

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 20, 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 6:00 p.m.

**Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 10/0. Cathy Robine was absent from the vote.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

The Hilton Head Island High School cast of Matilda the Musical performed “Bruce” under the direction of Kimberly Guinn. <https://youtu.be/syVeStyZsgI>

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

- Character Education Students for the Month of March
  - Northern BCSD, Mossy Oaks Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> grade student, Khristopher Ford
  - Southern BCSD, Pritchardville Elementary School 1<sup>st</sup> grade student, Luke Lowry
- Hilton Head HS Palmetto Dramatic Association & SC International Thespian society 2021 Awards
- Red Cedar Guinness World Record

**Chairman’s Report**

Dr. Christina Gwozdz gave an update on SCSBA Officer/Board Nominations, 2021-22 Proposed Legislative Resolutions and SCSBA Proposed Constitution Changes.

**Committee Reports**

*Ad Hoc Self Evaluation Committee:* Mel Campbell, chair shared that the committee met to create an instrument to continue to evaluate the Board.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Ad Hoc Self Evaluation Committee recommends to the full Board that the Board agree to complete the Self Evaluation Form as presented once a month. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.**

Ad Hoc Results Committee: Cathy Robine, chair shared that the committee is working with Daniel Fallon and Dr. Rodriguez on a proposal on achievement data. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5.

Finance Committee: Richard Geier presented information on fiscal autonomy.

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the full Board direct the Superintendent to work with legal counsel to draft a proposed ordinance regarding fiscal autonomy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

Attorney Bick Halligan, of Halligan Mahoney and Williams law firm provided a history on the school district and County Council.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility**

- Monthly Transparency Report, \$100K Report, and Board Budget  
Mrs. Tonya Crosby answered questions concerning the monthly transparency report, monthly \$100K report, and Board monthly budget.
- COVID 19 - Coronavirus Update  
Dr. Rodriguez gave an update on the two-week active window of students and teachers. Dr. Bradley Dr. Rodriguez addressed questions regarding the mask requirements and the number of guests allowed at high school graduations.
- Update on Performing Arts District Wide  
Dr. Mary Stratos presented an update on the performing arts in the district.
- Update on Grant Writer  
Dr. Stratos provided information on the grant writing vendor and announced that the school district has received a \$12.8 million Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant to develop *Med-Tech 7*, an evidence-based, whole-school STEAM arts-integrated magnet program designed for the Beaufort and Whale Branch clusters.

### **Board Business**

- Employee Bonuses  
Mrs. Crosby provided information about employee bonuses and the budget.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize 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 an average of:**

**5 days per week - \$1,000**

**4 days per week - \$800**

**3 days per week - \$600**

**2 days per week - \$400, and**

**1 day per week - \$200**

**Average days per week will be calculated for the time frame from 2/20/2021 to 4/16/2021.**

The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed \$3.2 million. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to postpone this vote until the April 23rd Work Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. David Striebinger. The motion failed 1/10. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisnefski, William Smith, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

Mr. David Striebinger made a second amended motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to currently active employees. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made an amended motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to active employees, defined as any employee actively employed 120 days of the 2020-2021 school year from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates:

- \* full-time teachers and other staff - \$1,000,
- \* part-time employees working an average of:
  - 5 days per week - \$1,000
  - 4 days per week - \$800
  - 3 days per week - \$600
  - 2 days per week - \$400, and
  - 1 day per week - \$200

Average days per week will be calculated for the time frame from 2/20/2021 to 4/16/2021. The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed \$3.2 million. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/1. Mr. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych withdrew the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to currently active employees who have been determined to be active for 120 days during the 2020-2021 school year from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates:

- \* full-time teachers and other staff - \$1,000,
- \* part-time employees working an average of:
  - 5 days per week - \$1,000
  - 4 days per week - \$800
  - 3 days per week - \$600
  - 2 days per week - \$400, and
  - 1 day per week - \$200

Average days per week will be calculated for the time frame from 2/20/2021 to 4/16/2021. The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed 3.2million. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mr. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to extend the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

**Mr. William Smith made the motion to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion failed 5/5/1. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, Cathy Robine, Richard Geier and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to current active employees who have determined to have worked a minimum of 120 days from the 2021 General Fund operating budget at the following rates:**

**\* full-time teachers and other staff - \$1,000.**

**The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed 3.2million. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

Mrs. Crosby will present a recommendation for part-time employees at the Budget Work Session on Friday, April 23.

- Employee Step Increases  
Mrs. Crosby presented information on Employee Step Increases.

**Mr. William Smith made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a lump sum step increase to all eligible employees from the General Fund operating budget. The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the step increases. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 11/0.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

April 6, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 10/0/1. David Striebinger abstained from the vote.**

#### **Future Agenda Topics**

- Mrs. Ingrid Boatright would like to revisit how the Board handles adjournment.

#### **Announcements**

Dr. Gwozdz announced there will be a joint Board/SIC meeting via Zoom on April 29 at 6 p.m.

**Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.**

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: May 18, 2021

David Striebinger, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

## Motion Summary

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. Cathy Robine was absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the Ad Hoc Self Evaluation Committee recommends to the full Board that the Board agree to complete the Self Evaluation Form as presented once a month. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the full Board direct the Superintendent to work with legal counsel to draft a proposed ordinance regarding fiscal autonomy. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize 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 an average of:
  - 5 days per week - \$1,000
  - 4 days per week - \$800
  - 3 days per week - \$600
  - 2 days per week - \$400, and
  - 1 day per week - \$200

Average days per week will be calculated for the time frame from 2/20/2021 to 4/16/2021.

The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed \$3.2 million. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to postpone this vote until the April 23rd Work Session. The motion was seconded and failed 1/10. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisnefski, William Smith, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

A second amended motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to currently active employees. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

An amended motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to active employees, defined as any employee actively employed 120 days of the 2020-2021 school year from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates:

- \* full-time teachers and other staff - \$1,000,
- \* part-time employees working an average of:
  - 5 days per week - \$1,000
  - 4 days per week - \$800
  - 3 days per week - \$600
  - 2 days per week - \$400, and
  - 1 day per week - \$200

Average days per week will be calculated for the time frame from 2/20/2021 to 4/16/2021. The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed \$3.2 million. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. Mr. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to withdraw the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to currently active employees who have been determined to be active for 120 days during the 2020-2021 school year from the General Fund operating budget at the following rates:

- \* full-time teachers and other staff - \$1,000,
- \* part-time employees working an average of:
  - 5 days per week - \$1,000
  - 4 days per week - \$800
  - 3 days per week - \$600
  - 2 days per week - \$400, and
  - 1 day per week - \$200

Average days per week will be calculated for the time frame from 2/20/2021 to 4/16/2021. The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed 3.2million. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to extend the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m. The motion was seconded and failed 5/5/1. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, Cathy Robine, Richard Geier and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to current active employees who have determined to have worked a minimum of 120 days from the 2021 General Fund operating budget at the following rates:

- \* full-time teachers and other staff - \$1,000.

The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses and the total amount will not exceed 3.2million. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a lump sum step increase to all eligible employees from the General Fund operating budget. The Board of Education approves the budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the step increases. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. David Striebinger abstained from the vote.

#### **Consent Agenda**

April 6, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

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