

**The Beaufort County Education Association
QUESTIONS FOR SUPERINTENDENT'S MEETING**

Thursday, February 18, 2016 ~ ACE Guidance Conference Room

1. Will teachers get a raise for 2016-17? Rationale: Teachers are having issues living in the community they teach in because of the over inflation of the housing market. Some just cannot afford to live in Beaufort and drive distances (up to an hour or more) to school every day from surrounding areas. This increases the chances that employees will relocate and BCSD will lose valuable employees.

If the State mandates a step increase, teachers who are eligible for a step increase will provided this increase since the District does not have an option. At this point in the budget process, we are assuming the State will mandate a step for all eligible teachers. Since we are in the early stages of the budget, we have not discussed with the Board a cost of living increase. The longevity increase will be considered by the Board for continuation.

2. When built Battery Creek was designated an Arts Infused High School, which accounts for the huge auditorium and extensive arts areas, yet it does not offer an extensive arts curriculum. Visual Art teachers have dwindled from numerous full time teachers down to 2. Are there plans to revitalize the arts?

The district has not intentionally reduced the arts at BCHS. School admin can speak to specifics re the arts programs at the school. School Choice information is provided re all school on the district webpage. Recognition should be given to the CATE expansion and Aviation programs of recent.

3. Since this is budget preparation season, will substitute pay increases be included as a line item? There are some substitutes that have worked for fifteen years at the same pay level.

Rationale 1: PAY RAISE INCREMENTS LONG OVERDUE

Rationale 2: COST OF LIVING INCREASES SEVERELY OVERDUE

Rationale 2: ENTICEMENT FOR ATTRACTING A GREATER POOL OF CERTIFIED AND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL. Please elaborate on your response.

4. Substitutes are required for teacher assistants' absences and are currently only being paid \$35 a day. Often times subs are not aware in advance of this drastically decreased pay rate until after the fact. If you are asking for subs to have college degrees, they should be paid at the same rate whether they are substituting for a certified teacher or a highly qualified teacher assistant. Can this change be made for 2016-2017?

The current assistant sub pay is \$60 per day.

5. Students who suddenly found themselves early graduates are in limbo. When asked by potential employers if they are high school graduates, their response of "All but the Diploma" does not make sense to the business community and makes them ineligible for certain employment. How would you classify their status?

Is graduation reflected on their transcripts?

Can students be given their diplomas in December?

High School course catalog provides information re early graduation process.

6. Early completers of SC requirements for high school diploma who are not enrolled in TCL due to age (must be 18 or enrolled in ECCO) are not sure of their status with Beaufort County Schools. Are they allowed to attend prom and other school functions? Do they pay student prices to attend games? If their school puts on a play are they eligible to tryout? These are questions posed to school counselors and administrators. They have given conflicting answers. They deferred to you. Some said BCSD had no more connection with them. Others disagreed.
7. Does BCSD plan to continue its partnership with JCSD for the operation of ACE and to continue to offer CATE programs at ACE for our students? Please elaborate.
8. Is it accurate that BCSD plans to discontinue programs that are currently being taught at ACE for 2016-17? Specifically Cosmetology, Barbering, Nail Technology, and Esthetics because it is our understanding that new students cannot start this curriculum. This brings up the question, is it true that BCSD will officially be pulling out of ACE? If so, is there a timeline to discontinue programs that are currently being taught at ACE and move the students to the CATE programs at some BCSD high schools? Please elaborate.
9. As a result of school choice, will there be transportation provided to students?

No
10. How much research has the BCSD done regarding the 4-day work week? Has the district given any consideration to the impact it may have on an increase in teen pregnancy rates? Any consideration of what parents would do with younger children on Fridays? Etc.
11. It is our understanding that the SDE denied BCSD's request to establish another Choice School? What are the details on this?
12. Will the barcodes on ID cards worn by high school students ever be utilized for scanning purposes? When will all high schools be required to have student IDs? This would be helpful for safety reasons, moving in and out of the building, when there is a substitute teacher, faster lines at lunch, and the ability to scan IDs for Media Center materials and textbooks.
13. What is the status of the advanced degree programs that we talked about previously, the potential partnerships?
14. Will you consider a graduation ceremony for students meeting requirements of graduation in December? Please elaborate