teacher of the Year for the current school year, they may keep their title of “Teacher of the Year” for professional purposes, but they will no longer sit on the Teacher Forum. The school will need to either vote or elect a new Teacher of the Year for the school year. In the event an election or vote cannot take place, the most recent past year Teacher of the Year should fill-in, as described in Article IV, number 6.
5. In the event that all schools are not represented in the Forum, the Chairperson may appoint a previous member to represent their school.

6. Teacher Forum membership is a two-year commitment. Newly named TOY's primary commitment is the first year of membership. The second year commitment is to attend Teacher Forum meetings in absence of the primary TOY member. Each school should have at least one TOY member present at each meeting.

ARTICLE V

This Constitution may be amended by the Advisory Council in attendance of a scheduled meeting (physically or virtually). Notice of an amendment change and a vote will be shared through the distribution of an agenda.

The Advisory Board may meet via virtual meeting to ensure that more members can participate. If a vote is needed and members cannot attend a scheduled physical or virtual meeting, or one that advance notice was given to all active members, the board has the option of collecting votes by email within **five days** following the meeting when the vote was held. All necessary documents will be shared via email or Google with the active advisory members for the purpose of obtaining a minimum of five votes for or against to determine the motion.

BYLAWS OF THE BCSD TEACHER FORUM

ARTICLE I

The Chair shall meet twice annually with the Superintendent. One of the annual meetings shall be a "transition" meeting with the Superintendent and the Teacher Forum Vice-Chair.

The BCSD Teacher Forum shall meet six times a year, and at other times as deemed necessary to carry out the mission of the BCSD Teacher Forum.

ARTICLE II

Funds for BCSD Teacher Leadership Forum activities must be requested by the Chairperson and be approved by the Chief Administrative and Human Resources Officer.

ARTICLE III

All action taken regarding calendar proposals and projects shall be set by the Chairperson and District Advisor in conjunction with the Superintendent's calendar. This calendar shall be presented to the BCSD Teacher Forum.

ARTICLE IV

The Chairperson of the BCSD Teacher Forum may constitute or dissolve such standing and temporary committees, as he or she deems necessary, with the majority support of the Advisory Council. The Chairperson shall name the committee chairpersons once the Advisory Council has approved their creation.

ARTICLE V

As per page four, Article V, these bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the Advisory Council attending a regularly scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE VI

All donations to the BCSD Teacher Forum must be presented in writing to the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and District Advisor.

Additional Commitments of Forum Members

BCSD Teacher Leadership Forum members shall attend meetings and be responsible for planning and carrying out Forum activities.

The Chairperson shall be responsible for activities of the AC, upholding the constitution, dissolving any standing or temporary committees, mentoring the Vice Chairperson, and coordinating with the South Carolina Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA).

The secretary will serve as a recorder and historian for the BCSD Teacher Forum.

Teacher Forum Committees

Listed below are the BCSD Teacher Forum Committees. Members may actively participate on committees.

Legislative Committee

This committee is responsible for fostering relationships with our school board, county council, BCSD senior staff, state representatives, other government officials and the business community. They will keep the BCSD Teacher Forum abreast of legislative issues. The Legislative Committee will organize the annual Legislative Breakfast.

Governance Committee

The Advisory Council is responsible for upholding and revising the Constitution and Handbook as deemed necessary by the Advisory Council. The committee will provide a Handbook to all new Teachers of the Year and inform the BCSD Teacher Forum when changes are made.

Committees at-large

Temporary ad-hoc committees can be created as needed with a majority vote of the Advisory Council or BCSD Teacher Forum. It is the responsibility of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to monitor the effectiveness of the committees and keep them active only as long as needed.

Any and all approved committees will be formed with members consisting of active Forum members under the guidance of a committee chair as selected in Article IV of the Bylaws in the Forum handbook. Depending upon the purpose of the committee, it will meet to help gather information, organize and plan events, discuss possible changes, or any other purpose deemed appropriate by the AC or Forum at large. The committee will be responsible for gathering all and any information pertinent to the committee's focus, and will report back the information they gathered to the entire forum or AC before moving forward with any official decisions pertaining to the committee. The committees will be able to conduct any needed steps to gather that information independent from the AC or Forum at large in order to help

expedite the process of their investigation (i.e. calling and gathering price quotes for different venues for a meeting, quotes for gifts to new members, surveys on issues or concerns, suggestions on bylaw changes, etc.).

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Teachers of the Year must meet the following criteria*:

- A candidate for Teacher of the Year is a classroom teacher in a public pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, middle, or secondary school. This includes all subject area teachers, vocational teachers, school librarians, school counselors, curriculum resource teachers, teacher specialists, speech-language pathologists, and lead teachers who are planning to continue in an active teaching status. Active teaching status means that the teacher is planning to continue teaching (e.g. not retiring or moving into an administrative position the following year).
- The candidate must be a continuing-contract teacher and have direct contact with students a minimum of three hours a day, on average. Nominees must hold a valid South Carolina teaching certificate, with the exception of ROTC teachers who must be qualified by the appropriate area of service. This requirement must have been met for three or more years within our school district (consecutive years not required). A teacher may be in the process of completing the third year during the selection process. Half years (employment begins in the middle of the school year) do not count toward the three years UNLESS the full three years are completed.
- Skillful and dedicated educator who plans to be in active teaching status at his or her current school next year.
- Respected person by teachers, parents and co-workers.
- Active member of the school community.
- Goes beyond the minimum to devote time and energy to activities that improve instruction for students.
- Models life-long learning.
- Has not been selected as Teacher of the Year for the previous five years within Beaufort County School District.

Teachers of the Year will be elected at the school-level using the following process:

- Faculty makes nominations (two-week window).
- Celebrate all nominees and ask for acceptance of the nomination.
- Faculty vote on all accepted nominations
- Nominees may be interviewed by a panel of veteran TOYs.

- Top three nominees submit essay. Each school's administration and current TOY will select an essay topic from the state TOY application.
- Final faculty vote between the three nominees.

Once chosen, each school's Teacher of the Year will:

- Be presented to the Board of Education at the meeting.
- Receive a District Teacher of the Year application, instructions, and deadline.
- Submit application to the District Advisor by the pre-determined deadline.

DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS PROCESS

- Chosen by a diverse selection committee and notified before the start of school.
- Participate in a workshop to prepare for the videotaping and interviewing process.
- Allow a lesson to be videotaped during the first three weeks of instruction.
- Participate in interviews with the selection committee.

DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Be announced in September and assume the role as vice-chair of BCSD Teacher Forum.
- Attend the regional workshop, CERRA Winter Workshop, and the State Teacher of the Year Banquet.
- Submit the state application prior to winter break.
- Assume all rights and responsibilities of the Chair of the BCSD Teacher Forum at the Legislative Breakfast.
- Plan the BCSD Teacher Forum calendar with the District Advisor during the Summer.
- Work with the District Advisor to form the selection committees in July and provide instructions to interview committee in advance of the interviews.
- Announce Teachers of the Year and the five Finalists before the start of school.

- Coordinate, with the Finalists, the Teacher of the Year Breakfast and announcement of the District Teacher of the Year in September.
- Co-lead six BCSO Teacher Forum meetings throughout the year.
- Co-lead four Advisory Council meetings throughout the year
- Coordinate with the Legislative Committee to plan the Legislative Breakfast.
- Send out guidelines describing the process of selecting the Teacher of the Year to all BCSO schools in January.

Points of Contact

If any questions arise, feel free to contact any of the people listed below and we will be happy to answer your questions to the best of our ability!

2021-2022 District Teacher of the Year

Aimee Whitesell

aimee.whitesell@beaufort.k12.sc.us

2020-2021 District Teacher of the Year

Dr. Megan DeWeese

megan.deweese@beaufort.k12.sc.us

2019-2020 District Teacher of the Year

Michelle Gordon

michelle.gordon@beaufort.k12.sc.us

2018-2019 District Teacher of the Year

Karen McKenzie

karen.mckenzie@beaufort.k12.sc.us

2017-2018 District Teacher of the Year

Nancy Ungvarsky

2016-2017 District Teacher of the Year

Beth MacMurray

Elizabeth.macmurray@beaufort.k12.sc.us

2015-16 District Teacher of the Year

Aracely Johnson

Aracely.johnson@beaufort.k12.sc.us

2014-2015 District Teacher of the Year

Amy Simmons

2013-2014 District Teacher of the Year
Kristen Karszes

2012-2013 District Teacher of the Year
Erin Reichert
erin.reichert@beaufort.k12.sc.us

2011-2012 District Teacher of the Year
Christine Gray
christine.gray@beaufort.k12.sc.us

2010-2011 District Teacher of the Year
Tennille Scheriff

2009-2010 District Teacher of the Year
Colleen Wynn
colleen.wynn@beaufort.k12.sc.us

2008-2009 District Teacher of the Year
Mike Allen

2007-2008 District Teacher of the Year
Annette Lee
anntte.lee@beaufort.k12.sc.us

2006-2007 District Teacher of the Year
Colleen Kowal

2003-2004 District Teacher of the Year
Therese Plair
therese.Plair@beaufort.k12.sc.us

District Advisor
Cristin Casper
Cristin.casper@beaufort.k12.sc.us