

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 19, 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 5:35p.m. Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment matter regarding Personnel Ratification Report; employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; review of evaluation of Executive Administrator to the Board pursuant to SC Code 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of possible disposition of Lobeco property 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.**

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:08 p.m.

**Action from Executive Session**

**Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendations for employment listed on the December 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 11/0. (The link to the redacted December 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 Personnel Ratification Report when available.)**

**Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 11/0.**

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

**Student Performance** - Coosa Virtual Chorus performed “Lean on Me” under the direction of Emma Young.

**Under Points of Celebration**, the Board members signed the South Carolina School Board Association pledge poster in recognition of School Board Recognition Month. Dr. Gwozdz read the pledge aloud.

Dr. Rodriguez introduced and the Board recognized the following students for Character Education December’s Students of the Month.

- Evelin Leija, eighth grade student at Whale Branch Middle School.
- Madison Nunez, a senior at May River High School.

**Superintendent’s Report**

- Other Matters: COVID-19 “Coronavirus” Update – Superintendent Dr. Rodriguez introduced Dr. Allison Eckard, MD, a pediatric infectious diseases doctor with MUSC. Dr. Eckard presented on COVID data in school districts.

## **Chairman's Report**

Dr. Gwozdz announced new committees: (See attachment I)

## **Committee Reports**

ACE – Earl Campbell, chair shared that the ACE Board has not met since they met for the Director's Evaluation, but he has spoken to the Director, who shared that everything is going smoothly.

Academic Committee – Tricia Fidrych, chair shared that the committee met on December 10<sup>th</sup> and reviewed ARs with Mrs. Wendy Cartledge. Mrs. Cartledge reviewed the changes to the following Administrative Regulations:

- SS-3, Assignment of Students to Schools
- SS-25, Alcohol Use by Students
- IS-58, Foreign Exchange Students.

Dr. Mary Stratos reviewed PE. 1.9 – Guidance Services.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board accept PE1.9, Guidance Services. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 11/0.**

Ad Hoc Bluffton Growth Committee – Rachel Wisnefski, chair presented the Interim Report Overview.

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Board direct the Superintendent to conduct a survey of parents whose children have left the district and their plans for possibly returning to the district post COVID. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.**

Policy Committee – David Striebinger, chair shared that the committee has met a couple of times to incorporate suggestions and corrections from the first reading. The current changes are highlighted in blue. He would like to address the items highlighted in blue first at the second reading, which will take place at a special called meeting on Friday, January 22.

## **Superintendent's Report Continued**

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- MAP Data - Mr. Daniel Fallon, and Dr. Stratos presented Winter MAP Data.

Goal #2 Highly Qualified Teachers and Administrators

- #You Matter – Ms. Alice Walton, Mr. Reggie Deas, Mr. Matt Hunt, and Mrs. Lakinsha Swinton, presented the district's new emotional and mental health initiative for employees, #YouMatterBCSD. James Hester, with Hope Performance Systems, introduced their services. Ms. Walton showed a brief video about #YouMatterBCSD.

**Mrs. Cathy Robine made a motion to continue the meeting to 10:15p.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 9/1/1. David Striebinger voted against the motion. William Smith abstained. (Mr. David Striebinger left the meeting at 9:15pm)**

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Monthly Transparency Report
- Monthly \$100K Report
- Board Monthly Budget
- TAN Update
- Update on 2021 Budget

Mrs. Tonya Crosby answered presented the monthly transparency report, monthly Board budget, and monthly \$100k report as well as an update on the TAN and the 2021 Budget.

- Update on Technology for K-2  
Mrs. Crosby stated that she will bring back to the Board a proposal for purchasing devices for K-2 with new COVID funds.

Other Matters - COVID – 19 “Coronavirus” updates continued –

- Dr. Duke Bradley summarized information from the Education Oversight Committee meeting.
- Dr. Rodriguez discussed current district COVID numbers and gave an update on vaccinations for district employees.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to stay until we finish the public session on tonight's agenda and move the remaining items for Executive Session to the Friday, January 22nd meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Mr. William Smith made the motion to direct Dr. Rodriguez to give the staff the same virtual opportunities as students. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion failed 1/9. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisnefski, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.**

#### **Board Business Action**

- Discussion on the Extension of Legislative Monitoring Services

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Board of Education approve the extension of the Burr Forman McNair engagement letter to provide legislative monitoring services through December 31, 2021 for a fixed fee of \$41,000.00 with monthly payments in the amount of \$3,416.67. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Dr. Rachel made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/0.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

- December 2, 2020 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- December 3, 2020 Joint Board/SIC Meeting Minutes
- December 8, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

#### **Attachment: I**

(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 go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment matter regarding Personnel Ratification Report; employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; review of evaluation of Executive Administrator to the Board pursuant to SC Code 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of possible disposition of Lobeco property pursuant to S.C. Coe Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

### Action from Executive Session

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

A motion was made for the Board to accept PE1.9, Guidance Services. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board direct the Superintendent to conduct a survey of parents whose children have left the district and their plans for possibly returning to the district post COVID. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to continue the meeting to 10:15p.m. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1/1. David Striebinger voted against the motion. William Smith abstained. (Mr. David Striebinger left the meeting at 9:15pm)

A motion was made to stay until we finish the public session on tonight's agenda and move the remaining items for Executive Session to the Friday, January 22nd meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to direct Dr. Rodriguez to give the staff the same virtual opportunities as students. The motion was seconded and failed 1/9. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisnefski, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the extension of the Burr Forman McNair engagement letter to provide legislative monitoring services through December 31, 2021 for a fixed fee of \$41,000.00 with monthly payments in the amount of \$3,416.67. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

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