



Date: January 5, 2023

Purpose: Community Project Review Committee CPRC 2.0 – Meeting 3

Welcome – Dr. Herb Berg

Beaufort County School District Attendees:

Herbert Berg Ed. D, Robert Oetting, Carol Crutchfield, Freddie Lawton Jr., Brandy Majors

Committee Member Attendees:

In Person: Linda M. Moyd-Hills, Teri Pohorsky, Kira Swiger, Jan Davis-Vater, Joe Lee, Edmond Burnes, Janie Ephland, Anna Pepper Vaux, Ed Schotland, Michael Quigley, Jennifer Fielding, and Kathy Garino

Online (Zoom): Laura Jacobi, Michael Swiecicki, Ramon Karney, Michelle Morgan, William Pierro, Denise Procida, and Christina Washington

Special Guest: Ashley Hutchinson - Director of Early Childhood (Not a part of the Committee)

Meeting Notes:

The following documents were on a PowerPoint for the Committee to review:

Agenda – Meeting 3

1. Introductions of Members
2. CPRC 2.0 Scope of Work
3. Results of Prioritizing Exercise
4. Early Childhood – Ashley Hutchinson
5. Planning and Projections
6. Review Meeting Calendar
7. Schools Tours

Dr. Herb Berg opened the meeting with the process of the Referendum. What happens once the Referendum was approved by the Board. In November it went out to the public and 76% approved for the Referendum. For, example the Citizens Committee helps with the review of the projects and see where we are as far as scheduling. Dr. Berg stated “The public in Beaufort County School District wants good schools, they want their children to learn. They want education to be good, and they want their buildings and facilities up to date and well maintained”.

Mr. Lawton went over with the Committee 2. Scope of Work (PowerPoint). Its shows that next step is getting ready for the Community Project Review Committee (CPRC) to report their findings and make a report to give the Board with recommendations for the new Referendum. This will be due on April 4, 2023. Mr. Lawton also went over the last meeting homework assignment. Homework assignment was a survey on prioritizing the needs of schools for the Referendum.

Ms. Carol informed the CPRC that a website for the Community Project Review Committee will be going on next week. We will have a dedicated page with all our information and PowerPoints. You will be able to go back and look at for your records.

CM Question: "was asked about the prioritizing results "the first 6 out of the three 6, was it the lowest number out of the three".

Operations Response: The answer to that question is yes. Ms. Carol explained that she took all the committee member votes and then average them out.

CM Question: "what is the Early Childhood Office/Screenings Spaces (information from the PowerPoint), and why it wouldn't fall under Early Childhood Schools".

Ashley Hutchinson Response: answer the question with the following statement, "We screen about 12 to 2500 3, 4 and 5 years old per school year. What the District has done in order to find children who need, any early interventions services. We're trying to get them connect to the district sooner". "Our developmental screenings are to see if children qualify for prekindergarten, but also to seeing if children can qualify for early intervention services. So, a part of that screening process is that families voluntarily come to the district and being screened with a developmental screener. They're also being connected to vital resources in the community such as WIC, Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Pediatricians. When I started 15 years ago it was only 6 of us and now, we have 35 employees. We currently operate out of 4 offices." "We're getting ready to have a portable mobile unit in Bluffton. We also operate out of the Pink House with is on the campus of Lady's Island Middle School. We also operate out of Davis Elementary".

4. Early Childhood – Ashley Hutchinson

Ashley: stated that 30, 40, and 50 years ago we must keep in mind that Kindergarten was a half a day and Pre-kindergarten didn't exist Believe it or not Kindergarten wasn't mandatory and still in the state of South Carolina it still not mandatory. What we have find is the Early Childhood plays a vital role in our children's education. In 2018, we seen 12 to 1,400 5-year-olds and in that 82% of them were falling below 50% developmentally. The district has 983 spots for Pre-kindergarten children.

Ashley: stated that "right now Beaufort County School District serves only the children that fall below 50% or have enough risk factors that contribute to their overall development. We used to have half day Pre-k classes, but we converted to full day Pre-k programs. Across every elementary school or Early Childhood Learning Center has at least one Pre-K program in that school building including Daufuskie. Hilton Head Early Childhood center has up to 8 classrooms of Pre-kindergarten. A school like Port Royal Elementary would have 1 classroom for Pre-k. Our current ratio for Pre-k is 20 students to 2 teachers. There are some schools that are unable to serve students in their attendance zone. We then offer them a spot at a different school. Beaufort County School District have created a Birth thru 12 grade

programs at some of our schools. We have formalized partnership with early head start and Head Start. We have 2 schools (St. Helena Elementary and Davis Elementary) that start serving children as early as 6 weeks old.

CM Question: “do you have a busing system in place for Pre-k”.

Ashley Response: We have a busing system for Pre-k and Head Start in their attendance zone. The Pre-K that must go to another school parents have decided to pick them up from school.

CM Question: “What the turn of percentile of the screening process you talked about earlier”.

Ashley Response: So, every child who wants to go to a Pre-kindergarten program goes through a screening process. They receive a comprehensive developmental screener. So, we look at speech, language, cognitive motor, hearing and vision. The leading cause of developmental delayed in our 4 and 5 years is hearing and vision.

CM Question: “So every year you screen 1,200 to 1,400 and you accept 900.

Ashley Response: Correct

CM Questions: “What’s the process for how the students are screened. Is it your staff or nurses that do the screening? Are do teachers that have been trained? How do you find these students? Who does all these 1,200 screening”?

Ashley Response: So, the district has a travel preschool bus. It’s a classroom on wheels and it literally goes into neighborhoods and finds children to bring to the district. We have developmental screening right on the bus, just in case a family is lacking transportation. We have home visitation program for children, our educators are going in and working with families to get children ready for school. We do large media campaigns and have billboards. We have department of Social Services and pediatricians that help us. We are receiving referrals for these screenings from all agencies in Beaufort County. It’s a team of 5 to 6 certified people in our staff. Part of the screening process is that we have 2 certificated early childhood teachers, a registered nurse, a speech and language pathologist, and a social worker.

CM Questions: “because you do these screening throughout the year, who do families know whether or not they’re in the program”?

Ashley Response: It depends on what you’re coming in for. If you have a 4-year-old for Pre-k program, but you have speech concerns. You might be screened in August, but you’re not aged eligible for Pre-k until the following year. So, you may begin your speech services with the district for that one year, while you're waiting for Pre-K. Every year from March to May we open a screening window. In early May we start to determine who eligible and by May 20 of every year families know their status.

Ashley: stated “Yes, a school district plays a vital role in the education of young children and children in Kindergarten. But when you look at a population of 12 to 1,400 children and 82% of them are falling below the 50% percentile. That’s just a big community issue as it is a school district issue. So you talking about 82% of children who never been inside a school district building yet.

CM Questions: “What studies have you seen with moving from half day to full day? Since they do have shorter attention span at younger ages? Is it out the question to have 2 sessions during the day?”

Ashley Response: So, there is research behind it that fuller day are more effective than half days. Its more appealing to parents for their child to go to school all day. Most parents must work. We have seen improvement with their attention span, having access to a building, and being able to go through the cafeteria line.

5. Planning and Projections

Operations: make a statement that “not all of our facilities were designed to have 4 Pre-k classrooms. Most of our newer build schools in the last 15 years have 2-3 Pre-k classrooms”.

Operations: “is there a head start on Hilton Head?”

Ashley Response: Yes, just 3 and 4 years old, in the Sandal Woods apartment complex. They have an apartment that they converted into a classroom and has 17 children.

Operations: Let’s talk about the triangle planning. You can’t do any kind of comprehensive planning without looking at the students who are the demographics. The facilities who are the buildings or the programs. The instructional things that are happening in those buildings. Anytime you make a change to one thing, you’re going to make a change to something else. For example, Pre-k because if we need to serve more kids that's going to change some of your demographics, and that's certainly going to change your facility’s needs.

Operations: Let’s talked about some of the ages of our buildings We created 3 groups, schools that was built before 1980. Most of these school had major renovations in the past or had additions added.

- Port Royal Elementary 1911
- Broad River Elementary School 1957
- Beaufort Middle School 1959
- Mossy Oaks Elementary School 1962
- Lady’s Island Elementary School 1963
- Shell Point- Riverview School 1968
- Hilton Head Island Elementary School 1974
- Hilton Head Island School for Creative Arts 1974

Operations: The next group are schools between 1980 and 1999. The highlighted schools are currently under renovations or have plans for renovations.

- **Hilton Head Island High School 1983**
- **Lady’s Island Middle School 1984**
- **Robert Smalls International Academy 1984**
- **Beaufort Elementary School 1986**
- St. Helena Elementary School 1991
- **Battery Creek High School 1991**
- James J. Davis Early Childhood Center 1991

- M.C. Riley Elementary School 1991
- **Hilton Head Middle School 1992**
- Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary School 1994
- Cossa Elementary School 1998
- Whale Branch Elementary School 1999
- Whale Branch Middle School 1999
- Bluffton Elementary School 1999

Operations: The next group are the 15 schools that have been build between 2000 and 2020. 8 out of 15 of those buildings were 2009 or later.

- Beaufort High School 2000
- H.E. McCracken Middle School 2000
- Daufuskie Island School 2001
- Okatie Elementary School 2003
- St. Helena Early Childhood Center 2004
- Bluffton High School 2004
- HHI Early Childhood Center 2006
- Bluffton Early Childhood Center 2009
- M.C. Riley Early Childhood Center 2009
- Red Cedar Elementary School 2009
- Whale Branch Early College High 2010
- Pritchardville Elementary School 2010
- Bluffton Middle School 2010
- River Ridge Academy 2015
- May River High School 2016

6. CPRC 2.0 Calendar – need to finalize

Operations and Committee Members came up with a date and time for their next meeting. Their next meeting will have to be before January 17, 2023. On January 17, 2023, is when CPRC will go and introduction themselves to the Board Members. The CPRC came up with meeting on Thursday January 12, 2023. Information was given on the upcoming schools visits.

7. CRPC 2.0 School Visits Scheduled

Monday January 9th

10:00 am - Hilton Head Island High School

11: 15 am - Hilton Head Island Middle School

12:30 pm - Hilton Head Island School for Creative Arts

Tuesday January 10th

10:00 am – Lady’s Island Middle School

11:15 am – Lady’s Island Elementary School

12:30 pm – St. Helena Elementary School and Early Childhood Center

Thursday January 12th

10:00 am – Pritchardville Elementary School

11:15 am – May River High School

12:30 pm – HE McCracken Middle School