

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 13, 2021**  
**District Educational Services Center**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Members Presents**

|                              |                  |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Christina Gwozdz, Chair      | Ingrid Boatright | Tricia Fidrych   |
| Melvin Campbell, Vice Chair  | Richard Geier    | Cathy Robine     |
| David Striebinger, Secretary | William Smith    | Rachel Wisnefski |

**Members Absent**

Earl Campbell  
Angela Middleton

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements with Curriculum Associates, LLC pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements with Scholastic Inc. pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); employment matter regarding personnel ratification report and personnel matter; pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); adult Ed/Home School Report; receipt of legal advice related to a settled claim and a pending claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 9/0.**

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:02 p.m. The Board did not finish the executive session items, so they will return at the end of the agenda.

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0. ( Earl Campbell and Angela Middleton were absent from the meeting).**

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

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

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

**Retirees** – The 2021 retirees from the following schools and district office:

**Battery Creek High School**

Carolyn Flagg  
Jeffrey Pitt  
Martha Sette

Beaufort Elementary School

Judith Blankenship  
Cynthia Brown  
Kathleen Dempsey  
Joan Fazzino  
Jonnie Holt  
Mary Sweentenburg  
Imogene Yongue

Beaufort High School

Marisel Amely  
Deborah Kidd  
Leigh Murphy

Bluffton Elementary School

Evelyn Walker

Bluffton High School

Sandra Bedosky  
John Carothers  
Dennis Vernon  
Jean Vinel

Bluffton Middle School

William Moore

Broad River Elementary School

Melanie Frazier  
Patricia Fuqua  
Cathy Johnson  
Susan Lauffer  
Wanda McAllister  
Jill Schoener

Coosa Elementary School

Linda Bennett  
Pamela Kinsey

Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center

Carol Bolgan  
Heather Burke  
Sandra Ferguson  
Patricia Moscovitz  
Martha Reese  
Marilyn Stewart

Hilton Head Island Elementary School

Connie Boswell-Smith  
Jovanka Giric  
Nancy Woronowich  
Janet Young

Hilton Head Island High School

Kathleen Marshall  
Patricia Pritchard  
Patricia Read  
William Smith

Hilton Head Island Middle School

Cassie Chisholm  
Susan Coltrane  
Ed Digenova  
Patricia Freda  
Kathleen Lawrence  
Catherine Woloszyk

Hilton Head SCA

Katherine Eways

Lady's Island Elementary School

Barbara Doctor  
Marvelle Ulmer

Lady's Island Middle School

Karen Dailey  
Carolyn Dennis  
Susan Floyd  
Christine Warner

M.C. Riley Elementary School

Evangeline Fialkowski  
Francis Powell  
Kathleen Wipper

Mossy Oaks Elementary School

Joni Caton

Port Royal Elementary School

Deborah Hughes

River Ridge Academy

Venita Barnette  
Lisa Galella

Robert Smalls International Academy

Martha Barnes  
Donna Martin  
Christina Ward  
Eve Weaver

Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary School

Eulela Richardson  
Phillip Young

St. Helena Island Elementary School

Brenda Housley  
Janet Rutland

Whale Branch Early College High School

Chloe Gordon  
Delta Quarles

Whale Branch Middle School

Eugene Brugger  
Karen Parker

District Office

Carmen Dillard, Instructional Services  
Arnold "Barney" Ferguson, Maintenance  
Barbara Goodwin, Transportation  
Terri Goethe, Food Services  
Cheryl Hauff, Food Services  
Andrea Johnson, Human Resources  
Veronica Moultrie, Food Services  
Jannette Seabrook, Transportation  
Donna Smith, Human Resources

**Public Comments**

- Aujenne Johnson, questioned ESOL funds, and what are the checks and balances for spending.
- Mary Moyd, Lady's Island , asked about the future school site on St. Helena or Lady's Island.
- Linda Moyd Hill expressed her problem with how the Board meetings are conducted and asked about the "for sale" sign for commercial property owned by Beaufort County School District.

**Chairman's Report**

Dr. Gwozdz announced the members of the new standing Technology Committee: David Striebinger-Committee Chair, Ingrid Boatright, Dick Geier, and Technology Services Officer Mark Chauhan as the district liaison.

**Committee Reports**

*Ad Hoc Results Committee* – Cathy Robine, chair shared that the committee will bring recommendations to first Board meeting in August.

*Finance Committee* – Richard Geier, chair asked Dr. Rachel Wisnefski to make the following motion since she initiated the action:

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Finance Committee recommend to the full Board a policy authorizing an annual carryover of District Office Student Activity funds not exceeding the amount of the prior year's revenues. Technology Use Fees shall be used for technology repairs, students' devices and protective covers. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 9/0.**

- Debt Refunding Opportunities  
Mrs. Crosby presented two refunding opportunities as advised by Compass Municipal Advisors (CMA) and shared that CMA will provide financial education sessions to Board members that may be interested. Interested Board members should notify Robyn Cushingberry.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Update on Student Data  
Dr. Rodriguez shared that the state department's student data is embargoed until September 2021.

#### Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Monthly transparency, monthly \$100K, and Board monthly budget reports.  
Mrs. Crosby pointed out on the \$100K report that she was unable to provide contract amendments that are usually provided at the bottom of the report. The report was run a week early, so the data was not captured. She will bring back the May and June data next month.
- Other Matters – Ms. Crosby presented an update on ESSER funds. She discussed the supplemental federal funds. She gave a summary of the ESSER funds. The summary included information on supplemental Federal Funds. The summary of ESSER Funds – ESSER I, ESSER II and ESSER III. Information on CARES. ESSER III Eligible Activities. The phases of the ESSER Grant Process. There are two kinds of Public Input required. ESSER-public input on the use of the funds. This information was captured by the use of the Survey Monkey. There were 3,337 responses.  
Parents – 1,769  
Students – 274  
Community – 171  
Teachers – 1,092  
Principals – 31  
The second public input required is Public Input on Reopening Plan.  
This information was captured by survey. There were 1,418 responses.  
Parents – 913  
Students – 8  
Community – 63  
Teachers – 315  
Principals – 20  
Other School Staff – 99  
There will be monthly presentations made to the Board. Information will be placed on the Website. The next steps are review the feedback, compile the information, prioritize submissions, prepare the application and submit it by August 24, 2021.

## **Board Business**

- Bond Resolution for \$15million Tax Anticipation Note  
Mrs. Crosby presented on the Bond Resolution for \$15million Tax Anticipation Note.

**Mr. David Striebinger made the motion authorizing the issuance of a not exceeding \$15,000,000 Tax Anticipation Note, series 2021, taxable or tax-exempt, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; authorizing the sale of said note to the South Carolina Association of Governmental Organizations pursuant to the terms of its TAN program; prescribing the terms and conditions under which the note may be issued; providing for the form of note; providing for the payment thereof; authorizing certain officials of the school district to determine certain matters relating to the note; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

## **Future Agenda Topics**

- Dr. Rachel Wisnefski would like to discuss speaking with the local delegation about supporting an operating levy.
- Dr. Gwozdz would like to discuss fiscal autonomy.
- Mr. William Smith would like an update on virtual school options.

## **Announcements**

Dr. Rodriguez expressed his gratitude to the maintenance department for their quick response and hard work in addressing the impacts of Tropical Storm Elsa on Port Royal Elementary School.

The Board adjourned to executive session.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 8:38 p.m.

## **Action Coming out of executive session.**

**Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board of Education approve the purchase of Scholastic Literacy instructional materials for English Language Arts core instruction of students in grades k-6, inclusive of annual consumable instructional materials, software, training and ongoing professional development for teachers, school leaders, district instructional personnel and designated school personnel for services for Beaufort County School District for total cost of \$1,830,938.00 from ESSER funding for a six-year, term and authorize Dr. Frank Rodriguez to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the I-Reading/Curriculum Associates LLC site license to provide reading and math instructional software for students grades K-12 and professional development for teachers, school leaders and designated school personnel for services for Beaufort County School District for total cost of \$1,485,332.52 from ESSER funding for a three-year term and authorize Dr. Frank Rodriguez to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed June 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was**

seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0. ([The link to the redacted June 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021.](#))

**Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the monthly Adult Education Report for July 2021. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: August 17, 2021

David Striebinger, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

## Motion Summary

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