

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 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 5:30p.m.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of recommendation of a Construction Manager at Risk firm for the construction associated with the Hilton Head Middle School referendum funded project, RFP #21-024, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:00 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the execution of a contract award to Thompson Turner to provide Pre-Construction/Construction Phase (CM at-Risk) Services for Renovation at Hilton Head Middle School as described in RFP #21-025. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 9/0/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith abstained.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed in honor of DJ Fields and Shirley Perry, both of whom passed away earlier this month. Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance: The May River High School cast performed a number from the spring musical "Into the Woods" under the direction of Jason Snyder.

Performance: <https://youtu.be/43lmd2QFzgQ>

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

- Character Education February Students for the Month
 - Northern BCSD, Lady's Island Middle 7th grade students, Isaac Smalls
 - Southern BCSD, Hilton Head Island Middle School 7th grade student, Briana Santiago

- Foundation for Educational Excellence Peggy May Inspiration Award. Representatives from the Foundation for Educational Excellence, announced that everyone within Beaufort County School District is the recipient of the 2021 Peggy May Inspiration Award (https://youtu.be/SNO_D6Eqt6w)

Quarterly CLOC Update

Mr. Ted Barber presented the quarterly CLOC update.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Results Committee: Cathy Robine, chair stated the committee had their first meeting where they discussed the metrics that have yet to be used due to the pandemic.

Finance Committee: Richard Geier, chair stated that motions will be made first, then the discussion of each topic.

- Motion from Finance Committee to full Board the recommendation to accept the Authorization for E-Rate Year 2021.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board authorize the filing of E-rate Year 2021 applications for eligible E-rate Category 2 Services and further acknowledge that the Board will budget for sufficient funds to pay for the District's share of Service Provider invoices for these services. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Tonya Crosby presented information pertaining to the motion.

- Motion from Finance Committee to full Board the Resolution to Authorize Superintendent to Apply for, Sign and Administer Grants.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education of the Beaufort County School District authorizes the Superintendent or in the absence of the Superintendent, his/her designee, and/or the Chief Instructional Officer/Chief Financial Officer to apply for, sign, submit, and administer federal, state, local, and foundation grant applications and cooperative agreements for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Crosby presented information pertaining to the motion.

- CARES Act Presentation

Mrs. Crosby presented a summary of CARES Act funding.

- Motion from Finance Committee to full Board the acceptance of PE4.5 Minority/Women Business Enterprise Report

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board approve the Minority Women Owned Business Enterprise Report (MWBE) monitoring report according to the schedule set by the Beaufort county Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

Ms. Crosby presented information pertaining to the motion.

Operations Committee: Tricia Fidrych, chair stated that William Smith, vice chair would give the committee report. Mr. Smith shared that the committee met and received a Construction update O.E. 9 and the Maintenance Report O.E. 8. Mr. Robert Oetting presented O.E.8 (formally PE.7.5).

- Motion from Operations Committee to full board the acceptance of PE7.5 Cleaning and Maintenance Report

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Operations committee recommend to the full Board the acceptance of the Cleaning and Maintenance Report March 10, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine.

Mr. David Striebinger amended the motion to strike “operations committee recommend to the full board acceptance” and replace with “the Board accepts the Cleaning and Maintenance Report March 10, 2021”. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0.

- Construction Update
Mr. Rob Corbin, with CBRE Heery, shared a brief construction update.

Policy Committee: Rachel Wisnefski, chair said the committee met on March 9 to identify documents that would go into the Handbook at the end of the policy manual.

Superintendent’s Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- TSI Schools Update:
Dr. Mary Stratos and Mr. Daniel Fallon gave a presentation on each of the TSI schools.
 - Beaufort Elementary
 - Broad River Elementary
 - Hilton Head Island Middle
 - Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary
 - Okatie Elementary
 - Pritchardville Elementary
 - Whale Branch Elementary
 - Whale Branch Middle

Mr. William Smith made the motion that this topic be placed on a special called the work session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell.

Mr. William Smith amended the motion to have the topic of the Achievement Gap be placed on a special called work session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell.

Mr. David Striebinger amended the amended motion to have the topic of the Achievement Gap Results be placed on a Special Work Session in June 2021. The motion was seconded by Colonel Geier. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. William Smith made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. David Striebinger. The motion passed 8/3. Cathy Robine, Tricia Fidrych, and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

March 17, 2021

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

Superintendent's Report

- Goal #2 Fiscal Responsibility
 - Monthly Transparency Report
 - Monthly \$100K Report
 - Board Monthly Budget

Mrs. Crosby presented the monthly transparency, monthly \$100K, and Board monthly budget reports.

- Other Matters

Dr. Rodriguez announced schools will have a half day on March 18 due to projected intense weather.

- COVID-19 Update

Dr. Rodriguez gave an update on the pop-up vaccination sites.

Dr. Duke Bradley shared an update on extended day instruction (afterschool).

- Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Update

Dr. Rodriguez shared an update from the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, sharing that he has had several meetings with students, and he will be establishing an advisory committee made of employees and community members.

Board Business

- Approval BHS Athletic Phase 2 Referendum

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into amendment #11 with Thompson Turner Construction in the amount of \$727,588 for athletics work at Beaufort High School. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/0/1 Rachel Wisnefski abstained.

Mr. Robert Oetting and Mr. Rob Corbin with CBRE Heery provided information pertaining to the motion.

- IT Amendments Referendum

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into Amendment #8 with contract Construction in the amount of \$1,100,000 for technology infrastructure work at Whale Branch Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into Amendment #9 with Contract Construction in the amount of \$1,000,000 for technology infrastructure work at Whale Branch Middle School. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into Amendment #13 with M.B. Kahn Construction Co. Inc. in the amount of \$2,403,172 for technology infrastructure work at Bluffton Elementary School, H.E. McCracken Middle School, Hilton Head Island Elementary School, and Hilton Head School for the Creative Arts. The motion was seconded by Colonel Geier. The motion passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into Amendment #9 with Thompson Turner Construction in the amount of \$125,532.00 for technology infrastructure work at Right Choices. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into Amendment #10 with Thompson Turner Construction in the amount of \$1,974,733 for technology infrastructure work at Beaufort High. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained.

- Graduation Ceremony

Mr. William Smith began a discussion on graduation ceremonies and shared his concerns.

- Board Members and Electronic Communications

Dr. Christina Gwozdz began a discussion on Board members and the use of electronic communications during board meetings.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board refer to Policy Committee the topic Board Members and Electronic Communications for consideration of policy development. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 8/3. Melvin Campbell, William Smith and Richard Geier voted against the motion.

- Meeting Locations and Participation

Dr. Gwozdz began a discussion about Board meeting locations and participation.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Board resume its practice of holding meetings alternately between North of the Broad and South of the Broad. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

Consent Agenda

- March 2, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the consent agenda item. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mrs. Tricia Fidrych would like to hear from the Professional Advocacy Council.
- Mr. William Smith would like an update on performing arts throughout the district.
- Dr. Rachel Wisnefski would like to discuss COVID protocols for next school year.

Announcements

- Dr. Gwozdz stated that the next Board meeting is a work session on March 19 and 20 starting at 9 a.m. with public comment.

- Dr. Rodriguez reminded everyone that tomorrow is half day due to inclement weather.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: April 6, 2021

David Striebinger, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

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An amended motion was made to amend the previous motion to have the topic of the Achievement Gap Results be placed on a Special Work Session in June 2021. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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Consent Agenda

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