

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 2, 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 5:00p.m.

**Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment matters 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 recommendation of award for professional design services in renovation of Hilton Head Island Middle School, RFQ #21-22, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 8/0. Earl Campbell, Melvin Campbell, and Angela Middleton were absent from the vote.**

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:01 p.m.

**Action from Executive Session**

**Mr. David Striebinger made the motion, Madam Chair, I move we approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the January 1, 2021-January 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 11/0. ([The link to the redacted January 1, 2021 – January 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report](#)).**

**Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board authorize the Superintendent to issue an award to LS3) Associates, LTP, of Charleston for professional design services for the renovation of Hilton Head Island Middle School. The board authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate an architectural contract and, upon successful negotiations, shall bring the contract to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained.**

**Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board direct the Chair to discuss the reclassification of the Board's Administrative Associate position with Human Resources. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych.**

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made an amendment motion that the Board direct the Chair to discuss the reclassification of the Board's Administrative Associate position with Human Resources and come back to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/1. Earl Campbell voted against the motion.**

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski 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. A moment of silence was observed for Battery Creek High School student Cameron Cribb, who recently passed away. Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

### **Chairman's Report**

Dr. Christina Gwozdz shared the Board's appreciation for BCSD staff during the COVID pandemic and honored school counselors. She recognized Black History Month and spoke about the Harriet Tubman project. The video about the project was shared with the Board. Dr. Gwozdz also reminded Board members to file their statement of economic interest by March 30, 2021.

### **Committee Reports**

Academic Committee – Cathy Robine, chair introduced Dr. Mary Stratos, who presented PE. 1.1 – Annual Student Achievement along with Mr. Daniel Fallon, and Mr. Brett Fritz.

**Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to take a day to have a work session to do a deep dive into P.E.1.1. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0/1. Cathy Robine abstained.**

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Rodriguez recognized the work of school counselors and the importance of Black History month.

#### Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Impact Fee Timeline Update  
Mrs. Tonya Crosby provided an update on the impact fee timeline.

#### Other Matters

- COVID – 19 "Coronavirus" Update  
Dr. Rodriguez provided data on COVID -19 and an update on vaccinations for BCSD staff.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board direct the Chair to compose and send another letter to Governor McMaster and Molly Spearman advocating for teachers and staff to receive the Covid-19 vaccine as soon as possible. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.**

- Mold at Whale Branch Elementary Update  
Mr. Robert Corbin, Project Director with CBRE Herry, provided an update on mold remediation at Whale Branch Elementary and Middle schools.
- CIP Booklet Timeline Update  
Dr. Rodriguez gave an update on the CIP booklet timeline.

### **Board Business Action**

- E-Rate Funding Year 2021 Category 1 Application  
Mrs. Crosby provided information on the E-Rate Funding 2021 Category 1 application.

**Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education (Board) authorize the filing of E-rate Funding Year 2021 applications for eligible E-rate Category 1 Services, and that by doing do, the Board acknowledges that it will budget for sufficient funds to pay for the District's share of the services that are not supported by the E-rate Program. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 11/0.**

- **Proposal for Purchase of K-2 Devices**  
Mrs. Crosby presented a proposal for the purchase of K-2 devices.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to purchase technology devices for students in grades kindergarten through 2nd through federal CARES act Funds in an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 11/0.**

- **P.E. 11.0 FOIA – Annual Report**  
Mrs. Wendy Cartledge presented PE11.0 FOIA - Annual Report.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board accept P.E. 11, Freedom of Information Act. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

- January 5, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- January 7, 20201 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- January 19, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- January 22, 2021 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes

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

#### **Future Agenda Topics**

Mrs. Cathy Robine would like to have the third reading of the policy manual.

#### **Announcements**

Dr. Rodriguez announced that the May River High School addition ribbon-cutting will be on February 12 at 4:30 p.m.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 11/0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: February 16, 2021

David Striebinger, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

## Motion Summary

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### Action from Executive Session

The following motion was made: Madam Chair, I move we approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the January 1, 2021-January 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0. (The link to the redacted January 1, 2021 – January 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report when available).

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A motion was made that the Board direct the Chair to discuss the reclassification of the Board's Administrative Associate position with Human Resources. The motion was seconded.

An amended motion was made that the Board direct the Chair to discuss the reclassification of the Board's Administrative Associate position with Human Resources and come back to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. Earl Campbell voted against the motion.

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

A motion was made to take a day to have a work session to do a deep dive into P.E.1.1. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. Cathy Robine abstained.

A motion was made that the Board direct the Chair to compose and send another letter to Governor McMaster and Molly Spearman advocating for teachers and staff to receive the Covid-19 vaccine as soon as possible. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to purchase technology devices for students in grades kindergarten through 2nd through federal CARES act Funds in an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

**A motion was made that the Board accept P.E. 11, Freedom of Information Act. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.**

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

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