

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 7, 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 5:00p.m.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice related to a pending claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-7(a)(2); employment matter re; personnel ratification report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); adult education/home school report; information relating to security plans pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-20(c). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:03 p.m.

There was no action taken from Executive Session.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to approve the agenda with the modification of adding a second executive session prior to adjournment after the end of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. 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

- Valeria Richardson spoke on choice for parents to send children to school mask or unmask.

Chairman's Report

Dr. Gwozdz shared information on the School Law Conference that was held in Charleston by board members.

Committee Reports

Academic Committee: Cathy Robine, chair shared that the committee received the presentation on Reading Plus program and that it will be shared under the Superintendent's Report to the full board. The next meeting will be at the end of September, and the committee will begin discussing the OEs that have been approved on the Annual Work plan.

Ad Hoc Bluffton Committee: Rachel Wisniewski, shared that the committee met on August 26th and the highlight was the presentation from Beaufort County Treasurer, Maria Walls on commercial tax data. The information has been provided in BoardDocs. The next meeting will be on September 23rd to meet with the Land Consultants.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Reading Plus – Melissa Murray introduced Jenny Eisenman and Holly Quaratella with Reading Plus. They provided information and gave a live demonstration to the Board.

Other Matters

- COVID 19 - Coronavirus Update – Dr. Frank Rodriguez provided an update on COVID numbers and shared his intent on moving toward dual modality teaching for teachers. Dr. Rodriguez shared information on mental health initiatives for students and Mr. Robert Oetting shared information on ventilation within schools.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay \$1,000 of compensation to classroom teachers for the purpose of dual modality instruction in the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year from federal ESSER funds in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0.

Consent Agenda

- August 17, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- August 23, 2021 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- August 27, 2021 Work Session Minutes

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve the items on the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the motion.

Announcements

- William Smith shared information on the upcoming ACE Board meeting.
- Earl Campbell shared that the Ad Hoc North of the Broad Committee will start school site visits on September 14th.

Public Comments

- Jeff Zapp spoke about masks and COVID.
- Laurie Zapp spoke about masks, her observations of Board members, and staff during Board meetings.
- Ann Ubelis spoke about mask mandate.

Board members returned to executive session.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back into open session at 8:45 p.m.

Action coming out of Executive Session

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the August 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 11/0. (The link to the redacted August 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021 when available.)

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School report for August 2021. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Trustees publicly express its disapproval of Trustee Will Smith for his actions in violating Board Governance Policies relating to Board Member conduct, specifically GC7; Number 2; GC7: Number 3(a); GC7; Number 5 (a) and (b) as well as for his actions in violating Administrative Rule E-13, which addresses visitors to the District's schools. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to postpone action on this matter until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion failed 5/6. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Tricia Fidrych, and Richard Geier voted against the motion.

The original motion passed 8/1/2. William Smith voted against the motion. Melvin Campbell, and Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:56p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: September 21, 2021

David Striebinger, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

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A motion was made to approve the agenda with the modification of adding a second executive session prior to adjournment after the end of the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay \$1,000 of compensation to classroom teachers for the purpose of dual modality instruction in the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year from federal ESSER funds in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to approve the items on the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the motion.

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A motion was made that the Board of Trustees publicly express its disapproval of Trustee Will Smith for his actions in violating Board Governance Policies relating to Board Member conduct, specifically GC7; Number 2; GC7; Number 3(a); GC7; Number 5 (a) and (b) as well as for his actions in violating Administrative Rule E-13, which addresses visitors to the District's schools. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to postpone action on this matter until the next meeting. The motion was seconded and failed 5/6. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Tricia Fidrych, and Richard Geier voted against the motion.

The original motion

passed 8/1/2. William Smith voted against the motion. Melvin Campbell, and Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.