

Board Briefings

November 27, 2007 • Columbia High School

an abbreviated school board action report prepared by the Office of Communications

School Board Spotlight

The Board recognized Financial Services for receiving national awards from the Governmental Finance Officers Association in the areas of governmental accounting and reporting for the 19th consecutive year. The district must have a clean audit report or unqualified opinion to qualify for these national awards. Sherri Mathews-Hazel, executive director of financial services, accepted the Board's recognition on behalf of her team and the district.

Consent Agenda

The Board approved the following items:

- Minutes from the November 13 board meeting
- Hiring of personnel
- October financials
- Contract extensions to furnish and install security and fire alarm systems and a Web-based communication system

Office of the Board

The Board took the following actions:

- Voted 4-3 not to extend Superintendent Dr. Allen Coles' contract beyond June 30, 2008.
- Approved a resolution to forward to the S.C. School Boards Association that the state correct the Index of Taxpaying Ability miscalculations that meant a loss of \$2.4 million in revenue for Richland One.

Office of the Superintendent

Mary Margaret Hoy, research and evaluation specialist in the Office of Research and Evaluation, presented information to the Board about the district's 2007 school and district report card results and reviewed the methodology used by the state to determine the ratings. Dr. Ora Watson, Dr. Cynthia Cash-Greene and Ernest Dupree, the district's executive directors of schools, outlined strategies being implemented to bring about significant and sustained student achievement.

Office of Academics

The Board approved purchasing the I Can Learn computerized program for implementation at St. Andrews Middle School. The program focuses on improving student participation and achievement in algebra.

Office of Operations

The Board approved the acceptance of the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the 2007 fiscal year. Sherri Mathews Hazel, executive director of financial services, said the external auditors gave the district a clean audit report with no management findings.

The next meeting of the Board of School Commissioners will be held Tuesday, December 11 at the Stevenson Administration Building. Open session begins at 7 p.m.