

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 18, 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	Rachel Wisnefski

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

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice related to a matter covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); information relating to security plans pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-20(c); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Battery Creek High School renovation work, Guarantee maximum Price (GMP), Amendment #2 to MB Kahn Construction contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Hilton Head High School Athletic project scope (turf field and track resurfacing), Amendment #6 to H.G. Reynolds Company contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Beaufort High School HVAC Work, Amendment #19 to Thompson Turner contract pursuant to S.C. Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/0. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

Action from Executive Session

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

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendments #2 with MB Kahn Construction for Battery Creek High School Renovation Work for a Guarantee Maximum Price in the amount of \$49,528,741. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #6 with H.G. Reynolds Construction for the turf field and track resurfacing at Hilton Head Island High School which authorizes an amount of \$1,560,885. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda with the removal of agenda item "Lowcountry Education Consortium (Virtual Programming) under Board Business. 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.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance: Mrs. Cuylear's 3rd grade class at Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary performing "Shake My Maracas" under the direction of the music teacher Mrs. Karen Jordan. Shanklin Elementary's principal, Elizabeth Rivera, introduced the performance. <https://youtu.be/uLc03V-aNhE>

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

- Character Education Students for the Month of April
 - Northern BCSD, Robert Smalls International Academy, sixth grade student, Kaleb Rodriguez.
 - Southern BCSD, Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts, second grade student, Claire George

Chairman's Report

Dr. Gwozdz discussed the BOE legislative proposals/agenda for the 2022 legislative session and reported on the joint meeting with County Council that took place on May 13, 2021. The meeting topics covered were: Fiscal Autonomy (for the School District's budget and tax rate), the FY2021-2022 School District Budget, Impact Fees, Lobecko Branch Library/Head Start property and the Security Fee for Hilton Head Police Services. She said County Council is not opposed to fiscal autonomy and suggested the Board pursue that through the local delegation. Dr. Gwozdz has already contacted her local representative and encouraged other board members to do the same.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Results Committee: Cathy Robine, chair shared the next meeting is June 2 at 11 a.m.

Finance Committee : Richard Geier, chair shared that the committee discussed the FY2021 3rd Quarter Financial Report. Mrs. Tonya Crosby presented the 3rd Quarter report to the full Board. She also gave an update on the OE development progress.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board approve the current FY2021 3rd Quarter Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0/1. Christina Gwozdz abstained from the motion.

Operations Committee: Tricia Fidrych, chair stated that the committee met several times to discuss the 8% projects. Mr. Robert Oetting and Mrs. Crosby addressed the Board's questions.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the FY2023 8% Capital Projects list as presented in the amount of \$21,265,980.

Funding shall come from the following sources:

(1) \$20,000,000 from 8% capital bonds,

(2) \$493,106 in FY 2016 & Fy2017 completed 8% capital funds, and

(3) \$772,874 of ESSER II funds for Whale Branch Elementary & Whale Branch Middle School mold remediation projects.

Additionally, E-Rate reimbursements in the amount of \$1,600,000 will be used to supplement the FY2023 network electronic projects. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mr. Oetting presented a construction update.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych also shared that the committee had a presentation from Ms. Alice Walton on the compensation study.

Policy Committee: Rachel Wisnefski, chair shared that the committee reviewed the suggested policy by the SCSBA about electronic use by Board members during meetings and suggested adding it to the Board handbook.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Monthly Transparency Report
- Monthly \$100K Report
- Board Monthly Budget

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

Other Matters

- COVID – 19 "Coronavirus" Update
Dr. Rodriguez clarified the policy on masking in schools, and that the DHEC form is a requirement from DHEC, not the school district.

Board Business

- 2021-2022 Budget Certification-General Fund
Mrs. Crosby presented the budget.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$274,274,600 with an operations millage rate of 121.6. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/3. David Striebinger, Rachel Wisnefski, and William Smith voted against the motion.

- 2021-2022 Budget Certification – Debt Service Fund

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Debt Service Fund Budget in the amount of \$75,304,947 with a debt millage rate of 36.3. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

- State Waiver for Virtual Programming

Dr. Mary Stratos presented information on the state waiver for a virtual program.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Beaufort County School District Board of Education directs the Superintendent, Dr. Frank Rodriguez, to submit a waiver request to the South Carolina Department of Education in support of Beaufort County implementation of a virtual program. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to end the debate. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 8/3. David Striebinger, Rachel Wisnefski, and William Smith voted against the motion.

Original motion that the Beaufort County School District Board of Education directs the Superintendent, Dr. Frank Rodriguez, to submit a waiver request to the South Carolina Department of Education in support of Beaufort County implementation of a virtual program passed 9/2. Earl Campbell and William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to continue the meeting to finish the agenda items. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to reschedule the Beaufort County Board of Education Business Meeting of June 15, 2021 to June 29, 2021 due to graduations and rain make up dates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell.

Mr. William Smith made an amended motion to change meeting date to June 22, 2021 if it doesn't rain as the alternate board meeting date. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion failed 4/7. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Tricia Fidrych, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

Original motion to reschedule the Beaufort County Board of Education Business Meeting of June 15, 2021 to June 29, 2021 due to graduations and rain make up dates passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

- **Board Culture Workshop**
Colonel Richard Geier gave an update on the Board Culture Workshop, stating that he recommends postponing the workshop until there is a consensus on the date.
- **Technology devices for Board members**
Mr. William Smith made the motion to postpone this item until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.

Consent Agenda

- April 20, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- April 29, 2021 Joint BOE/SIC Board Meeting Minutes

Announcements

Mr. Mel Campbell reminded Board members to take the Board survey.

The Board went back into Executive Session to finish the Executive Session items at 9:23p.m.

Action from Executive Session

The Board return into open session at 9:42p.m.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #19 with Thompson Turner Construction for HVAC work at Beaufort High School in the amount of \$1,245,048. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 8/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote. David Striebinger and William Smith were absent from the vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy)

David Striebinger, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Date: June 1, 2021

Motion Summary

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice related to a matter covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); information relating to security plans pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-20(c); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Battery Creek High School renovation work, Guarantee maximum Price (GMP), Amendment #2 to MB Kahn Construction contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Hilton Head High School Athletic project scope (turf field and track resurfacing), Amendment #6 to H.G. Reynolds Company contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Beaufort High School HVAC Work, Amendment #19 to Thompson Turner contract pursuant to S.C. Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion seconded and passed 10/0. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

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A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #6 with H.G. Reynolds Construction for the turf field and track resurfacing at Hilton Head Island High School which authorizes an amount of \$1,560,885. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.

A motion was made to approve the agenda with the removal of agenda item "Lowcountry Education Consortium (Virtual Programming) under Board Business. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board approve the current FY2021 3rd Quarter Financial Report. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. Christina Gwozdz abstained from the motion.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the FY2023 8% Capital Projects list as presented in the amount of \$21,265,980.

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Additionally, E-Rate reimbursements in the amount of \$1,600,000 will be used to supplement the FY2023 network electronic projects. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

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A motion was made that the Beaufort County School District Board of Education directs the Superintendent, Dr. Frank Rodriguez, to submit a waiver request to the South Carolina Department of Education in support of Beaufort County implementation of a virtual program. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to end the debate. The motion was seconded and passed 8/3. David Striebinger, Rachel Wisnefski, and William Smith voted against the motion.

Original motion that the Beaufort County School District Board of Education directs the Superintendent, Dr. Frank Rodriguez, to submit a waiver request to the South Carolina Department of Education in support of Beaufort County implementation of a virtual program passed 9/2. Earl Campbell and William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to continue the meeting to finish the agenda items. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to reschedule the Beaufort County Board of Education Business Meeting of June 15, 2021 to June 29, 2021 due to graduations and rain make up dates. The motion was seconded.

An amended motion was made to change meeting date to June 22, 2021 if it doesn't rain as the alternate board meeting date. The motion was seconded and failed 4/7. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Tricia Fidrych, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

Original motion to reschedule the Beaufort County Board of Education Business Meeting of June 15, 2021 to June 29, 2021 due to graduations and rain make up dates passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to postpone this item (discussion of Technology devices for Board members) until the next meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.

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