

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 2, 2021**  
**District Educational Services Center**

**Members Presents**

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

**Member Absent**

David Striebinger, Secretary

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); Adult Education/Home School Report; discussion of proposed contractual arrangements for School food Service pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70 (a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed IT Amendments for Referendum Projects pursuant to SC Code Ann . Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0. David Striebinger was absent from the meeting.**

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:02 p.m.

**Action from Executive Session**

**Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to exercise the USDA COVID-19 waiver and extend the food serve management contract with Sodexo for a period of one year ending June 30, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained.**

**Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for March 1, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0/1. William Smith abstained, and Richard Geier was absent from the vote.**

**Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the February 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 8/0/1. William Smith abstained, and Richard Geier was absent from the vote. (The link to the redacted February 1 – 28, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report when available.)**

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.**

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

Mossy Oaks Elementary second grader Saeria Lecor performed “Lift Every Voice and Sing” under the direction of Jordan Plair.

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

- Dr. Christina Gwozdz recognized Catherine Donaldson as the Champions for Public Education Award presented by SCSBA President Cheryl Burgess.
- School Counselors of the Year
  - Beaufort County School District’s 2021 School Counselor of the Year, Latoshia Middleton from Battery Creek High School
  - Elementary School Counselor of the Year, Latesha Jennings from Joseph Shanklin Elementary
  - Middle School Counselor of the Year, Jillian Powers from River Ridge Academy
  - Rookie School Counselor of the Year, Lisa Ditroia from Hilton Head Island High School.
- School Social Worker’s Week
- SC Football Association Palmetto Champions
  - Jayleen Reeves, Whale Branch Early College High School, A Lower State Division
  - Henry Tome, Whale Branch Early College High School, A Division

#### **Chairman’s Report**

Dr. Gwozdz gave an update on the South Carolina School Boards Association conference.

**Legislative Update**– Lynn Stokes Murray, Burr Forman & McNair, presented a legislative update.

#### **Committee Reports**

Operations Committee: Tricia Fidrych, chair led a discussion regarding PE. 5.A.5.6 Nepotism.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to accept the additional oral report of PE.5.8.6 Nepotism. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/0.**

Mrs. Fidrych shared that the committee held a special called meeting on February 23 to discuss the referendum projects labeled with yellow. Mr. Robert Oetting and Mr. Robert Corbin presented a project funding update.

Ad Hoc Bluffton Committee: Rachel Wisnefski, chair shared that the committee met on February 25 to discuss the preliminary results of survey sent to parents of students who left the district. As a result of that meeting, the committee will be speaking with ISD and the Office of Early Childhood Education at their next meeting, as well as discussing an update on the relator’s survey.

*Academic Committee:* Cathy Robine, chair had Mrs. Wendy Cartledge to presented three Administrative Regulations: AR IS:33 Adult Community Education; AR IS:60 Alternative Programs (Combining of Promising Students and Right Choices); and AR IS:16 Discipline of Students with Disabilities.

Dr. Mary Stratos presented the 2021-22 academic calendar options.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to adopt the 85/95 Academic Calendar. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/0.**

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to move the report from Riverview next on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

### **Superintendent's Report**

- Riverview Charter 2020 Annual Report

Reece Bertholf, Riverview Charter Board Chair and Sarah Cox, Interim Director presented the Riverview annual report.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to postpone agenda item 8C: TSI update until March 16 and extend the meeting until 10:30. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained.**

### Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Priority Schools Update – Mr. Freddie Lawton and Mrs. Pat Freda gave a priority schools update from each of their schools.

### Other Matters

- COVID-19 Update: Dr. Rodriguez provided two-week data on COVID-19 and shared that Governor McMaster announced today that 1B opens for vaccinations on Monday, March 8.

### **Board Business**

- Donation from Community Foundation of the Lowcountry for the purchase of Ramsey Financial Literacy Curriculum to Beaufort High School in the amount valued at \$7,000.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to accept a donation from the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry for the purchase of Ramsey Financial Literacy Curriculum to Beaufort High School in the amount valued at \$7000.00. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/0.**

- IT Amendments

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to extend the meeting to complete items 9C. IT Amendments and 10.A.B. Consent Agenda and move item 9B. Graduation Ceremony to a future agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.**

Mr. Oetting provided information on IT amendments for referendum projects.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #3 with H.G. Reynolds Construction which authorizes an increase in the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) not to exceed limit in the amount of \$737,762.77 for the revision to Technology Packages T1-T7 & general conditions expansion due to the shortened summer 2021 work schedule. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 8/0/1. Rachel Wisniewski abstained. William Smith was absent from the vote.**

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve the use of the contingency funds as presented on the March 2, 2021 referendum update not to exceed \$9,590,000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 8/0/1. Rachel Wisniewski abstained. William Smith was absent from the vote.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

- February 16, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

**Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to approve the consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 9/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.**

#### **Future Agenda Topics**

Dr. Gwozdz stated she had the following items:

- Learning Loss
- Standardizing the Reports

Colonel Richard Geier asked that Board/District culture be added to future agenda topics.

**Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: March 16, 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 Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); Adult Education/Home School Report; discussion of proposed contractual arrangements for School food Service pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70 (a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed IT Amendments for Referendum Projects pursuant to SC Code Ann . Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. David Striebinger was absent from the meeting.**

### **Action from Executive Session**

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

**A motion was made to accept the additional oral report of PE.5.8.6 Nepotism. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.**

**A motion was made to adopt the 85/95 Academic Calendar. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.**

**A motion was made to move the report from Riverview next on the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

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**A motion was made to extend the meeting to complete items 9C. IT Amendments and 10.A.B. Consent Agenda and move item 9B. Graduation Ceremony to a future agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.**

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**A motion was made to approve the consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.**

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