

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 14, 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 4:30 p.m.

**Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose listed; Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); Adult Education/Home School Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed 2022 program management staffing plan, Amendment #6 to CBRE-Heery contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2) receipt of legal advice to defendants related to pending claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.**

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:00 p.m.

**Action from Executive Session**

**Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the November 1, 2021 to November 30, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 10/0/1. Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote. (The link to the redacted November 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report will be provided here when available.)**

**Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #6 with CBRE-Heery which authorizes a Not to Exceed limit of \$1,713,667 for the year 2022 program management plan. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 8/1/2. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski, and Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.**

**Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to approve the Adult Ed/Home School Report for December 2021. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/0/1. Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve the agenda with removal of OE 10, 15, 18 from consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

### **Performance**

Hilton Head Island Elementary Singing Sea Otters performed a Christmas melody under the direction of music teacher Michelle Hummel. <https://youtu.be/LNCPmztIIOk>

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

- Character Education Students for the Month of November
  - Northern BCSD – Coosa Elementary School 1<sup>st</sup> grade student Emily Herrera Ventura
- Southern BCSD – Bluffton Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> grad student Prisly Santos Maidonado.
- Emmett O’Brien – Beaufort High School Senior, 60th Annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP)
- Presentation by the Beaufort County Youth Conference Steering Committee and Youth Planners to Dr. Rodriguez
- **“Gameball” presented by Dr. Rodriguez**  
Dr. Rodriguez explained the purpose of the Gameball initiative he began this year and presented two gameballs – one to Monique Thomas, a bus driver, and one to Karri Kearns, a teacher at May River High School.

### **Chairman’s Report**

Dr. Gwozdz provided an update from the SCSBA Legislative Conference and Delegate Assembly.

Chair Gwozdz provided an update on the half day Board Work Session on Coherent Governance with Mrs. Peggy Torrey.

### **Committee Reports**

**ACE Committee:** William Smith, chair shared that Richard Geier is now the Vice Chair of the Beaufort-Jasper Joint ACE Committee. Colonel Geier shared information from a meeting he held with the Beaufort-Jasper Joint ACE Committee Chair, who would like to review the ACE policy manuals. Colonel Geier shared that ACE held completer ceremonies today and will hold one tomorrow.

**Academics Committee:** Cathy Robine, chair shared that the committee has met twice. They were presented O.E.s that will be go before the full Board. Their next meeting is the last Wednesday in January.

**Ad Hoc Bluffton Committee:** Rachel Wisnefski, chair shared that the committee met on November 22 and reviewed the 45-day numbers for Bluffton cluster. The next committee meeting is on the third

Thursday in January. The committee will receive a presentation by Beaufort County treasurer during that meeting.

**Finance Committee:** Richard Geier shared that the committee met twice to review and recommend O.E.s for Board approval.

Mr. Smith discussed his concerns with OE-18 Food and Nutrition Services, food quality, and the amount of money Sodexo is being paid. Mrs. Tonya Crosby and Sodexo staff addressed his concerns and the Board's questions.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education accept the monitoring report for OE 18 Food Services. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Operations Committee:** Tricia Fidrych, chair shared that the committee met three times in December. At the last committee, they received a presentation from Robert Smalls International Academy Principal Bradley Tarrance, who requested to change the school name. Mr. Tarrance was present and provided the full Board with information on the request.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to recommend to the full board the approval of the name change of Robert Smalls International Academy to Robert Smalls Leadership Academy at the request of the parents and alumni community and acknowledging it will maintain the historical significance of Robert Smalls in its name. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.**

Mr. Rob Corbin presented a construction update.

Mr. Smith discussed his concerns with OE-10 Communicating with the Board.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Board of Education accept the superintendent's interpretation of OE 10 Communicating with the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 11/0.**

Mr. Smith discussed his concerns with OE-15 Safety and Security Annual Monitoring Report. Mr. David Grissom addressed Mr. Smith's concerns.

**Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion to accept OE 15 Safety and Security Annual Monitoring Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Technology Committee:** David Striebinger, chair shared the focus of recent committee meetings.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Continuous Improvement: Professional Learning Communities  
Dr. Duke Bradley made a presentation on "Continuous Improvement: Professional Learning Communities".

#### Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Presentation of FY21 Annual Financial Audit by Mauldin Jenkins  
Mrs. Crosby introduced Hope Pendergrass, Engagement Lead Partner with Mauldin & Jenkins, who then presented the FY21 Annual Financial Audit.

#### Other Matters

- COVID Update  
Dr. Rodriguez thanked students and parents with their patience during the social media threats last week.

#### Board Business Action

- Approval of the 2022 Board Meeting Calendar

**Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion that we accept the calendar for next year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine.**

**Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to postpone the vote until January 4, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0.**

- Proposed Employee Bonuses:  
Ms. Alice Walton presented the proposed recommendation that all fulltime professional, classified and administrative employees be paid a one-time \$1,000 bonus.

**Mr. William Smith made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to active, full-time professional, classified and administrative employees from the General Fund operating budget in the amount of \$1,000. The Board of Education approves a budget in the amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 and authorizes the administration to make budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier.**

**Mr. William Smith amended the motion to add active employees must have worked for the district for 45 days. The amended motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/1. Melvin Campbell voted against the motion.**

**The final motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to active, full-time professional, classified and administrative employees from the General Fund operating budget in the amount of \$1,000. The Board of Education approves a budget in the amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 and authorizes the administration to make budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses. Active employees must have worked for the district for 45 days. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to continue the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.**

#### Consent Agenda

- OE1 Global Operation Expectation
- OE2 Superintendent Succession Planning

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve Consent Agenda with OE1, 2, 3, 4, 6.6, 6.1-8, 11, 12.2, 12.8, 13.7, 14. The motion was second by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Future Agenda Topics**

- Colonel Geier would like an update on the May River High School CTE building.
- Mrs. Ingrid Boatright would like to discuss SIC meetings and the results section of coherent governance policy.
- Mr. Smith would like to discuss the option of implementing a half day once a week.
- Dr. Wisniewski would like a dashboard update.
- Mr. Mel Campbell would like to revisit the idea of a diversity training workshop for the Board.

**Announcements**

Dr. Rodriguez wished the Board, district staff, students, and families a happy holiday.

The meeting adjourned with unanimous consent at 9:28 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.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

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session for the purpose listed; Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); Adult Education/Home School Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed 2022 program management staffing plan, Amendment #6 to CBRE-Heery contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2)' receipt of legal advice to defendants related to pending claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

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A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #6 with CBRE-Heery which authorizes a Not to Exceed limit of \$1,713,667 for the year 2022 program management plan. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1/2. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski, and Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

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A motion was made to approve the agenda with removal of OE 10, 15, 18 from consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education accept the monitoring report for OE 18 Food Services. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to recommend to the full board the approval of the name change of Robert Smalls International Academy to Robert Smalls Leadership Academy at the request of the parents and alumni community and acknowledging it will maintain the historical significance of Robert Smalls in its name. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education accept the superintendent's interpretation of OE 10 Communicating with the Board. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to accept OE 15 Safety and Security Annual Monitoring Report. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that we accept the calendar for next year. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to postpone the vote until January 4, 2022. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

**A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay a one-time bonus to active, full-time professional, classified and administrative employees from the General Fund operating budget in the amount of \$1,000. The Board of Education approves a budget in the amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 and authorizes the administration to make budget transfers necessary to fund payment of the bonuses. The motion was seconded.**

**An amended motion was made to add active employees must have worked for the district for 45 days. The amended motion was seconded. The motion passed 10/1. Melvin Campbell voted against the motion.**

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**A motion was made to continue the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.**

**A motion was made to approve Consent Agenda with OE1, 2, 3, 4, 6.6, 6.1-8, 11, 12.2, 12.8, 13.7, 14. The motion was second and passed 11/0.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

- OE1 Global Operation Expectation
- OE2 Superintendent Succession Planning