

A country in need of some fixen'!

We say good-bye to 2021, and set our sights on, hopefully, a much better year for everybody, in 2022. There is an awful lot of work to do, and a lot needs to change in regards to problem solving. It is well past the time where working together is a must. Inflation is eating us alive, open borders, and illegal invasion is a huge problem, crime is out of control, energy issues are becoming more serious with the war on carbon energy, education is a disaster, and worsening, fentanyl is a growing problem, spending on welfare is going to strangle us, and the absolute disaster of Afghanistan hangs around our neck.

Now, all that being said, watch how the very people elected, or appointed, to solve these problems, go about solving them. Politics is the rule, and does not get us into solution space. Not a business person in the bunch, and we need business solutions. But, as you look at these problems, are these not the same people who created them?

• Education – This is a joke, but unfortunately it's being played on us. Too many school districts are lowering the bar of expectations. Is this how we prepare students for life? Let's look at math. There is nothing more exact than math, but as usual another lame attack using "white supremacy" and "paternalism" as the excuse to lower standards. Hate to tell anyone this, but math is a global arena where it's exact, not "close enough", or "He/she did try".

Also thrown into the equation is "equitable". No, we are leaning to "upholding to the idea of always a right, or wrong, answer." Hate to be the bearing of bad news, but in math, it's right, or it's wrong. Period!

There's no "close enough" balancing your checkbook, or the girder, that's going in that new building, is "only a couple inches short."

Lowering the bar is not the answer. Bringing down the best is not the answer. Increase expectations, and hold people to it. Bring people up is the only answer. It used to be called learning. We are failing our children on the international scale, and that is the future.

• Security - This Jan. 6 thing will not go away, and the Democrats have decided that making this an "invasion", or "insurrection", is the answer. Political points, and all that. It will be interesting to see how this "stacked deck" committee handles this event. Will ALL the truth come out?

But, kind of odd that the Democrats sent more military people, and erected a fence in record time, to protect themselves, from a "demonstration", than they have to our southern border to protect us.

• The Border Issue – Speaking of the border, Texas wants to build the wall to protect their people, and state from all the property destruction, and crime that's occurring. There is \$350 million of existing materials just sitting there, rusting away, and Texas said they will buy them. But, Biden says, "NO!" Why? You know why! Yet, he is spending \$3 million/day guarding these very materials. Is it possible to double-down on stupid? You decide! Be honest!

• Coronavirus – As if this was not the proper course from the beginning, good old Joe has now said, "There is no Federal solution to covid. This should be handled at the state level." Wait a minute, didn't Governor DeSantis, of Florida, and other Governor's tell him from the beginning ...

Oh, never mind.

• BBB – Another cutesy name to make a plan sound really good. The problem is, if everything is in really tough shape, it might be a good idea to promote growth plans for the people and the country. The problem here is everything was in pretty good shape, but on day one, through Executive Orders, and the such, Joe decided to wreck it all. Then as we viewed the plan it was clearly the "Destroy Everything Plan." Transform America into a Socialist wasteland. Then tell an outright lie that it wouldn't cost Americans "one red cent."

But, along came a level-headed Congressman who looked at the math, looked at his state, looked at what it meant to the future of the country, and just said, "No!" Joe Mansion, of West Virginia, along with a few others, like Semina, who decided to voice their opinion, and not follow the party line, that was a plan, if given enough time to get the facts on the table, this BBB thing was filled with waste, fraud, and abuse that was being perpetrated primarily on the middle class. A bunch of hidden Socialist trash.

• Never Let A Disaster Go To Waste – Our President, who sometimes gets confused, mentioned, on his visit, that this terrible tornado that tore-up parts of Kentucky was a hurricane, but then gets straight to the best part, and the message that he really wanted to convey, states that he knows that Climate Change caused this tragedy. The left will just keep beating this drum. Another lie!

• Capitalism – If it's so bad, why aren't these enlightened, indoctrinated, college kids forming class trips, or just moving to Venezuela, or Argentina? How about AOC and her mod-squad? Now, this would be an education.

• AOC – A legend in her own mind has declared that Republicans have, "De-ranged sexual frustrations that underpin their fixation on me, because they can't date me." Blond jokes are now dead, as they are no ... Oh, never mind, it's a new year, be kind.

• Whistles – You know the phrase, "Don't bring a knife to a gun fight." Well, this must be a fall-out of re-imagining policing, I suppose, but an Alderman from Chicago, of all places, told constituents to "Run towards offenders, involved in criminal activity, blowing a whistle." I want to hear how this works out.

- Robert Patrick

School Board, from page 1

of responsibility for the use of the individual units to classroom teachers, the inability of the units to sufficiently disinfect classrooms of COVID-19 viruses as expeditiously as necessary, the possible inability of the electrical system in the complex to handle that many units simultaneously, and the projected noise levels of each unit – approximately 50 decibels – that may be a significant distraction during classes. Superintendent Jaime Hembree responded that a centralized option was not seriously considered because the district lacks a large enough maintenance staff to oversee it, but that centralization remained an option that could be considered later under the comprehensive review of the district's facilities that the board had approved in December. There was no indication by the board or district staff that consideration had been given to testing a few units in the classroom to determine if Wilson's reservations had merit prior to submitting the order to FAS-TRAK.

When asked about the comparative costs of a centralized system versus individual classroom units, Loadholt advised the board that they were comparable. In response to a question regarding delivery of the units, Loadholt indicated that the company said it was normally within six to eight weeks of the order, but he estimated that under current conditions it could be much longer.

The board also heard from Larry Finney of the accounting firm of Greene Finney, LLPs regarding the district's financial audit for the 2020-21 school year. Finney indicated that the district has received an "unmodified opinion" from the firm and that it was also their opinion that there was "reasonable assurance" that the district's financial statements for the year were "materially correct." Finney commended the district for generating a million dollar surplus during the year, bringing their total fund balance as of June 30, 2021 to approximately \$3 million, well above the Government Financial Officers Association's recommended minimum.

Although Finney indicated that they were making "numerous recommended improvements" to the district's "internal controls, processes and procedures," he commended the board and staff on the progress that had been made during the past few years and said that the district was "head-

ing in the right direction" and should "keep working on improving [their] internal controls." The specific improvements the firm was recommending were not available at the meeting due to a printing error in the audit report that needed to be corrected prior to formal distribution.

Dr. Hembree reported on the increase in COVID-19 infections and quarantines in the district since students returned to classes following the winter break. A total of 95 students and staff have currently tested positive for the virus or who have been exposed and are in quarantine. She indicted that this may be a bit on the low side as the data were collected at the beginning of the day on Jan. 10 and that additional cases had been reported as the day progressed. These figures included 61 students in quarantine and 23 students who have tested positive. Hembree also distributed a report for the district entitled, "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan." It contained specific actions the district is taking or had taken regarding its implementation of policies and practices regarding the recommendations of the U. S. Center for Disease Control. These included the wearing of masks, social distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, vaccinations, accommodations for children with disabilities, and coordination with state and local health officials. Hembree also reported that the district and the Abbeville Area Medical Center had conducted a vaccination clinic of Jan. 6 and that additional clinics would be held as frequently as possible.

In other business –

• The district recognized the board of trustees for their work during the past year, including a reading and signing of their ethical principles and the presentation of gifts.

• Trustees approved the creation of a new administrative position in the district, although there was no determination regarding the title or duties of the position. Hembree indicated

that it may be either a new principal or assistant principal position.

• The board also approved the second and final reading of district policies DE and DE-R, ESSER Funds, that outline the details of this \$53.4 billion Federal funding program and the specific uses permitted for any funds that may be allocated within the district.

• Hembree presented two options to the board regarding the calendar for the 2022-23 school year. The options were generally similar and preserved the year-round system the district has been following. One option included a three week winter break that would allow for additional remediation assistance to students, while the other limited the winter break to two weeks. These options will be discussed at the February and March board meetings before a final decision is made.

• Dr. Hembree provided district highlights for the month that included a 63 percent readiness proficiency for Kindergarten students on their KRA assessments, a new record for the district; an 83.3 percent pass rate for students taking the English II End-of-Course assessment; a successful showcase at Myrtle Beach for the boy's basketball team during the winter break; and a number of professional development activities for teachers.

• A motion to return to executive session following the conclusion of the public portion of the meeting failed on a 3 to 3 tie vote.

There were no public comments at the meeting.

The next regular monthly meeting of the board is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 7 at the MHS Media Center. The executive (closed) session will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the public (open) session at 7 p.m. This is a departure from the usual meeting schedule, which is normally on the second Monday of the month. It was also noted that the March meeting would be held a week earlier than normal, on March 7.

Meals on Wheels fundraiser

TFC Cafe, 1319 South Main Street, McCormick, will host a Valentine's fundraiser on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. Enjoy dinner with a performance by Elvis impersonator, Jacob Eder.

The menu includes baked chicken, broccoli

casserole, green beans with potatoes, rice with gravy, side salad, roll, red velvet cake and drink. Singles \$20, couples \$35.

Please call 864-852-3755 for reservations.

All proceeds will benefit Meals on Wheels.

Birthdays/Wedding Anniversaries

January 14 - Johnny A. Key, Rosemary Pettus, Marcia Brown, Lakisha V. Morgan, Gary Jones, Nadia Wells, T'Sayveon Creswell.

January 15 - Kathryn Ann Fleming, John E. Harrison, Brantlee Dorroh, La-Marcus Patterson, Lashicker Briggs, Jonathan Martin, Kim Sanders Schultz, Dusty Gable, Jerry Carroway, Sara Covin Juengst, Charles Sibert, Lori and Mark Schechter.

January 16 - Charles and Marian Parnell, Rhett Dukes, Elizabeth Gilchrist, Helen Balogh, Cody Lyons, Jonathan Hudnall, Macey Joy Mooney.

January 17 - John Schumpert, Jessica Kidd, Steven Carlos Kelly, Bobby Jean Morgan, Shan Watts, Diane Stribling, Linda Duke, Michael Morton, Teresa Bryant, Colton Kirkland, Ladnaa Bowman, Fred Fultz, Ann McNab,

Kristi King, Anthony "AG" Middlebrooks, Kevon G. Franklin, Pat Thomas.

January 18 - Virginia Adams, Angela B. Humphreys, Maxine Gable, Mr. and Mrs. Neal White, Michael White Jr., Shantae Morgan, Steve and Jean Cameron, Ashley Sanders, Clem Smith, Sam and Tonya Callaway, Blake White, Caroline Durham, Jessica Hager.

January 19 - Jamie Lindley, Quincy Bell, Mary L. Harrison, Barbara Young, Cathy Gray, Scottie Sauder, Erica Jensen, Ron Younts, Ronnie Koss.

January 20 - Zonya Swancey, Christon Leverette, Nelda H. McCracken, Kay Wilkie, Nathan Johnson, Deborah Graham, Doug Simpson Jr., Howard Lester, James Rosby, Shirley Royer, Mary M. Lyons, Paul and Shirley Voyer, Vowcella Marsh, Steve Vlaun, Bob Osterman.

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*\$2 Tuesday
5pm-10pm*

*Wine Down
Wednesday
5pm-10pm*

*Salad Saturday
5pm-midnight*

*Party Food Friday
5pm-midnight*

\$2 Hotdog * \$2 Chips & Salsa * \$2 Nachos & Cheese (Add \$3 more for beef or chicken) \$3 Sausage Dog (Chili extra)
This will be the only food offered on Tuesdays
*\$2 House Liquor Shots * \$2 MoPe's Punch * \$2 Tuesday Liquor Shot of the Day...\$2 Ciroc (any flavor)... This will change each week! * \$2 Sides (Fries, Onion Rings, Tots, Fried Okra)

\$5 House Wine * \$2 Wine Coolers
1/2 Price Appetizers (Fried pickles, Fried Mushroom, Mozzarella Sticks, Bacon Cheddar Ranch Dip, Cheddar Bacon Fries)

Garden Salad...Caesar Salad...Pasta Salad
*Full Salad \$8
*1/2 Salad \$5
(Add Ham or Turkey \$2 more... Add fried or grilled chicken \$3 more... Add fried or grilled shrimp \$4 more)

3 for \$12 or \$5 Each
Buffalo Chicken * Bacon Cheddar Ranch Dip * Chicken Bites * Lil Smokies * Meatballs * Queso Dip * 3 Wings (one flavor)

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