

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 16, 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.

**Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of negotiations incident to proposed architectural contract with LS3P Associates, LTP, of Charleston, for professional design services for the renovation of Hilton Head Middle School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Personnel Matter regarding employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; pursuant to SC Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0. Ingrid Boatright was 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 that the Board approve the contract and authorize the Superintendent to execute an architectural design services contract with LS3P Associates, LTP, of Charleston for the renovation of Hilton Head Island Middle School as listed in RFQ# 21-022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.**

**Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education reclassified the Board's Administrative Associate to Administrative Assistant. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 11/0.**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed for Gregg Embe, a teacher at Robert Smalls International Academy who recently passed away, and Jessica Hipp-Mercer Munyon a former Hilton Head Island teacher.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

The Beaufort High School Voices performed "Light of a Clear Blue Morning" under the direction of Forrest Star. To view the performance: [https://youtu.be/Vq\\_nGVYCCJ8](https://youtu.be/Vq_nGVYCCJ8)

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

- **Character Education Students of the Month of January**
  - Northern BCSD, Lady's Island Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, Wesley Hauff
  - Southern BCSD, May River High School – 10<sup>th</sup> grade student, Amaud Jenkins
  
- **Scholastic Art & Writing Gold Key Awards**
  - Bluffton High's Kelsey Buck for "Old Things" (Senior Art Portfolio); Nathalia Roca for "Words Build Words" (Drawing and Illustration), "Self-imprisonment" (Drawing and Illustration), and "You Are What You Say" (Painting)
  - Hilton Head High's Summer Carder for "Murky Skies" (Photography); Ellie Clark for "Wild Dream" (Photography); Katharine Crosby for "War Paint" (Photography); Brittany Ramirez for "Untitled" (Mixed Media);
  - May River High's Eve Yakhasem for "Checkerboard" (Drawing and Illustration) and "Hoop" (Painting).
  
- **Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School**

Pritchardville Elementary School named a 2021 Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School. Based on the Blue-Ribbon Schools of Excellence national assessment process, Pritchardville Elementary met the criteria for nine categories:

  - Student Focus and Support
  - School Organization and Culture
  - Challenging Standard and Curriculum
  - Active Teaching and Learning
  - Technology and Integration
  - Professional Community
  - Leadership and Education Vitality
  - School, Family, and Community Partnerships
  - Indicators of Success

### **Chairman's Report**

Dr. Gwozdz gave an update on the letter the Board sent to the Governor and State Superintendent regarding expediting vaccines for teachers, and shared information on the upcoming South Carolina School Boards Association annual conference.

### **Committee Reports**

ACE: William Smith, chair announced the new executive officers of the ACE Board and shared that ACE now has an EMS program. The next meeting will be in April.

Ad Hoc Self Evaluation Committee: Mel Campbell, chair shared the outcome of the February 8 special called meeting where the Board discussed the self-evaluation results.

Finance Committee: Richard Geier, chair gave a brief overview of the last Finance Committee meeting.

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board accept the FY2020 Audited Financial Statements for Period ending June 30, 2020 in accordance with the following; PE 3.3. Receive, process, and disburse funds using controls consistent with generally accepted accounting procedures; PE 3.4.**

**Maintain complete and accurate financial records; and PE 3.6. Ensure an annual external audit of all District and school funds and accounts by an independent auditing firm and present the results annually to the Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 11/0.**

Mrs. Crosby presented the second quarter financial report.

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the full Board accept the FY2021 Second Quarter Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2020 in accordance with PE. 3.7 Monitoring which includes PE 2.B.1 and PE 3.1 and 3.7. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the motion.**

**Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion that it is the Board's intent for the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to active employees from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates: full-time teachers and other staff- \$1,000, part-time employees working 3 to 4 days per week -\$500.00 and part-time employees working 1 to 2 days per week - \$250. Final decision on the actual amount and the timing of the payments will be made after total property tax receipts are available as of the end of March 2021. At that time the 2020-2021 General Fund expenditure budget shall be amended by no more than \$3,150,000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych.**

Mrs. Crosby presented information on the employee bonus.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to adopt the following resolution... the BCSD BOE is resolved to recognizing the contributions of our dedicated employees during these exceptional times. It is the firm intention of this assembly to provide a one-time Recognition Bonus to both full and part time staff. The final details of this bonus will be discussed after the collection of tax revenue and no later than April 20th meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion failed 3/8. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisnefski, Richard Geier, and Angela Middleton voted against the motion.**

**Mr. William Smith amended the motion that the Board direct the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to all staff members from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates: \$1,000. Final decision on the actual amount and the timing of the payments will be made after total property tax receipts are available as of the end of March 2021. At that time the 2020-2021 General Fund expenditure budget shall be amended by no more than \$3,200,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion failed 1/10. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisnefski, Richard Geier, Ingrid Boatright and Angela Middleton voted against the motion.**

**The original motion passed 9/1/1. Melvin Campbell voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the motion.**

Operations Committee: Tricia Fidrych, chair introduced the other Operations Committee members and shared that the committee met on Feb 5 and 11.

Mr. Robert Oetting provided information on a request for a driveway easement on property adjacent to Battery Creek High School.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board not accept the request for a driveway easement on Drafts Way at 54 Alexander Way. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Melvin Campbell abstained from the motion.**

Ms. Alice Walton presented a comprehensive annual human resources report comprised of the following P.E.s: P.E. 5.A.1: Employee Recruitment Report; P.E.5.A.2.3: Employee Retention Report and Employee Retention Improvement Report; P.E.5.A.4: Employee Exit Interview Report; P.E.5.A.5.6: Nepotism; P.E.5.B.4: Employee Grievances; P.E.5.C.1.2: Evaluate All Staff; P.E.5.C.3: Recognize Excellence; P.E.5.C.4: Recognize Support Staff and Teacher of the Year.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to accept P.E.5.A.1 Employee recruitment Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to accept P.E.5.4.2.3 Employee Retention Report and Retention Improvement Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.**

The annual human resources report will continue tomorrow evening, February 17, at 6 p.m.

**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 9:21 p.m.

### **February 17, 2021**

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Ms. Alice Walton continued presenting the annual human resources report.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board direct the Operations Committee to look into the feasibility of a compensation study and report its findings back to the full Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education accept P.E.5.A.4 Employee Exit Interview Report. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that P.E.5.A.5.6 Nepotism be moved to the March 2, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to accept P.E.5.B.4 Employee Grievances. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.**

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to accept P.E.5.C.1.2 Evaluate All Staff. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.**

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to accept P.E.5.C.3 Recognize Excellence. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.**

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to accept P.E.5.C.4 Recognize Support Staff and Teacher of the Year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.**

Carol Crutchfield, Planning Coordinator, presented P.E.7.9 – Review of School Boundaries (Review of CIP Book).

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the BCSD BOE direct the Superintendent to develop a plan to be presented to the BOE at the June 1, 2021 board meeting detailing the process that will be used to address excess capacity in northern Beaufort County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board of Education accept P.E. 7.9, Review of School Boundaries. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

Dr. Candace Bruder presented P.E.8.0 – Community Relations.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to accept P.E. 8.0. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.**

Mrs. Wendy Cartledge presented Administrative Regulations - OS-39 Technology Acceptable Use Policy.

Mr. Robert Oetting introduced Rob Corbin, with CBRE Herry, who presented a construction update.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Monthly Transparency Report
- Monthly \$100KReport
- Board Monthly Budget

Mrs. Crosby addressed Board questions concerning the monthly \$100KReport and the Transparency Report.

### **Other Matters**

Dr. Rodriguez provide a COVID – 19 “Coronavirus” updates. Dr. Duke Bradley shared antidotes about visits he and Dr. Rodriguez made to schools.

### **Board Business Action**

- **Discussion of Academic 2020-2021 Calendar Regarding Graduation Dates.**  
Dr. Mary Stratos presented a request to change 2021 graduation dates.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Beaufort County School District accepts the proposed 2021 academic school year graduation date changes including alternate rain dates. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 11/0.**

- **Board Policies – Third and Final Reading**

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski shared the three changes to the document that were discussed at the Policy Committee meeting on February 9.

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Board accept the Coherence Governance Manual for its Third and Final Reading. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Consent Agenda**

- February 2, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- February 8, 2021 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes

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

**Future Agenda Topics**

Mr. William Smith would like an update on mold remediation at Whale Branch Middle and Elementary.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: March 2, 2021

David Striebinger, 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 architectural contract with LS3P Associates, LTP, of Charleston, for professional design services for the renovation of Hilton Head Middle School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Personnel Matter regarding employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; pursuant to SC Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. Ingrid Boatright was absent from the vote.

### Action from Executive Session

A motion was made that the Board approve the contract and authorize the Superintendent to execute an architectural design services contract with LS3P Associates, LTP, of Charleston for the renovation of Hilton Head Island Middle School as listed in RFQ# 21-022. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.

A motion was made that the Board of Education reclassified the Board's Administrative Associate to Administrative Assistant. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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

A motion was made that the Board accept the FY2020 Audited Financial Statements for Period ending June 30, 2020 in accordance with the following; PE 3.3. Receive, process, and disburse funds using controls consistent with generally accepted accounting procedures; PE 3.4. Maintain complete and accurate financial records; and PE 3.6. Ensure an annual external audit of all District and school funds and accounts by an independent auditing firm and present the results annually to the Board. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the full Board accept the FY2021 Second Quarter Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2020 in accordance with PE. 3.7 Monitoring which includes PE 2.B.1 and PE 3.1 and 3.7. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the motion.

A motion was made that it is the Board's intent for the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to active employees from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates: full-time teachers and other staff- \$1,000, part-time employees working 3 to 4 days per week -\$500.00 and part-time employees working 1 to 2 days per week - \$250. Final decision on the actual amount and the timing of the payments will be made after total property tax receipts are available as of the end of March 2021. At that time the 2020-2021 General Fund expenditure budget shall be amended by no more than \$3,150,000. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to adopt the following resolution... the BCSD BOE is resolved to recognizing the contributions of our dedicated employees during these exceptional times. It is the firm intention of this assembly to provide a one-time Recognition Bonus to both full and part time staff. The final details of this bonus will be discussed after the collection of tax revenue and no later than April 20th meeting. The motion was seconded and failed 3/8. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisnefski, Richard Geier, and Angela Middleton voted against the motion.

**An amended motion was made that the Board direct the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to all staff members from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates: \$1,000. Final decision on the actual amount and the timing of the payments will be made after total property tax receipts are available as of the end of March 2021. At that time the 2020-2021 General Fund expenditure budget shall be amended by no more than \$3,200,000. The motion was seconded and failed 1/10. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisnefski, Richard Geier, Ingrid Boatright and Angela Middleton voted against the motion.**

**The original motion passed 9/1/1. Melvin Campbell voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the motion.**

**A motion was made that the Board not accept the request for a driveway easement on Drafts Way at 54 Alexander Way. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Melvin Campbell abstained from the motion.**

**A motion was made to accept P.E.5.A.1 Employee recruitment Report. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.**

**A motion was made to accept P.E.5.4.2.3 Employee Retention Report and Retention Improvement Report. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

### **February 17, 2021**

**A motion was made that the Board direct the Operations Committee to look into the feasibility of a compensation study and report its findings back to the full Board. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.**

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**A motion was made to accept P.E.5.B.4 Employee Grievances. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.**

**A motion was made to accept P.E.5.C.1.2 Evaluate All Staff. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.**

**A motion was made to accept P.E.5.C.3 Recognize Excellence. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.**



**A motion was made to accept P.E.5.C.4 Recognize Support Staff and Teacher of the Year. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.**

**A motion was made that the BCSD BOE direct the Superintendent to develop a plan to be presented to the BOE at the June 1, 2021 board meeting detailing the process that will be used to address excess capacity in northern Beaufort County. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

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**A motion was made to accept P.E. 8.0. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.**

**A motion was made that the Beaufort County School District accepts the proposed 2021 academic school year graduation date changes including alternate rain dates. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.**

**A motion was made that the Board accept the Coherence Governance Manual for its Third and Final Reading. 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.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

- February 2, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
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**A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.**