

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Called School Board Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2021
District Educational Services Center

Members Presents

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

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed. Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Public Comments

- Geoffery Roedig, BCSD teacher read an email he sent to Dr. Rodriguez regarding returning to in-person instruction five days a week.
- Jodie Srutek, community member asked questions regarding the COVID numbers and returning to in-person instruction five days a week.
- Anthony Cambria, community member spoke regarding Board behavior and new year resolutions.

Budget Update & Tax Anticipation Note Discussion

Mrs. Tonya Crosby, Ms. Frannie Heizer, with Burr, Forman & McNair, and Mr. Chad Cowan, with Hilltop Securities, took turns presenting an update on the budget and tax anticipation note.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that we adopt the Resolution presented at this meeting authorizing the issuance and sale of not to exceed \$100,000,000 Tax Anticipation Notes, Series 2021. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that upon completion of the current litigation between the Beaufort County Council and the Beaufort County Auditor, that the Beaufort County School District seek legal action to recover all the costs that the School District will be forced to pay on an un-budgeted Tax Anticipation Note due to the inability of Beaufort County to send out property tax bills on timely basis. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith voted against the motion.

Update on School Opening

Dr. Rodriguez gave an update on the first few days of school after the return of in-person instruction five days a week.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board direct the Superintendent to work up the numbers of \$1,000 for hazard pay for teachers and staff. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright motion to remit the motion that the Board direct the Superintendent to work up the numbers of \$1,000 for hazard pay for teachers and staff to the finance committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. William Smith made the motion for the Board to direct Dr. Rodriguez to return back to virtual learning as soon as possible. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion failed 1/10. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisnefski, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education issue a letter to Governor McMaster and the Beaufort County Delegation advocating for the further prioritization of Beaufort County School District educators and staff on the SC COVID 19 vaccination schedule and respectfully request all efforts be made to expedite the vaccination process for those that desire to receive the vaccination. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: February 2, 2021

David Striebinger, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

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

A motion was made that we adopt the Resolution presented at this meeting authorizing the issuance and sale of not to exceed \$100,000,000 Tax Anticipation Notes, Series 2021. The motion was seconded by and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that upon completion of the current litigation between the Beaufort County Council and the Beaufort County Auditor, that the Beaufort County School District seek legal action to recover all the costs that the School District will be forced to pay on an un-budgeted Tax Anticipation Note due to the inability of Beaufort County to send out property tax bills on timely basis. The motion was seconded and passed 9/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board direct the Superintendent to work up the numbers of \$1,000 for hazard pay for teachers and staff. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to remit the motion that the Board direct the Superintendent to work up the numbers of \$1,000 for hazard pay for teachers and staff to the finance committee. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made for the Board to direct Dr. Rodriguez to return back to virtual learning as soon as possible. The motion was seconded and failed 1/10. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisnefski, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education issue a letter to Governor McMaster and the Beaufort County Delegation advocating for the further prioritization of Beaufort County School District educators and staff on the SC COVID 19 vaccination schedule and respectfully request all efforts be made to expedite the vaccination process for those that desire to receive the vaccination. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.