

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2021
District Educational Services Center
Hybrid Meeting

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	

Member Absent

Rachel Wisnefski (arrived at 9:00pm for the Second Executive Session)

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 4:45p.m.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment matter re: personnel ratification report; discussion of 2021 employment recommendations pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Battery Creek High School for Early Steel and Laboratory Case Work Package Amendment #1 to MB Kahn Construction contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Bluffton High School Athletic Scope Amendment #3 to Jumper Carter Sease Architects contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Bluffton High School Athletic project scope (turf field) Amendment #22 to M.B. Kahn Construction contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Bluffton High School HVAC Amendment #20 to M.B. Kahn Construction contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Whale Branch Elementary School HVAC Amendments #11 and #12 to Contract Construction pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0. (Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the meeting).

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:01 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the April 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 10/0. [\(The link to the redacted April 1, 2021 – April 30, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report.\)](#)

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #1 with M.B. Kahn Construction for an early steel and lab casework package at Battery Creek High School in the amount of \$935,509. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/0.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #3 with Jumper Carter Sease Architects which authorizes an amount of \$668,011 for Bluffton High School referendum projects. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #22 with M.B. Kahn Construction for the turf field at Bluffton High School which authorizes an amount of \$1,385,593. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #20 with M.B. Kahn Construction for HVAC work at Bluffton High School in the amount of \$976,838. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/0.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendments 11 & 12, which total \$552,717 with Contract Construction. Amendment 11 is for mechanical work associated with HVAC upgrades in the amount of \$299,777. Amendment 12 is for façade and electrical work associated with HVAC upgrades in the amount of \$252,940. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board approve the agenda and waive Board Policy GC-2.11.d.17 Adjournment and extend the meeting past 9:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

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

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance: Robert "Vince" Mathison, fourth- grader at Hilton Head Island Elementary School, reciting his poem titled Where I'm From.

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

- **Continental Math League Competition** - Austin Fillmore, a fourth grader at Bluffton Elementary School. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rN6ObuEkSHM>
- **WordMasters Challenge perfect Scores** - Red Cedar fourth graders and Okatie Elementary third graders scored a perfect 200 points, both placing first in the nation. Other outstanding performances included an eighth-grade team from River Ridge Academy (team score of 198 points) and a fourth-grade team from Bluffton Elementary School that placed tenth in its division.

Red Cedar fifth-graders Giada Carge and Chelsea Salas each earned a perfect score of 20 in the second meet of the year. Coosa Elementary fourth-grader Ryan Allen also earned a perfect score of 20 on the challenge. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-qbADWngy4>

- **Staff Appreciation**

Dr. Rodriguez acknowledged and thanked staff, specifically principals, teachers, bus drivers, and nurses. This past Saturday, May 1, was Principal's day. This week is Teacher's Appreciation Week. We also celebrate our bus drivers this week, and Wednesday, May 12 is School Nurse's Day.

Dr. Rodriguez thanked principals, teachers, nurses, and staff for their instrumental work in keeping schools safe and thank the technology team for their support in instructional delivery.

He also mentioned this Friday, May 7, is School Communicators Day. Thanks to Dr. Bruder, the Communications Director, and her team whose expertise and value highlight the work of the school's students and staff.

- **HHS School Improvement Council Award of Merit** - Hilton Head Island High School's School Improvement Council was named the recipient of SC-SIC's fourth annual Award of Merit for SIC Report to the Parents Excellence.

Public Comment

- Kerri Cooke, and Stephanie Tebrake spoke highly of a Hilton Head Island High School teacher Mr. Jonathan Johns.

Legislative Update

Ms. Lynn Stokes-Murray, the Lobbyist provided an update.

Committee Reports

Academic Committee: Cathy Robine, chair shared that the committee met, and had the Instructional Services staff present the updates to Administrative Regulations IS-30 Summer School and IS-48 Promotion, Retention, & Acceleration of Students to the full Board that was shared at the committee meeting.

Ad Hoc Bluffton Committee: Richard Geier, shared that the committee met with Bluffton Mayor, Lisa Sulka, and with the Town of Bluffton staff member Heather Collins. Carol Crutchfield presented information on growth in the Bluffton area.

Operations Committee: Tricia Fidrych, chair shared that the committee met on April 21st. Ms. Alice Walton and staff discussed the idea of a compensation study. The committee met on April 27th and presented OE.16 FOIA, which is discussed under Board business. The committee also met again on May 5th. With Mr. Rob Corbin, CBRE Heery Referendum Project Manager, who presented an update on the referendum and 8% capital projects.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Progress Monitoring/Performance Matters
Dr. Rodriguez and Mr. Daniel Fallon presented on building a balanced assessment system.

Goal #2 Highly Qualified Teachers and Administrators

- BCSDPAC
Karen McKenzie, representing the Professional Advocacy Council (PAC), presented the PAC's two initiatives for the upcoming school year.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board go into Executive Session to receive legal advice related to a matter covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

The Board adjourned to the second half of Executive Session at 8:57 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Dr Gwozdz called the meeting back into open session at 9:50.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Board retain Andrea White to advise the Board regarding a legal matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.

Mr. William Smith made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisniewski. The motion passed 10/0. David Striebinger was absent from the vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

May 5, 2021

Member Absent

David Striebinger, Secretary

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

Superintendent's Report

- COVID-19 Update:
Dr. Duke Bradley spoke about the mask requirement the district must follow per the State Department of Education. He then shared COVID data.

Board Business

- Rescind the full-time employee bonus motion made on April 20, 2021, and propose a new motion to provide an employee bonus to all full-time active District employees.

Mrs. Tonya Crosby presented information on the employee bonus to all full-time active District employees.

Dr. Rachel Wisniewski made the motion to rescind the full-time employee bonus motion made on April 20, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Colonel Richard Geier 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 employed as of October 23, 2020 - \$1,000, and
* all other full-time employees hired after October 23rd on a proportionate basis with the number of days worked in the 2020-2021 school year. 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 Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.**

- Approval of OE-16 1st Quarter FOIA Report
Mrs. Wendy Cartledge presented the 1st Quarter FOIA Report.

Mr. William Smith made the motion to accept OE-16 1st Quarter FOIA Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/0.

Consent Agenda

- April 23, 2021 Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the consent agenda of Board meeting minutes - April 23, 2021 Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 10/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Colonel Richard Geier would like to report on board culture meeting options.
- Mr. William Smith would like to address Board technology.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____

Date: June 1, 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 employment recommendations pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Battery Creek High School for Early Steel and Laboratory Case Work Package Amendment #1 to MB Kahn Construction contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Bluffton High School Athletic Scope Amendment #3 to Jumper Carter Sease Architects contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Bluffton High School Athletic project scope (turf field) Amendment #22 to M.B. Kahn Construction contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Bluffton High School HVAC Amendment #20 to M.B. Kahn Construction contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Whale Branch Elementary School HVAC Amendments #11 and #12 to Contract Construction pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. (Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the meeting).

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A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #3 with Jumper Carter Sease Architects which authorizes an amount of \$668,011 for Bluffton High School referendum projects. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

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Action from Executive Session

A motion was made that the Board retain Andrea White to advise the Board regarding a legal matter. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. David Striebinger was absent from the vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

May 5, 2021

Member Absent

David Striebinger, Secretary

A motion was made to rescind the full-time employee bonus motion made on April 20, 2021. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made 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:

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- * all other full-time employees hired after October 23rd on a proportionate basis with the number of days worked in the 2020-2021 school year. 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 10/0.

A motion was made to accept OE-16 1st Quarter FOIA Report. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda of Board meeting minutes - April 23, 2021 Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

Consent Agenda

- April 23, 2021 Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes