

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2021
District Educational Services Center
Hybrid Meeting

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 4:30p.m.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); Adult Education/Home School Report; Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements for Property and Casualty Insurance Brokerage Services pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements for Financial Advisory Services pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Lady's Island Elementary School, Phase 1 IT Scope, Painting, and Playgrounds, Amendment #8 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 Middle School, Phase 1 IT Scope and Phase Athletic Scope, Amendment #9 to H.G. Reynolds Company contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Coosa Elementary School, Phase 1 IT Scope, Amendment #21 to Thompson Turner contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Broad River Elementary School Phase 1 IT Scope Amendment #22 to Thompson Turner contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/0. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote. David Striebinger was absent from the meeting.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:02 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the May 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0. [\(The link to the redacted May 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report.\)](#)

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to approve the Monthly Adult Education/ Home Schooling Report June 2, 2021 Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the negotiation of a contract between Beaufort County School District and Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc, to provide property and casualty insurance services for Beaufort County School District. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 9/0/1. Cathy Robine abstained from the motion.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board of Education exempt Financial Advisory Services from the purchasing procedures required in the Beaufort County School District Procurement Code for a period of one year and a request for information be issued. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 8/0/2. William Smith and Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 9/0. Melvin Campbell 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.

Student Performance: The Year of the Mask: Teaching Theater in a Hybrid at Beaufort High School with an introduction by Beaufort High drama teacher LaRaine Fess.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1cKpc8afre>

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

- **Teachers of the Year and Support Staff of the Year recognitions**

The 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year for the following schools are:

Adult Education: TOY: Dr. Otis Smith, SOY: Jill Maclaughlin
Battery Creek High: TOY: Aimee Whitesell, SOY: Diane Murray
Beaufort Elementary: TOY: Julia Hill, SOY: Cathy Power
Beaufort High: TOY: Hillary Savarese, SOY: Terry Rawlins
Beaufort/Jasper Academy for Career Excellence: TOY: Shateria Nunley, SOY: Kim Wooden
Beaufort Middle: TOY: Amanda Trimpey, SOY: Mary Winburn
Bluffton Elementary and ECC: TOY: Celia Miller, SOY: Linda Graves
Bluffton High: TOY: Amy Waddell, SOY: Cheryl George
Bluffton Middle: TOY: Corry Thompson, SOY: Kimberly Millard
Broad River Elementary: TOY: William Gallagher, SOY: Doreen Fields-Hall
Coosa Elementary: TOY: Elizabeth Simonis, SOY: Nichelle Mcewen -Tyson
H.E. McCracken Middle: TOY: Lynne Sunday, SOY: Desiree Ryan
Hilton Head Early Childhood Center: TOY: Donna Miller, SOY: Dana Stewart
Hilton Head Island High: TOY: Oana Bejan, SOY: Christopher Sykes

Hilton Head Island IB Elementary: TOY: Terri Foy, SOY: Bernadette Mouzon
Hilton Head Island Middle: TOY: Ann Buckley, SOY: Amy Keber
Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts: TOY: Erin Richter, SOY: Aurora Flores
Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary: TOY: Jasmine Cuylear, SOY: Buffy Martin
Lady's Island Elementary: TOY: Kelly Breit, SOY: Rebecca Kreps
Lady's Island Middle: TOY: Natarsha Glover, SOY: Emanuel Vince Dore
May River High: TOY: Laurel Hennessey, SOY: Kelly Minasi
Michael C. Riley Elementary: TOY: Darren Weingart, SOY: Deborah Monroe
Mossy Oaks Elementary: TOY: Christopher Crabb, SOY: Arinethia Ferguson
Okatie Elementary: TOY: DJ Wilson, SOY: Christel Valentino
Port Royal Elementary: TOY: Maura Krepps, SOY: Regina Johnson
Pritchardville Elementary: TOY: Malinda Kennedy, SOY: Leslie Mildish
Red Cedar Elementary: TOY: Nathan Kooi, SOY: Bethany Byrne
Right Choices: SOY: Donna Wermann
River Ridge Academy: TOY: Stacie Gleva, SOY: Meredith Larsen
Robert Smalls International Academy: TOY: Christy Smith-McCullough, SOY: Erick Alston
St. Helena Island Elementary: TOY: Marie E. Murray, SOY: Carmen Bultron-Griffith
Whale Branch Early College High: TOY: Hannah Stevenson, SOY: Jissie Simmons
Whale Branch Elementary/Davis ECC: TOY: Erica Parker, SOY: Roberta Mullen
Whale Branch Middle: TOY: Angela Roberts, SOY: Holly Mehrer
Transportation Department: SOY: Richard O'Connell
Office of Early Childhood Education: SOY: Mary Beth Christensen
District Office: Brandy Majors

- **Junior and Senior Scholars**

Our junior scholars this year, by school are:

Beaufort Middle: Emma Hamilton, Niam Perkins, Mary Ruff, and Ava Walker.

Bluffton Middle: Keagan Claffy, Mackenzie Cofall, James Holloman, Jakub Hosso, Mia Lopez Huerta, Elisabeth Mullen, Juan Ramirez, and Brandon Solorza.

H.E. McCracken Middle: Reagan Allinder, Tyrell Calloway, Isabella Campigotto, Joshua Carachure, Oscar Conley, Jayden Dimsey, Cassandra Griswold, Patrick Hays, Grant Hughes, Braeden Mancini, Alan Marshall, Jonah Nieves, Reyli Onate, Michael Riggs, Jacob Riley, Hailey Shupard, Alexandria Smith, Israel Smith, Brianne Stubbs, Benjamin Vaught, Nathan Vu, and Vivian Zurakowski.

Hilton Head Island Middle: Bryce Broome, Calvin Clayton, John Coley, Jack Fielding, Lilly Friday, Carmine Genovese, Josiah Gilman, Nathaniel Greenberg, Jacob Hadley, Kevin Hernandez, Warren Hollingsworth, Leah Jackson, Andrew Jeffrey, Nicholas Korneluk, Jack Linkimer, Alexia Milbrandt, Wyatt Norman, Taylan Olcer, Matthew Perdue, Caleb Spangler, and Jessica Staigar.

Lady's Island Middle: Matthew Bertagna, Maylen Brandt, Kayden Capone, Erik James, Kate Lamb, Gavin Ramirez, Camryn Thompson, and Sydney Turner.

River Ridge Academy: Carson Colmer, Amelie Marie Davis, James Hensel, Abigail Hirsch, John Lassiter, Emma Peebles, Savannah Smith, Sean Walling, and Mia Wang.

Riverview Charter - Sidney Levitt

Robert Smalls International Academy - Joanna Lin

Whale Branch Middle: Maiya Carter and Nadija Peterson

Our senior scholars this year, by school are:

Battery Creek High: Isabelle Davis, Cadence Gillaspie, Ajane' Jones, Lukas Kinsey, Georgia McManigle, Emily Moore, Dallin Morgan, Allie Nettles, MacKenna Pratt, Ashley Sanders, Luke Sanders, Myra Smith, and Thien Tran.

Beaufort High: Marlon Belden, Matthew Bornscheuer, Abigail Chiaviello, Grace Cunningham, Olivia Giammona, Caleb Henry, Zoe Pejsa, Daniel Phares, Abbie Pollitzer, Jacob Schatzle, and Molly Smith.

Bluffton High: Courtney Balerna, Kelsey, Kylie Cao, Nicholas Cunningham, Anna Daugherty, Karina Dorris, Arianna Escalona Sanchez, Caroline Hager, Margaret Hager, Grace Kennedy, Adam Kent, Owen Mehle, Rachel Riddle, Nathalia Roca, Penelope Roman Gomez, Domiano Vicaro, and Jenna White.

Hilton Head Island High: Oliver Bennett, Hayden Bird, Mckenzie Bradley, Mary Brockman, Thomas Bruner, Kara Clark, Thomas Hughson, Joseph Hutchinson, Damon Kenny, Niklas Kronlein, Julia Kubec, Anna Kurtz, Rachel Martin, Sarah Neville, Sarah Ocampo, Alexis Olivolo, Ashna Patel, Claire Sanford, Mia Sinkiewicz, Mackenzie Starnes, Kathleen Watts, Julia Willey, and Zoe Williams.

May River High: Samantha Aguero, Jordan Bigham, Addison Black, Oriana Bolds, Elizabeth Bradford, Emma Drury, Emily Eicherly, Taylor Gilmore, Lizbeth Huizar Ornelas, Mackenzie Kronimus, Benjamin Marler, Lara Mitchell, Madison Nunez, Hannah Parson, Lucy Raisch, Amelie Ratliff, Emily Rivard, Quintin Rowley, Keegan Ryan, Andrew Swanson, Anthony Tarulli, Luke Whitis, Kylie Wilkin, Annamarie Wynne, Gracie Wysong, and Margaret Zendzian.

Whale Branch Early College High: Ja'Zayah Henry, Maleeah Parker, Genesis Pratt, Jaylen Roberts, Henry Tome' Carcamo, William Wilson, and Kevona Young.

Committee Reports

Academic Committee- Cathy Robine, chair shared that the committee met, and had Dr. N'kia Campbell provided updates to Administrative Regulation SS-3.

Ad Hoc Bluffton Committee- Rachel Wisnefski, chair shared that the committee met with Hilton Head area of realtors and recommends that the Board members watch the meeting for the information covered during the meeting.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Ad Hoc Bluffton Growth Committee recommends to the full Board to engage in the discussion regarding the hiring of an Educational Land Consultant for the Bluffton Area. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the motion.

Chief Operations Officer Robert Oetting provided information on the position of Educational Land Consultant.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to pursue engagement of an Educational Land Consultant for the Bluffton area. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to withdraw the previous motion. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 9/1. Cathy Robine voted against the motion.

Dr. Wisnefski shared the committee will receive a report from the Beaufort County Treasurer at their next meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Summer Programming
Dr. Stratos presented information on summer programming.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- 2021-2022 Board Budget Update
Mrs. Tonya Crosby provided a budget update.
- School Impact Fee Update
Mrs. Crosby provided an update on School Impact Fees and where the County was in the process.

Goal #4 Policy Development and Implementation

- Development of Operational Expectations
Dr. Rodriguez provided information on the process of developing Operational Expectations.

Other Matters –

- COVID – 19 “Coronavirus” Update
Dr. Rodriguez gave an update on COVID-19 data and safety protocols for the remainder of the school year.
- ARPA Funding/Obtaining Public Input
Mrs. Crosby provided information on ARPA funding (also referred to as ESSER 3 funds). A survey was developed and shared with principals to share with their school communities. Mrs. Crosby shared the categories covered by the ESSER 3 funds.
- Process for under-enrolled schools
Dr. Rodriguez discussed the steps to his process of identifying under-enrolled schools.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education direct the Chair to form an Ad Hoc Northern Beaufort County capacity committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that Board members should express interest in serving on the committee by June 8 at 5 p.m.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to continue the agenda until the conclusion of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0.

Board Business

- Technology Devices for Board Members
Mr. William Smith began a discussion on Board members having the option to receive a laptop or IPAD. There wasn't a motion, so the discussion ended.
- BOE Legislative Proposals/Agenda
Mrs. Cathy Robine shared information from a meeting she, and Mr. Earl Campbell had with Lynn Stokes-Murray, with Burr Forman, and Katie Niles of the State Department to discuss legislative resolution to increase the salary schedule to 28 years.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Beaufort County School Board adopt the resolution to call on the General Assembly to increase the number of steps on the States' salary schedule to 28 years. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

- Bond Issue \$20 Million for 8 Percent Projects
Mrs. Crosby provided information.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$20,000,000 general obligation bonds, series 2021C, or such other appropriate series designation, the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; delegating to the Superintendent or his lawfully authorized designees 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 materials relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 8/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisniewski abstained from the vote.

Consent Agenda

- May 4, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- May 11, 2021 Special Call Board Meeting Minutes
- May 18, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mrs. Ingrid Boatright would like to discuss the disaster recovery plan.
- Mrs. Tricia Fidrych would like to revisit technology devices for Board members.

Announcements

Dr. R announced the new Executive Directors and congratulated the school district for receiving the Military Purple Star designation.

The Board returned back to Executive Session to finish the agenda at 9:55p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mr Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #8 with H.G. Reynolds for Phase 1 Technology, Playgrounds and painting work at Lady's Island Elementary School which authorizes an amount of \$765,280. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #9 with H.G. Reynolds for Phase 1 Technology and Phase 1 Athletic work at Beaufort Middle School which authorizes an amount of \$1,549,834. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #21 with Thompson Turner Construction for Phase 1 Technology work at Coosa Elementary School which authorizes an amount of \$510,405. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 8/0/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #22 with Thompson Turner Construction for Phase 1 Technology work at Broad River Elementary School which authorizes an amount of \$897,261. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #23 with Thompson Turner Construction for HVAC work at Coosa Elementary School which authorizes an amount of \$564,878. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith abstained from the vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: June 29, 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; pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); Adult Education/Home School Report; Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements for Property and Casualty Insurance Brokerage Services pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements for Financial Advisory Services pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Lady's Island Elementary School, Phase 1 IT Scope, Painting, and Playgrounds, Amendment #8 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 Middle School, Phase 1 IT Scope and Phase Athletic Scope, Amendment #9 to H.G. Reynolds Company contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Coosa Elementary School, Phase 1 IT Scope, Amendment #21 to Thompson Turner contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Broad River Elementary School Phase 1 IT Scope Amendment #22 to Thompson Turner contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote. David Striebinger was absent from the meeting.

Action from Executive Session

A motion was made to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the May 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. [\(The link to the redacted May 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report.\)](#)

A motion was made to approve the Monthly Adult Education/ Home Schooling Report June 2, 2021 Report. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board of Education authorize the negotiation of a contract between Beaufort County School District an Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc, to provide property and casualty insurance services for Beaufort County School District. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Cathy Robine abstained from the motion.

A motion was made that the Board of Education exempt Financial Advisory Services from the purchasing procedures required in the Beaufort County School District Procurement Code for a period of one year and a request for information be issued. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0/2. William Smith and Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Melvin Campbell was absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the Ad Hoc Bluffton Growth Committee recommends to the full Board to engage in the discussion regarding the hiring of an Educational Land Consultant for the Bluffton Area. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the motion. Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to pursue engagement of an Educational Land Consultant for the Bluffton area. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier.

A motion was made to withdraw the previous motion. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. Cathy Robine voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education direct the Chair to form an Ad Hoc Northern Beaufort County capacity committee. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to continue the agenda until the conclusion of the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County School Board adopt the resolution to call on the General Assembly to increase the number of steps on the States' salary schedule to 28 years. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$20,000,000 general obligation bonds, series 2021C, or such other appropriate series designation, the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; delegating to the Superintendent or his lawfully authorized designees 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 materials relating thereto. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

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

Consent Agenda

- May 4, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- May 11, 2021 Special Calle Board Meeting Minutes
- May 18, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board returned back to Executive Session to finish the agenda at 9:55p.m.

Action from Executive Session

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #8 with H.G. Reynolds for Phase 1 Technology, Playgrounds and painting work at Lady's Island Elementary School which authorizes an amount of \$765,280. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #9 with H.G. Reynolds for Phase 1 Technology and Phase 1 Athletic work at Beaufort Middle School which authorizes an amount of \$1,549,834. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #21 with Thompson Turner Construction for Phase 1 Technology work at Coosa Elementary School which authorizes an amount of \$510,405. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #22 with Thompson Turner Construction for Phase 1 Technology work at Broad River Elementary School which authorizes an amount of \$897,261. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #23 with Thompson Turner Construction for HVAC work at Coosa Elementary School which authorizes an amount of \$564,878. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith abstained from the vote.