

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 15, 2022**  
**Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Members Presents**

|                             |                  |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| David Striebinger, Chair    | Ingrid Boatright | Earl Campbell    |
| Cathy Robine, Vice Chair    | Melvin Campbell  | Tricia Fidrych   |
| Angela Middleton, Secretary | Richard Geier    | Christina Gwozdz |
|                             | William Smith    | Rachel Wisnefski |

Mr. David Striebinger called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

**Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of negotiations incident to proposed potential purchase of property in Bluffton, South Carolina pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to seven pending matters covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 11/0.**

Mr. Striebinger called the meeting back to open session at 6:01 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

No action taken from Executive Session.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 11/0.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed.

Mr. Striebinger stated that the media was properly notified.

Under Points of Celebration, Dr. Rodriguez and the Board recognized the following:

- **Character Education Students of the Month of December**
  - Southern BCSD – Hilton Head island High School – 11<sup>th</sup> grade student Eva Dolan
- **2021 – 2022 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Competition Gold Key Winners**
- **Counselor of the Year**
  - Torri O. McCullough, River Ridge Academy BCSD 2022 Rookie School Counselor of the Year
  - Jessica M. Barnes, Hilton Head Elementary BSD 2022 Elementary School Counselor of the Year
  - Laura B. Mason, H.E. McCracken Middle BCSD 2022 Middle School Counselor of the Year
  - Woodie L. Melton IV., Bluffton High BCSD 2022 High School Counselor of the Year and District Counselor of the Year

**Public Comments**

- Darryl Mitchem spoke about facilities use for his nonprofit sport organization
- David Cook spoke about the oath of office and DHEC policies.
- Joseph Castaguino spoke about the DHEC policies.

- Tanya Andrews spoke about how COVID protocols are affecting students.
- Danielle Hunt thanked the district for their measures in support teachers and made two recommendations to further support teachers.
- Beth DePalma spoke about teacher pay.

### **Chair's Statement**

Mr. Striebinger reminded Board members of the March 30th due date to file their economic interest form.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee:** Richard Geier, chair shared that the committee met on February 11 and received a second quarter financial report.

- Mrs. Tonya Crosby provided a synopsis of the second quarter financial and FY2022-2023 Budget Update to the full Board.
- Colonel Geier shared future topics for the next committee meeting.

**Operations Committee:** Ingrid Boatright, chair shared that the committee met on February 9 at Battery Creek High School

- The committee received a report from the County about development along Highway 170 in northern Beaufort County.
- The committee received information on selecting school sites from the land consultant.
- Mr. Robert Oetting presented a construction update.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> at Bluffton High School.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Goal #1 Student Achievement**

- Community Partnerships for Academic Recovery  
Mrs. Gaynelle Dantzer presented on community partnerships for academic recovery.

#### **Goal #2 Highly Qualified Teachers and Administrators**

- Update on Visas Sponsorship Program  
Dr. Rodriguez provided an update on the Visas Sponsorship Program.

#### **Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility –**

- Monthly Transparency Report
- Monthly \$100K Report
- Board Monthly Report

Mrs. Tonya Crosby addressed the Board's questions related to the monthly transparency, monthly \$100k, and Board monthly budget reports.

- ESSER Update  
Mrs. Denise Mattson provided an Executive Summary for ESSER funds through January 31, 2022.

#### **Other Matters**

- COVID Update  
Dr. Rodriguez discussed the challenges of frequent DHEC updates.
- Follow-up on Security Guard Incident  
Mr. David Grissom and representatives from Guard One provided a follow-up on security guard incident.

## **Board Business**

- Donation from the May River High School Booster Club for the purchase of a Batting Cage Shed valued at \$17,000 to May River High School Baseball and Softball Program.

**Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to accept a donation from the May River High School Booster Club for the purchase of a batting cage shed valued at \$17,000 to May River High School baseball and softball programs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.**

- Approval of Letter to DHEC regarding Quarantine

**Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education approve the draft letter dated February 15, 2022 to DHEC that is included in our documents tonight regarding the quarantine. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 11/0.**

## **Consent Agenda**

- December 2, 2021 Joint BOE/SIC Meeting Minutes
- January 4, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- January 18, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- January 28, 2022 Board Work Session Minutes
- February 1, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

## **Future Agenda Topics**

- Mr. Earl Campbell would like to discuss transportation and teacher salary at a work session.
- Mr. William Smith would like to discuss teacher salary.
- Mrs. Boatright would like to review the procedure for public comments via telephone.

## **Announcements**

Dr. Rodriguez made the following announcements:

- National Bus Driver Appreciation Week and asked the Board to join him in thanking the bus drivers not only this week, but every day.
- The Academic WorldQuest will take place on March 26 beginning at 9 a.m. at Bluffton High School.

Mr. Mel Campbell reminded everyone that it's Black History Month and that the African American History Education Conference is taking place at the end of the week.

The Board adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:22 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: March 1, 2022

Angela Middleton, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

## Motion Summary

**A motion was made to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of negotiations incident to proposed potential purchase of property in Bluffton, South Carolina pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to seven pending matters covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.**

### Action from Executive Session

No action taken from Executive Session.

**A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.**

**A motion was made to accept a donation from the May River High School Booster Club for the purchase of a batting cage shed valued at \$17,000 to May River High School baseball and softball programs. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.**

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