

The Beaufort County Education Association
QUESTIONS FOR SUPERINTENDENT'S MEETING

Wednesday, March 30, 2016 | Superintendent's Conference Room

1. Why is it that interventionists can be pulled to sub? They are certified teachers and are held accountable for student growth in the RTI program. When interventionists are pulled (sometimes for a full day), RTI data will not be accurate.

Interventionists should not be pulled to sub. Only classroom teachers with planning periods should be used.

2. The tone of the email that went out regarding The SCEA as a lobbyist was misleading. The SCEA is a professional organization that represents its members in various ways including lobbying. The email implied that the sole purpose of the organization is to lobby. While we do lobby for teacher salaries and per pupil advocacy, we lobby for some of the same things that BCSD lobbies for as well. Our concern is this has affected our Uniserv Representative, Beverly Dore's ability to get into the schools with principal approval to recruit employees and to serve members.

Our e-mail to principals was a reminder to make sure that teachers and staff understand that they cannot use school equipment (computers, phones, mailroom) or work time to engage in political campaigning or political lobbying. This applies to any campaign for political office, and it also applies to lobbying efforts such as the SCEA's petition drive encouraging the elected members of the South Carolina General Assembly to raise teacher pay. Principals also were instructed that while they could choose to allow BCEA access to teachers, they could not promote an outside organization's membership drive with their internal communications.

3. Concern: There are two graduate classes that appeared in mylearningplan.com that were closed when they were placed into the portal. The first time the courses were posted, they were pulled because there was miscommunication between the district and the college. This has happened previously with graduate classes being closed when first announced. Why are these courses not offered to all users? These graduate courses are offered for GT teachers only. They are connected to "endorsements" to teachers' certifications. Teachers who participated in these classes are currently teaching GT classes and must have their endorsements within a designated timeframe. What is the rationale for placing closed courses in the portal? We were not aware that any closed course had been placed on the portal.

4. Were teachers and staff involved in the decision to change school start times? If so, how and when? Learning about the change through the news media Wednesday morning and reading it on the BCSD homepage last Tuesday night, was interesting, to say the least. We would like to have some serious dialogue with you regarding the 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. school times chosen.

The discussion concerning school start time began 2 years ago at town hall meetings, administrative meetings, student advisory meetings, and teacher forum. These conversations have continued since that time with these groups at various times. The board has discussed this issue over the past 2 years during work session and committee meetings. We have operated a pilot on late start over the last 1.5 years. Feedback has been requested at every level and research on student learning was reviewed prior to making this recommendation and decision.

5. The 2016-2017 calendar appears unfinished on the web with no dates for graduations or weather makeup days. Is this the final calendar or will there be upcoming changes we are not aware of? We would also like to discuss concerns regarding the calendar.

The graduations will occur beginning the last day of school and continue ONE per evening until all schools have graduated. We will not conduct graduation on Memorial Day, but we will use the Saturday following Memorial Day. Schools will rotate graduation each year as has been the process for many years.