

1. My Schedule

As we close out the school year, we are busier than ever. May is filled with celebration which will soon be followed by reflection, refocus and hopefully some rest as we ready ourselves for the coming year. I am looking forward to the upcoming high school graduations, promotion ceremonies and other culminating events that again serve to remind us of why we work so hard throughout the year.

In recent weeks I have attended the district Orchestra Concert of Hope, participated in a virtual webinar as a panelist for ERDI, attended the annual Turnaround Awards Ceremony, and attended the Virtual Digital Promise Students for Equitable Education (SEE) Summit. I also attended and spoke at the 25th Anniversary Celebration for the Center for Inquiry, attended the celebration event for the Education Leadership Experience (ELE) that two of our employees participated in, attended the Premier Scholars Program, the SCASA Awards Dinner where Dr. Tia Jones and Ms. Shawn Williams were recognized, and attended and provided the Keynote address for the Junior Scholars Program. Today I participated in another NSPRA Webinar.

In coming weeks I will speak at the Project Search Graduation, attend the United Way CEO Breakfast, interview finalists for the position of Chief Technology Officer, meet with the Midlands Superintendents group for the last time this school year, attend the Adult Education and Special Education graduation ceremonies, attend the ceremony where R2i2 students will receive the electric bus they won in a recent contest, and attend the high school graduation ceremonies. I will also make a trip to St. Helena Island with the Premier 100, and will provide welcome remarks at the AVID Pathways training event. I will attend the College Board Superintendent Advisory Council Meeting in New York and attend the district end-of-year administrative inservice.

2. High School Graduations

[Click here to review details including dates, times and locations for high school graduations.](#)

3. Board Policy Update

Board Member Compensation

Pursuant to Board Policy BID - Board Member Compensation and Expenses, *per diem and mileage will not be paid for more than 30 board meetings in any one calendar year.* In a calendar year, the board may convene more than 30 meetings, however, board members may be compensated for up to 30 meetings in a calendar year.

May 24, 2022 – R2i2

Board Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Executive Session

6:30 p.m. – Public Session

May 25, 2022 – Ridge View HS

6:30 p.m. – Adult Ed Graduation

May 26, 2022 – R2i2

10:30 a.m. – Special Needs Graduation

May 27, 2022 – R2i2

2:00 p.m. – R2i2 KidsRideClean Electric Bus Delivery

June 1, 2022 – Colonial Life Arena

8:00 a.m. – WHS Graduation

12:00 Noon – BHS Graduation

4:00 p.m. – RNHS Graduation

June 2, 2022 – Colonial Life Arena

8:00 a.m. – SVHS Graduation

12:00 Noon – RVHS Graduation

June 14, 2022 – R2i2

Board Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Executive Session

6:30 p.m. – Public Budget Hearing/Public Session

June 28, 2022 – R2i2

Board Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Executive Session

6:30 p.m. – Public Session

The sum of the number of meetings the board has had so far this year (January 1 - May 18, 2022) and the number of meetings scheduled to occur between now and December 31, 2022 is 29.

Parent Organizations

Policy KBE outlines the relationship between a school and its parent organizations (e.g., booster clubs, PTOs, parent support groups, business-school partnerships and education foundations). In summary:

- These groups have no administrative authority in connection with the operation of the school.
- These groups need administrative approval to host/implement events and programs.
- These groups abide by procedures and guidelines that they create themselves.

DRAFT Administrative Rule KE(R) | Public Concerns and Complaints

District administration has drafted an administrative rule to accompany Policy KE - Public Concerns and Complaints. The procedures in the draft administrative rule are similar to the procedures followed when concerns/complaints are posed by students/parents and employees. Click [HERE](#) to see the draft procedures.

4. Human Resources Update

As a follow up to a question from the May 10, 2022 board meeting regarding who an employee goes to if they have a concern or a complaint about their supervisor. [Policy GBK Staff Concerns/Complaints/Grievances/Policy GBK-R Staff Concerns/Complaints/Grievances](#) addresses how an employee would file a complaint/concern regarding their direct supervisor. The role of Human Resources is to oversee the process for compliance.

5. Academics Update

LBA Courses

In a recent workshop with the South Carolina Department of Education, clarification was shared about Local Board Approved courses. Moving forward, we will not just bring new courses to you for approval. Beginning this summer, we will submit all LBA courses that will be used in our high schools for the upcoming year. This will be an annual process. We are in the process of reviewing these elective courses and plan to bring them to the School Board for approval at the June 28 meeting.

A Local Board Approved Course (LBA) is an elective course that is not listed in the State Department of Education's Activity Code Book. The state allows local school districts the flexibility to create Local Board Approved courses as electives only. These courses allow us to best meet school and student needs in our district. As a formality, local School Boards are required to approve these courses annually.

6. DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Update

The South Carolina House of Representatives Education and Public Works Committee bill H 5183, South Carolina Transparency and Integrity in Education Act, did not pass in the General Assembly this legislative session.

While we are continuing to celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we also pause to recognize that May is Jewish American Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month.

Military Community Liaison

This is the time of the year when many military families move into and out of our district. Mrs. Carter is assisting with smooth transitions for these families. There is currently a waiting list for housing on Fort Jackson and military connected families are experiencing some difficulties finding affordable housing in Northeast Richland County. Additionally, Mrs. Carter is serving as a bridge between several community organizations and our military connected families with information on summer activities for our military connected students.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

7. Technology Update

Cybersecurity Enhancements

As reported previously, the requirements for school districts to qualify for cybersecurity insurance coverage have been dramatically increasing. We believe this is due, in part, to the desire by insurance companies to reduce their risk levels by requiring client districts to maximize their own cybersecurity postures. In response, IT has begun the implementation of certain enhanced protections that will achieve two objectives: 1) improving our security capabilities and protections, and 2) meeting the requirements of the insurance carriers.

Innovation in R2

Innovation in Richland 2 continues to seek new and innovative approaches to finding better ways to do what we do and in finding new pathways to improvement in the education experience for students.

This current school year was one of aiming to “get back to normal” after the peaks of the pandemic by jumpstarting the innovation teams that are working within the innovation incubator. Those teams ramped up their efforts over the course of this year. We are looking forward to doing even more starting with planning during the summer and for recruiting a new cohort of innovation teams as we prepare for next school year.

As part of celebrating success and recognizing the great work of our innovators, both from staff and with students, we held an Innovation Celebration on May 3rd at R2i2 where innovation teams shared their projects and gave mini presentations about their projects. We are aiming to continuously improve the outcomes of the emerging culture of innovation in Richland 2.

8. Pupil Services Update

Richland Two Learning Support Services announced its Staff Person of the Year Award on May 18, 2022. This year’s winner is Ms. Jazmyn Medlin, School Counselor at Joseph Keels Elementary School. Ms. Medlin was nominated by the Administrative team at Joseph Keels School. Ms. Medlin’s administrative team put their heads together to describe Ms. Medlin, who “is usually first on the scene to assist in determining how to best calm students down to prepare them for restorative conversations.” Ms. Medlin is integrated into many aspects of school life, as she works with student helpers on the WJKE morning news show, participates on the MTSS team, and publishes the “Counselor’s Corner” in the school newsletter, the *Bearsville Times*. Ms Medlin provides coaching for teachers on recommended interventions, from CICO to ABC charts. As 504 chair, she ensures parents understand their rights, “walks parents through the process and helps the team make the best decisions to support students.” It is easy to imagine her work as she is described as always “wearing a smile and ... (having) a positive “can do” attitude each day.”

Other Finalists for this year's award were:

Ms. Jordyn Baker, School Social Worker, Polo Road Elementary and E.L. Wright Middle
Mr. Shaquain Durant, Director of School Counseling, Spring Valley High School
Ms. Angela Hartwell, School Social Worker, Windsor Elementary and Preschool Special Education
Ms. Joanna Schanke, School Psychologist, Round Top and Sandlapper Elementary Schools

Learning Support Services includes School Counselors, Family Intervention Services, Homebound team, Nurses, Psychologists, and Social Workers.

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