

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 15, 2022**  
**District Educational Services Center**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Members Presents**

David Striebinger, Chair	Ingrid Boatright	Earl Campbell
Cathy Robine, Vice Chair	Melvin Campbell	Tricia Fidrych
Angela Middleton, Secretary	Christina Gwozdz	William Smith
	Rachel Wisnefski	

**Member Absent**

Richard Geier

Mr. David Striebinger called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.

**Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice related to two pending matters covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to Participate Learning Master Services Agreement 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 Athletic Addition, Amendment #1 to MB Kahn contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 9/0. Rachel Wisnefski absent from the vote. Richard Geier was absent from the meeting.**

Mr. Striebinger called the meeting to open session at 6:04 p.m.

The Board did not complete the Executive Session agenda and will resume Executive Session at the end of the public meeting.

**Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0.**

The Pledge of allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed.

Mr. Striebinger stated that the media was properly notified.

**Public Comments**

The following community members spoke regarding the Beaufort High School logo/mascot and colors.

- Linda Moyd-Hill, St. Helena Island
- Arnold Bee, St. Helena Island
- Leon Sherman, St. Helena Island
- Mary E. Moyd, St. Helena Island
- Geraldine Doe, Beaufort
- Steve Green, Beaufort
- Dr. John Coaxum, Beaufort
- Terence Sanders, Beaufort
- Herbert Glaze, Burton
- Carrie Major, St. Helena Island

- Julius Green, Jr., St. Helena Island
- Michael River, St. Helena Island
- Rev. Joseph Bryant, St. Helena Island
- Geraldine Dawson, St. Helena Island
- Margaret Simmons, St. Helena Island
- Audrey Coaxum, Phone Call
- Charles Abner, Phone Call
- Tanner & Patrick, River Ridge Academy Students spoke about the lunches provided.
- Joseph Castagnino, Phone Call, spoke about following illegal COVID policies.

### **Chair's Report**

Mr. Striebinger reminded Board members of the March 30th due date to file their economic interest form.

### **CLOC Quarterly Report**

Mr. Ted Barber, Chair of the CLOC, provided a 2021 review and quarterly update.

### **Committee Reports**

**Operations Committee:** Ingrid Boatright, chair shared that the committee met at Bluffton High School. The internet was out so the meeting was not broadcasted or conducted by zoom as originally planned. The committee discussed power lines easement near Robert Smalls International Academy with Dominion Energy and an easement request from BJWSA by Joseph Shanklin Elementary School. The committee also received a construction update. Mrs. Boatright shared that Hilton Head Island Middle School will host a community meeting on March 31 at 5 p.m.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education authorize Dr. Rodriguez's staff to negotiate and finalize the easement with BJWSA. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 7/3. Christina Gwozdz, Rachel Wisnefski, and William Smith voted against the motion.**

The next Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Summer Learning Programs  
Dr. Mary Stratos introduced Melissa Murray, who presented on the summer reading program.

Goal #2 Highly Qualified Teachers and Administrators

- Update on Efficiency Study  
Dr. Rodriguez provided an update on the efficiency study, which covered recommendations for staff realignment within the organizational chart, recruitment, hiring and retention, policies and procedures, and 20 departmental specific recommendations.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

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

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

Mrs. Denise Mattson provided an update on ESSER funds.

#### Other Matters

- COVID Update  
Dr. Rodriguez provided COVID data.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to direct the Superintendent to discontinue the update on COVID. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 6/4. Earl Campbell, David Striebinger, Melvin Campbell and William Smith voted against the motion.**

- Update on Beaufort High School Logo/Mascot Issue  
Dr. Rodriguez provided an update on the Beaufort High School Logo/Mascot issue.

**Mr. William Smith made the motion to return the fighting eagle to Beaufort high school as its mascot and logo and to put back the colors green and white. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion failed 3/5/2. Earl Campbell, Melvin Campbell, and William Smith voted in favor of the motion. Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Tricia Fidrych, and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski, and Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.**

**Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to extend the meeting until the agenda is complete. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote. (Rachel Wisnefski left the meeting at 9:30p.m.)**

#### Public Comments

The following community members spoke about the logo and colors for Beaufort High School.

- Geraldine Dawson, St. Helena Island
- Leon Sherman, St. Helena Island
- D. Jeanelle Drake, Phone Call

#### Board Business

- Revised 2022 -2023 Academic Calendar  
**Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education accepts the 2022-2023 academic calendar with the modification of adding November 8, 2022 as a school closure day. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 9/0. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the meeting.**
- Donation from Reading Power in the amount of \$15,000 to Joseph Shanklin Elementary for the purchase of Books

**Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to accept the donation from Reading Power in the amount of \$15,000 to Joseph Shanklin Elementary for the purchase of books. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.**

#### Consent Agenda

- March 1, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

**Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to accept the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 7/0/2. Christina Gwozdz, and Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.**

**Future Agenda Topics**

- Mr. William Smith would like an update on any blanket easements that deal with the district.

The Board resumed executive session at 9:56p.m

**Action from Executive Session**

Mr. Striebinger called the meeting back to open session at 10:15p.m.

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #1 with MB Kahn Construction for Bluffton High School Athletic Package based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$6,151,845.00. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 9/0.**

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:17p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: April 19, 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 of receipt of legal advice related to two pending matters covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to Participate Learning Master Services Agreement 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 Athletic Addition, Amendment #1 to MB Kahn contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Rachel Wisniewski absent from the vote. Richard Geier was absent from the meeting.

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education authorize Dr. Rodriguez's staff to negotiate and finalize the easement with BJWSA. The motion was seconded and passed 7/3. Christina Gwozdz, Rachel Wisniewski, and William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to direct the Superintendent to discontinue the update on COVID. The motion was seconded and passed 6/4. Earl Campbell, David Striebinger, Melvin Campbell and William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to return the fighting eagle to Beaufort high school as its mascot and logo and to put back the colors green and white. The motion was seconded and failed 3/5/2. Earl Campbell, Melvin Campbell, and William Smith voted in favor of the motion. Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Tricia Fidrych, and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. Rachel Wisniewski, and Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to extend the meeting until the agenda is complete. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisniewski abstained from the vote. (Rachel Wisniewski left the meeting at 9:30p.m.)

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education accepts the 2022-2023 academic calendar with the modification of adding November 8, 2022 as a school closure day. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Rachel Wisniewski was absent from the meeting.

A motion was made to accept the donation from Reading Power in the amount of \$15,000 to Joseph Shanklin Elementary for the purchase of books. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.

A motion was made to accept the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 7/0/2. Christina Gwozdz, and Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

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