

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021
Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts
Hybrid Meeting

Members Presents

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|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 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 4:00 p.m.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice to defendants related to two pending claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed CBRE-Heery contract amendment for a facility condition assessment pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to a contractual matter covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice regarding amendment of charter school bylaws and amendment to appendix 1 of the charter school contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:10 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that Board amend the employment agreement between the Board and our Superintendent to provide for the following changes: (1) increasing the contract term by 4 years; (2) increasing the salary by 10%; (3) increasing the annual annuity contribution by 5%; (4) increasing the monthly travel allowance to \$1200; and I further move that the Board authorize our chairperson to execute an amendment to the agreement which reflects these changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion as to the matter at issue in the lawsuit captioned William C. Smith v. BCSD. Et al., C/A No. 2021-CP-07001047, the Board will waive privilege as to its communications with attorney Andrea White. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 10/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to postpone the vote on the charter school matter until after Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. 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.

Performance

Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary fourth-grade students performed “Water Come a Me Eye” under the direction of music teacher Karen Jordan. Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary principal, Liz Rivera, introduced the performance. <https://youtu.be/GlzvtZM8c2k>

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

- Character Education Students for the Month of October
 - Northern BCSD – Robert Smalls International Academy – 6th grade student Kristopher Washington
- Southern BCSD – May River High School – 12th grade student Madison Snyder

Public Comments

Jennifer Weitekamper shared student requests from the Hilton Head crew team to receive Varsity recognition.

Chairman’s Report

Dr. Gwozdz shared that the public is invited to review textbooks and instructional materials that have been proposed for use in South Carolina’s public schools through December 9.

http://www.beaufortschools.net/news/news_stories_from_2021/Instructional_materials

Committee Reports

Academic Committee: Cathy Robine, chair shared that the committee last met on November 3rd and received presentations O.E.s 12.17 and 13.2-13.6, which are included in consent agenda. Mrs. Robine shared information on the discussion the committee held about textbook adoption.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Board of Education approve the special textbook adoption list presented at the November 3, 2021 Academic Committee and proposed by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) for receipt during the 2021-2022 academic school year, at no cost to the Beaufort County School District, and authorize Dr. Frank Rodriguez to execute the request to the SCDE. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 11/0.

The next Academic Committee meeting is on November 29 at 4:30 p.m.

Operations Committee: William Smith, vice chair reported that the committee discussed the Cherry Point easements for BJWSA. Mr. Robert Oetting provided information on the easement request.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to grant the requested Easements at Cherry Point. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Instructional Reviews
Dr. Frank Rodriguez provided information on instructional reviews that are taking place at each school. Mr. Chad Cox and Mrs. MonaLise Dickson shared their experience of the instructional review process.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Monthly Transparency Report
- Monthly \$100K Report
- Board Monthly Budget

Mrs. Tonya Crosby addressed the Board's questions related to the monthly transparency, monthly \$100k, and Board monthly budget reports.

- ESSER Update
Mrs. Denise Mattson presented an update on ESSER funds.

Other Matters

- Groundbreaking @ Robert Smalls International Academy
Dr. Rodriguez announced the groundbreaking at Robert Smalls International Academy is scheduled for December 7, 2021.
- COVID Update
Dr. Rodriguez provided an update on COVID data.

Board Business Action

- Proposed opportunity to meet with Peggy Torrey on December 9th for half day follow-up to Coherent Governance.

Dr. Gwozdz provided background information on coherent governance training for the Board.

Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion that the Board employ Mrs. Torrey to work with the Board on the Coherent Governance Policy. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

- Revisit Motion made on August 4, 2020 that the board meetings format mirror the options presented for the schools instruction.

Mrs. Robine led a discussion about the motion made on August 4, 2020 that the board meetings format mirror the options presented for the schools' instruction.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that this topic the use of zoom during Board and Committee meetings be given to the policy committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton, The motion failed 0/11.

Consent Agenda

- OE12 – Instructional Programs 12.17
- OE13 – Discipline 13.2 – 13.6

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Future Agenda Topics

- Colonel Richard Geier proposed a briefing on media center use and materials.
- Mr. William Smith wants to discuss the Superintendent's book that he gives for his evaluation.
- Mrs. Angela Middleton would like information on supporting athletics in the district.

Announcements

- Next meeting Board meeting on Dec 14.
- Special called Executive session tomorrow at 4 p.m. for student Discipline Hearing.
- Mr. Smith announced the next ACE board meeting on Thursday and shared information from the Friends and Family day held on November 13.

Second Public Comment

- David Cook complained about Panorama and a teacher's explanation of "Russian roulette".

The Board returned to executive session at 8:55p.m. to finish the agenda.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 9:45p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize Frank Rodriguez to sign the Amendment to the Charter School Contract removing the old bylaws, adding the revised Riverview Charter Bylaws as Appendix 1 to the contract and conforming the governance section of the charter to be consistent with the revised bylaws. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #3 for a facility condition assessment completed by CBRE-Heery authorizing a not to exceed limit of \$629,972 for the 3,195,321 square feet of facilities listed. Funding for this amendment shall be provided by the revenue produced from the sale of the Burroughs Avenue Building. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 6/4/1. Christina Gwozdz, Melvin Campbell, William Smith and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the motion.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:52p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: February 1 2022

Angela Middleton, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

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