

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 23, 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 5:30 p.m.

**Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda for the Special Called Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. 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.

**Public Comments**

- Terje Sorlie, Beaufort spoke in favor of mask mandates to keep children safe.
- Aimee Deverall, Bluffton spoke in favor of district wide mask mandate.
- Joshua Castrinos, Bluffton spoke about what it feels like for a child to wear a mask.
- Christina Roberts, Beaufort spoke about mask mandate.
- Cecile Bebo, Hilton Head Island spoke about Special Education children's rights in COVID.
- Kristen Walters, Bluffton spoke about mask mandate.
- Brittany Devlin Beaufort spoke about wearing masks.
- Walter Capers, Beaufort spoke about wearing masks.
- Eric Lawson, Hilton Head Island spoke about the Scientific use about wearing mask.
- Gina Hulett, Beaufort spoke about kids wearing masks and learning options.
- Gennegua Rubinson, Beaufort spoke about notifying parents when an outbreak occurs in the schools.
- Kelly Cardenos spoke about masks.
- Eleana Fielding, Bluffton spoke against mask mandate.
- Lisa Zabak, Bluffton spoke about masks and vaccines.
- Victoria Duchame, Hilton Head Island spoke about children wearing masks.
- Amber Stoughten, Bluffton spoke about masks.
- Ann Ubelis, Beaufort spoke against wearing masks.
- Joseph Castagnino, Bluffton spoke against wearing masks.
- Jevona Armstrong, Beaufort spoke about masks.
- Angela Rossillo spoke against masks.

- Beth Kaufman spoke about masks.
- Anne Balance spoke about masks.
- JP Bittner, Beaufort spoke about mask mandate.
- Jesse Castrinos, Bluffton spoke about mask mandate.
- Tanya Hagedorn spoke about masks on children.
- Emily Pelaez, Okatie spoke about mask mandate.
- Joshua Mathanas, Hilton Head Island spoke about masks.
- Michelle Best, Hilton Head Island spoke in favor of wearing mask.
- David Cook, Hilton Head island spoke about mask mandate.
- Maureen Lohmuller, Bluffton spoke about mask mandate and student letter.
- Laurie Zapp, Bluffton spoke against masks.
- Jesselyn Simmons spoke against masks.
- Debbie Barton, Bluffton spoke about masks.
- Whitley Deputy, Bluffton spoke about masks.
- Dr. Stephen Schutz, Ridgeland spoke about COVID-19.
- Georgia Champion, St. Helena Island spoke in favor of masks.
- Linda Moyd-Hills, St. Helena Island spoke in favor of masks.
- Farhana Mather, Bluffton spoke about children wearing masks.
- Michelle Payne spoke about mask mandates.
- Monica Wiser, Beaufort spoke about mask mandates.
- Kristin Daly, Bluffton spoke about masks.
- Amanda Walrad, Bluffton spoke in favor of masks.
- Jannine Mutterer, Bluffton spoke about masks in schools.
- Missy Luick spoke about masks.
- Jaimee Sorlie spoke about masks in schools.
- Jodie Sruitek, Bluffton spoke in favor of masks.
- Susan Giarrusso spoke about mask mandate.
- Samantha Brown spoke about mask mandate.
- Jacquiece Toomer spoke about mask mandate.
- Nikki Quarrie spoke about masks in the schools.
- Jayme Bowman spoke about masks.
- Kimberly Harper spoke about parent choice for masking in the schools, and against a mask mandate.
- Kristin Marshall Mattson spoke in favor of masks.
- Marianne spoke about masks in Beaufort county Schools.
- Anna Pepper Hewett, Bluffton spoke about parent choice whether their kids should be masked or not.
- George Bakey spoke about masks in schools.
- Amber bigham spoke about masks in schools.
- Pam Brozek spoke against masking our kids.
- Bernadette Hampton, Beaufort spoke in favor of masks.
- John Coby spoke against masks mandates.
- Diamond Bell spoke in favor of mask mandates.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice regarding proviso 1.108 pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.**

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:30p.m.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back into open session at 11:30p.m.

**Action from Executive Session**

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to table the motion until the Supreme Court rules on the case that is currently pending. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 9/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Mr. William Smith made the motion that when the Supreme Court Rules on case that the Board comes back and meet within 48 hours. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell.**

**Mr. David Striebinger amended motion that when the Supreme Court Rules on the case that the Board comes back and meet within 48 hours after the Board becomes aware of it. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith.**

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made a substitute motion that when the Supreme Court Rules on the case that the Board comes back and meet within two business days after the Board becomes aware of it. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/1/1. Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion. Christina Gwozdz abstained from the vote.**

The meeting adjourned with unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08a.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: September 7, 2021

David Striebinger, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

## Motion Summary

A motion was made to approve the agenda for the Special Called Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice regarding proviso 1.108 pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

### Action from Executive Session

A motion was made to table the motion until the Supreme Court rules on the case that is currently pending. The motion was seconded and passed 9/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that when the Supreme Court Rules on case that the Board comes back and meet within 48 hours. The motion was seconded.

An amended motion was made that when the Supreme Court Rules on the case that the Board comes back and meet within 48 hours after the Board becomes aware of it. The motion was seconded.

A substitute motion was made that when the Supreme Court Rules on the case that the Board comes back and meet within two business days after the Board becomes aware of it. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1/1. Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion. Christina Gwozdz abstained from the vote.