

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
April 6, 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 4:30pm.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; discussion of 2021-2022 employment recommendations pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Beaufort High School Weight Room and Wrestling Room Amendment to Thompson Turner contract pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of student discipline matters pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1) and SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4). 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 6:01 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the March 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion. (The link to the redacted March 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report when available).

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of one (1) Induction Contract employees not be renewed for the 2021-22 school year, pursuant to Section 59-26-40 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the motion.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to conditionally accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the contracts of four (4) Annual Contract employees not be renewed for the 2021-22 school year, subject to the employee's appeal rights pursuant to Section 59-26-40 of the South Carolina Code of

Laws. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the motion.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to conditionally accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of one (1) Continuing Contract employee not be renewed for the 2021-22 school year, subject to the Board's duty to review the matter on the merits in a hearing pursuant to South Carolina law. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the motion.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #12 with Thompson Turner Construction which authorizes a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) not to exceed limit of \$2,872,558.00 for Beaufort High School Phase 2B Athletic Scope. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 8/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for the renewal of certified employees for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski 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 for Chase Goude, a 2010 Battery Creek School graduate and nephew of Port Royal Elementary Principal Vicki Goude, who recently passed away in a fire.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

The Head Island Middle School band and percussion student showcase performed under the direction of James Waechter.

Public Comment

- Terry Dais-Pasley spoke about District 3 Board member's embarrassing conduct and his disrespect toward other Board members.

Chairman's Report

Dr. Gwozdz announced that the Beaufort High School track has been named after and dedicated to Coach Herbert Glaze.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Bluffton Committee: Rachel Wisnefski, chair shared the committee met on March 25 and discussed the survey for realtors that will be going out. The committee reached out to Bluffton Town Council and will be attending the April 22 committee meeting. Dr. Wisnefski encouraged BOE members to attend the meeting if possible. The committee also discussed early childhood learning and would like to receive a legislative update to additional funding for early childhood in Beaufort County.

Ad Hoc Self Evaluation Committee: Mel Campbell, chair shared the committee met on March 23 and April 5. The committee reviewed the qualitative and quantitative data the Board received after the

evaluation was done. The committee is reviewing the data and will bring back suggestions on the next steps with working on the areas that were scored low on the evaluation.

Academic Committee : Cathy Robine, chair stated that she would make a motion first then the presentation will be made on the local Board approved courses.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Board approve the Local Board Approved Courses for the 2020-2021 school year as required by the State Department of Education and presented on April 6, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Dr. Mary Stratos presented the local Board approved courses.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Board approve the Beaufort County School District 2021-2022 Strategic Plan update as required by the State Department of Education and presented on April 6, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Dr. Stratos and Carmen Dillard, presented updates to the 2021-2022 Strategic Plan.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- School Renewal Plan Update
Dr. Stratos, Mrs. Dillard, and Mrs. Geri Henderson, presented an update on the school renewal plan.
- Collaboration with Head Start Update
Mrs. Wendy Cartledge and Mrs. Ashley Hutchison provided an update on the collaboration with Head Start.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Risk Assessment 2019-2020
Mrs. Tonya Crosby presented the 2019-2020 Risk Assessment.

Other Matters

- COVID-19 Update
Dr. Rodriguez shared that Beaufort Memorial Hospital provided over 600 vaccines at pop-up clinics at Battery Creek High School and Bluffton Elementary School, Hilton Head Hospital provided over 200 vaccines. Dr. Rodriguez shared current Covid data within the school district.

Dr. Rodriguez announced that Red Cedar Elementary School broke the Guinness Record for most cereal boxes tipped over. More than 6,000 cereal boxes will be donated to Bluffton Self Help. He thanked Andrew Davis for the media coverage, which went viral.

Board Business

- Referendum Bond Resolution \$130,000,000
Mrs. Crosby presented information on the referendum bond resolution of \$130,000,000.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$130,000,000 general obligation bonds, series, 2021A, or such other appropriate series designation, of the School District of Beaufort County, South

Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; delegating to the Superintendent or his lawfully authorized designee the authority to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

- SCAGO Bond Resolution \$4,000,000
Mrs. Crosby presented information on the SCAGO bond resolution of \$4,000,000.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$4,000,000 general obligation bonds, in one or more series, in one or more years, with appropriate series designations, including a tax-exempt series and a taxable series, if appropriate, of the School District of Beaufort County, South Carolina; authorizing the South Carolina Association of Governmental Organizations to facilitate the sale of the bonds under its general obligation debt program; prescribing the terms and conditions under which the bonds may be issued; authorizing the Superintendent of the School District to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

- Board approval to have follow-up meeting with representatives from BOE and County Council to discuss items of mutual interest to both groups.

Dr. Gwozdz provided background on the previous Board/County Council meeting.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Board approve a follow-up meeting with representatives from BOE and County Council to discuss mutual item to both groups. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

- Board Culture and Interpersonal Relations Meeting

Colonel Richard Geier shared that he met with Mrs. Cartledge to discuss hosting a Board culture and interpersonal relations meeting.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board conduct a Board Culture and Interpersonal relations meeting in August of 2021. Details will be published within thirty days. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

- Board/SIC Joint Meeting Proposed Date

Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion that the Board approve April 29, 2021 as the Joint Board/SIC Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 9/0/1. Tricia Fidrych abstained from the vote.

- Update on Board Meetings held South of the Broad

Mrs. Robyn Cushingberry, gave an update on possible locations for Board meetings held south of the Broad, including the Hilton Head Island High Performing Arts Center and the gym at Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts. Mrs. Cushingberry and Board members will tour USCB's new Hilton Head campus as a possible location as well.

Consent Agenda

- March 16, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- March 19-20, 2021 Board Work Session

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda items. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 10/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Dr. Wisnefski would like to discuss disciplinary matrix.
- Mrs. Tricia Fidrych would like and update on TIFs; the efforts of the Grant Writer and impact fees.
- Mr. William Smith would like an update on the arts programs in BCSD.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: April 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; discussion of 2021-2022 employment recommendations pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Beaufort High School Weight Room and Wrestling Room Amendment to Thompson Turner contract pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of student discipline matters pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1) and SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4). The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. David Striebinger was absent from the meeting.

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A motion was made to conditionally accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the contracts of four (4) Annual Contract employees not be renewed for the 2021-22 school year, subject to the employee's appeal rights pursuant to Section 59-26-40 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the motion.

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A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #12 with Thompson Turner Construction which authorizes a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) not to exceed limit of \$2,872,558.00 for Beaufort High School Phase 2B Athletic Scope. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for the renewal of certified employees for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion was seconded and passed 8/02. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

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

A motion was made that the Board approve the Local Board Approved Courses for the 2020-2021 school year as required by the State Department of Education and presented on April 6, 2021. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made that the Board approve the Beaufort County School District 2021-2022 Strategic Plan update as required by the State Department of Education and presented on April 6, 2021. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$130,000,000 general obligation bonds, series, 2021A, or such other appropriate series designation, of the School District of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; delegating to the Superintendent or his lawfully authorized designee the authority to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$4,000,000 general obligation bonds, in one or more series, in one or more years, with appropriate series designations, including a tax-exempt series and a taxable series, if appropriate, of the School District of Beaufort County, South Carolina; authorizing the South Carolina Association of Governmental Organizations to facilitate the sale of the bonds under its general obligation debt program; prescribing the terms and conditions under which the bonds may be issued; authorizing the Superintendent of the School District to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board approve a follow-up meeting with representatives from BOE and County Council to discuss mutual item to both groups. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made motion that the Board conduct a Board Culture and Interpersonal relations meeting in August of 2021. Details will be published within thirty days. The motion was seconded and passed 9/01. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board approve April 29, 2021 as the Joint Board/SIC Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Tricia Fidrych abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda items. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

Consent Agenda

- March 16, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
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A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.