

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2021
Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts
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 4:00p.m.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice related to fiscal autonomy covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Bluffton High School technology infrastructure, Amendment #45 to M.B. Kahn Construction Contract pursuant to S.C. Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed armed security guard services contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

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

Action from Executive Session

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the execution of a contract with S & S Management Group, LLC dba GuardOne Security to provide armed security guard services for Beaufort County School District. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #45 with MB Kahn Construction for Technology infrastructure work at Bluffton High School based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$879,388. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to approve the letter to the County Council Chair concerning fiscal authority and to authorize the Board Chair to sign and deliver the letter with the attachment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. 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 for Elijah Allen, a student at Whale Branch Middle School who passed away last week.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Performance

Beaufort High School's Sea Island Sound band performed "Patriotic Parade Sequence," arranged by Paul Lavendar and Will Rapp, under the direction of Director of Instrumental Music William Nichols.

Public Comments

- Laura and Shane Stager spoke about mask mandates.
- Russell Whiteford spoke about community partnerships.
- Angela Rossillo spoke about student quarantining.
- Missy Luick spoke about Covid Safety.
- Ann Ubelis spoke about Board behavior toward public speakers.

Under the Chairman's Report, Dr. Gwozdz shared the following:

- Reminder that the Board has to schedule the Superintendent's evaluation.
- Provided an update on the Board's Resolution that was submitted June 2021, to the South Carolina School Board's Association, (SCSBA) and to the Legislative Delegation. She stated the SCSBA rejected the Board's Resolution.
- The Board is awaiting SC Supreme Court's Opinion on Richland County School district 2, et al v. James H. "Jay" Lucas, Speaker of the SC House of Representative, et al.

Committee Reports

- *Finance Committee* – Richard Geier, chair started with the following motion:
Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education accept OE6.6 Fourth Quarter Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 11/0.
- *Operations Committee* – Tricia Fidrych, chair shared that the Operations Committee requests that OEs 4.8 and 4.14, and the entire last paragraph of OE 4 go back to the Policy Committee for review.

Mrs. Fidrych also shared that the Board received a presentation for language clarification on SS-18 Progressive Discipline Plan: Student Code of Conduct.

Mr. Robert Corbin, with CBRE-Heery, provided a construction update.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Update on School Report Card, priority Schools and TSI Schools
Dr. Mary Stratos and her staff provided an update on the School Report Card, Priority Schools, and TSI Schools.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to continue the agenda after 9:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Monthly Transparency Report and Board Monthly Budget
Mrs. Tonya Crosby presented the monthly transparency report and Board monthly budget.
- ESSER Update
Mrs. Denise Mattson provided an update on ESSER funds.

Second Public Comment

- David Cook spoke about a mask mandate.
- Christine Roberts spoke about the Beaufort High graduation date.

The Board question and answers regarding the ESSER funds update resumed.

Other Matters

- COVID Update
Dr. Rodriguez provided current COVID data and a comparison of current data compared to last year's data.

Board Business

- Beaufort High School Graduation Date Change
Dr. Stratos provided information on a request to change Beaufort High School's graduation date from a Friday morning to Saturday morning.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve the calendar change recommendation of Beaufort High School 2022 Graduation date from 10:00AM of Friday, May 27, 2022 to the morning of Saturday, May 28, 2022 at 10:00AM. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Consent Agenda

- September 7, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 11/0.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:08 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: October 5, 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 as presented. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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