

The Beaufort County Education Association ~ Questions for Superintendent Moss

May 21, 2015

1. Why is it that the school district was not off the week of or the week following Easter? For a number of Americans, this is considered Holy Week. This is very discouraging and upsetting, as family events and gatherings have been planned. It is also when the majority of schools have off in the United States. Why are we catering to a golf event?

Our spring break is coordinated around this event due to traffic and the number of individuals who work the event. We have tried different schedules, but that affects extended families and costs the district more in transportation costs. This is the most efficient way.

2. Research shows that staying in school longer does not make children learn any better. It is quality, NOT quantity. After a while, students get burned out and need a break, as do teachers. Also, the summer months are extremely HOT here in South Carolina. Could the district look at starting school in September, after Labor Day? It does make more sense and would be cooler. Just a thought.

The amount of time for schools to be in session is written in state law. School must start no earlier than the third Monday in August and must be in session for students for 180 days. Employees work additional days, depending on their classifications. Beginning after Labor Day would run school into the third week of June for students (which could affect summer employment and family vacations) and through the end of June for teachers.

3. Which teacher evaluation plans are being used in the BCSD for school year 2014-2015?

SAFE-T

4. Which teacher evaluation plan is now being used (2014-2015) for continuing-contract teachers in the BCSD?

SAFE-T

5. Where are the written protocols and guidelines for the BCSD Informal Observation plan, and why haven't teachers been informed in writing about the protocols and guidelines?

The written plans have been shared with principals, and they are enclosed with this reply.

6. Please explain why there is no self-contained special education classroom for the middle school students at the new PreK-8 school?

BCSD operates cluster-based programs considering the following factors: location (where students live), space utilization (needs for classroom and sensory room), transportation (limit travel time), and programming to address students' needs and provide teachers to collaborate and provide a continuum of care to students.

7. Are the results complete from the classified staff survey from last year? When will the raises/ not cost of living increase?

Yes, the study is complete. Implementation is a Board of Education decision.

8. How do our classified staff salaries compare to county employees? Example secretary, librarian?

That information was included in the salary study.

9. Why would a principal tell his office staff that a work conference set up by the district office is not important?

That would be a question for the principal.

10. Is there a maximum number of hours a substitute can work in a week? In a pay period?

No more than 29 hours per week. This requirement is for subs as well as part-time employees.