

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 3, 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	Richard Geier	Christina Gwozdz
	William Smith	Rachel Wisnefski

Mrs. Cathy Robine called the meeting to order at 4:35p.m.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the following reasons: receipt of legal advice related to five pending claims and one potential claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed selection for Food Service Management Company Services contract, RFP #22-1017 pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); employment matter re: personnel ratification report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(4); Adult Ed/Home School Report pursuant to S.C. code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at Bluffton High School, Amendment #15 to MB Kahn Construction contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(20. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Robine called the meeting back to open session at 6:00 p.m.

Action From Executive Session

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education direct the administration to issue an intent to award and enter into negotiations to finalize a School Food Services contract with the Nutrition Group. Upon successful negotiation of the contract, the Beaufort County Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to execute the contract and forward the contract to the South Carolina Department of Education for final approval. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 10/0/1. Tricia Fidrych abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the April 1 to April 30, 2022 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 11/0. ([The link to the redacted April 1 – April 30, 2022 Personnel Ratification Report.](#))

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for April 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #15 with MB Kahn Construction for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure work at Bluffton High School

base on the Guaranteed maximum Price (GMP) of \$2,782,279. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote. Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0.

Beaufort High School JROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance with the presentation of colors. A moment of silence was observed.

Mrs. Robine stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance

The Robert Smalls International Academy 3rd and 4th graders singing “I Feel the Power” under the direction of music teacher Marcie McMillan.

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

- **Parker’s “Fueling the Community” Donation in the amount of \$56,000 to district schools and the district office.**
- **Character Ed for February – Lyla Pidgeon, Coosa Elementary**
- **Character Ed for March - Veronica Cruz-Perez, Beaufort Middle**
- **Regional Science Fair Middle School Competition – Halle Tran, Lady’s Island Middle**
- **“Lighthouse School” Designation – St. Helena Island Elementary**
- **BCHS Sarah Hayes Athletic Director**

Public Comment

The following community members spoke about Beaufort High’s logo/mascot and color change.

- Geraldine Doe, Beaufort
- Linda M. Moyd- Hills, St. Helena Island
- Josh Scallata, Beaufort requested he Board’s support in his run for County Council, District 4.
- Ester Williams spoke regarding teacher salaries.
- Tanya Hagdon, (Phone) spoke regarding teacher salaries
- Riley Clark, (Phone) spoke about the mobile vaccine clinic
- Angela Rossillo, (Phone) spoke about the vaccine clinic and required state testing
- David Cook, (Phone) spoke about the deputy approaching him at the last meeting for continuing to speak over his three-minute comment limit; the removal of a consent page of the registration process, and that staff should refrain from using the language of “loving the students” or “loving the kids”.

Chair’s Report

Mr. Striebinger shared a statement on [impact fees rescinded by Beaufort County Council](#).

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to accept the letter as written. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the amended motion to accept the letter with citations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion to call to questions. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 11/1. William Smith voted against the motion. The amended motion failed 1/9/2. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Richard Geier, and Angela Middleton voted against the motion. William Smith and Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

The original motion to accept the letter as written passed 9/1/1. Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Committee Reports

ACE Committee: Richard Geier, chair shared that the committee met and received a budget briefing. They discussed Fall 2022 enrollment projection and completion ceremonies.

Legislative Committee: Christina Gwozdz, chair shared that six Board members attended the Day at the Capitol in Columbia and met with the local delegation. Prior to the Day at the Capitol, the local delegation held a meeting in Bluffton. Two Board members attended the meeting and provided comments.

Operations Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair introduced O.E. 8.7 for Board discussion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to recommend to the full Board the acceptance of OE8.7 Facilities Use Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education assign to the policy committee private use, including but not limited to weddings, family reunions, baby/bridal showers, and funerals. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0.

Robert Corbin presented a construction update.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- **Rubicon Update**
Dr. Mary Stratos presented an update on Rubicon. Colleen Beck-Ungvarsky, spoke about the technology component of Rubicon. Melissa Murray, spoke to the curriculum writing portion of Rubicon. Nicholas Flowers presented on instruction.

Other Matters:

- **Update on Meeting with Beaufort High School Students on Logo**
Dr. Rodriguez provided an update on a meeting with Beaufort High School students regarding the mascot, logo, and colors.

Mr William Smith made the motion to restore the original soaring eagle to the places where the eagles was at. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. Mr. Smith amended the motion to restore the original soaring eagle to the significant places as well as the athletic areas. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. (They agreed that this would be the original motion.)

Discussion paused for public comments.

Public Comment

- Steven Green, Beaufort spoke about the BHS mascot and colors.
- Dr. Jacqueline Lawton, Beaufort and Danielle Hunt (phone), spoke about Beaufort's cost of living and teacher salary, and sick leave pay.

Board discussion regarding the motion resumed.

The motion failed 4/6/1. Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisniewski, Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Superintendent develop a comprehensive plan to preserve the history of Beaufort High School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 9/1/1. Christina Gwozdz voted against the motion. Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 7/4.

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m. (The meeting will resume on May 4, 2022 at 6:00p.m.)

May 4, 2022 Continuation Meeting

Member Absent

Rachel Wisniewski

Mrs. Cathy Robine resumed the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Board Business

- Revisit Motion to table Impact Fee Discussion
Mrs. Tricia Fidrych began the discussion to revisit the motion to table the Impact Fee discussion.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the discussion of impact fees be taken off the table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion passed 10/0. (Rachel Wisniewski was absent from the meeting.)

The Board discussed how to get impact fees back in front of County Council. The Board determined that they should schedule a meeting between the Board and County Council.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education seek legal guidance for next steps for school impact fees since County Council recently repealed school impact fees . The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/0.

- FY2022-23 proposed General Fund budget
Mrs. Tonya Crosby presented the FY2022-23 proposed General Fund budget.

Mr. William Smith made the motion that the School Board invite the realtor's association, and the Chamber to a board meeting to discuss the cost of living in Beaufort County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion failed 3/7. Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Tricia Fidrych, Richard Geier, Angele Middleton, and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education support budget option #3, which includes a \$4,000 increase to teachers' salaries and moving \$2,500 from the locality supplement into the base teachers' salaries, to allow the administration to seek community input for 2022-23 budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

- Employee Compensation

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County School District provide each current full-time employee, who remains employed by the district on November 15, 2022, a \$2,000 retention bonus. Each new full-time employee hired after today's date will receive a \$2,000 recruitment bonus if they remain employed by the district on November 15, 2022. Funding not to exceed \$6,000,000 will be utilized by the Federal ESSER program that provides COVID impact relief. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of the April 9, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of the April 22, 2022 Board Work Session Minutes

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 10/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mrs. Ingrid Boatright would like to discuss childcare option for teachers.
- Dr. Christina Gwozdz would like any legislative proposals for the 2023 legislative session and any modifications to SCSBA constitution, due by June 15.
- Mr. Mel Campbell would like to revisit diversity training for Board members.

Announcements

- Mr. Smith shared his appreciation for teachers.
- Dr. Rodriguez recognized teacher appreciation week and the Hilton Head Orchestra for hosting BCSD students participating in an interactive music program.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:19 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: May 17, 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 following reasons: receipt of legal advice related to five pending claims and one potential claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed selection for Food Service Management Company Services contract, RFP #22-1017 pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); employment matter re: personnel ratification report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(4); Adult Ed/Home School Report pursuant to S.C. code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at Bluffton High School, Amendment #15 to MB Kahn Construction contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(20). The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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A motion was made to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the April 1 to April 30, 2022 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for April 2022. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #15 with MB Kahn Construction for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure work at Bluffton High School base on the Guaranteed maximum Price (GMP) of \$2,782,279. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisniewski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to accept the letter as written. The motion was seconded.

An amended motion was made to accept the letter with citations. The motion was seconded.

The motion was call to questions. The motion was seconded and passed 11/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

The amended motion failed 1/9/2. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Richard Geier, and Angela Middleton voted against the motion. William Smith and Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

The original motion to accept the letter as written passed 9/1/1. Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to the full Board the acceptance of OE8.7 Facilities Use Report. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board of Education assign to the policy committee private use, including but not limited to weddings, family reunions, baby/bridal showers, and funerals. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to restore the original soaring eagle to the places where the eagles was at. The motion was seconded. An amended motion was made to restore the original soaring eagle to the significant places as well as the athletic areas. The motion was seconded. (They agreed that this would be the original motion.) The motion failed 4/6/1. Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Tricia Fidrych, Rachel Wisnefski, Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

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A motion was made that the School Board invite the realtor's association, and the Chamber to a board meeting to discuss the cost of living in Beaufort County. The motion was seconded and failed 3/7. Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Tricia Fidrych, Richard Geier, Angele Middleton, and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

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