

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 6, 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

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

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to move into executive session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice regarding two pending claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Adult Ed/Hoe School Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed purchase of property in Bluffton, South Carolina pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Whale Branch Early College for safety/security, technology/infrastructure and athletic scope Contract Amendment #3 to Charles Perry Partners, Inc. (CPPI) pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Beaufort High School for 2nd floor HVAC upgrades Contract Amendment #27 to Thompson Turner Construction pursuant to S.C. code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. David Striebinger called the meeting back to order at 6:00 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for September 2022. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #3 with Charles Perry Partners, Inc. for the Safety/Security, Technology/Infrastructure and Athletic Scope at Whale Branch Early College High School based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$4,057,460.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 7/3/1. Ingrid Boatright, Cathy Robine, and William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #27 with Thompson Turner Construction for the 2nd Floor HVAC Upgrades at Beaufort High School based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$1,203,015.00. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

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

Mr. Striebinger stated that the media was properly notified.

Performance

The Beaufort Middle School band performed “When the Saints go Marching In” and “Heroes and Glory” by James Swearingen and under the direction of music teacher Amanda Trimpey.

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

- Battery Creek High School FFA National Champs
- SCSBA Champions for Public Education Award – CLOC

Chair’s Update

Mr. Striebinger shared information from the School Board Law conference that was attended by fellow Board members.

Committee Reports

Academics Committee: Cathy Robine, chair shared that the committee met on August 24 and voted unanimously to create two new honors levels courses: JROTC Level 7 and 8 the CTE and Health Sciences Level 3 course.

Dr. Mary Stratos introduced Karen Gilbert, Colonel Thomas Foster, Bluffton High ROTC Instructor, and Justine Hardy, science health teacher at Battery Creek, who then presented on the new honor level courses.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Board approve the JROTC Level 7 and 8 honor courses and the CTE and health Sciences Level 3 honors courses. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Robine shared that the committee also reviewed AR’s I.S. 11 Physical Education and I.S. 17 Health Education.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion that the Board ask the Chair to assign to the Policy Committee the duty of developing a policy to re-establish the Local Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 10/1. Melvin Campbell voted against the motion.

The next Academic Committee meeting is scheduled for September 28.

Operations Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair shared topics the committee discussed, including the salary study.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the administration’s recommendation to pay employees one-half of their daily rate of pay for lapsed sick leave days and/or vacation days at the end of each school year. The district will begin making payments in accordance with this initiative on July 1, 2023 for days lapsed during the 2022-2023 school year from the General Fund budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to postpone the current motion until the work session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion failed. 3/7/1. Earl Campbell, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, Cathy Robine and William Smith voted against the motion. Ingrid Boatright abstained from vote.

Mrs. Tonya Crosby, Ms. Alice Walton and Mr. Dale Crawford provided information from the salary study regarding the sick leave and vacation day payout.

The original motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the administration's recommendation to pay out accrued sick days for employees retiring January 1, 2023 or after at one-half the employee's daily rate from the General Fund budget. Employees must be a minimum of 5 consecutive years of service with the Beaufort County School District at the time of their retirement to be eligible. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 9/2. Earl Campbell and William Smith voted against the motion.

Ms. Boatright shared that MGT will present the salary study at the Board work session on September 9. The committee's next meeting is September 14 at Battery Creek High School at 4 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Writing Plan
Mrs. Melissa Murray presented the district writing plan.
- SC Ready and SC Pass Results
Mr. Daniel Fallon presented information on SC Ready and SC Pass results.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of the August 16, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 12/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mr. William Smith would like to discuss the process to make the executive session information packet public after that information is voted on.

Public Comments

- David Cook (Phone Call) thanked the Board for their hard work and requested that the Board investigate having minors signing documents without parental consent, instituting a restricted cell phone policy, and fixing the air conditioner in his son's classroom at Hilton Head Island Elementary.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:32 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: September 20, 2022

Angela Middleton, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

A motion was made to move into executive session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice regarding two pending claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Adult Ed/Hoe School Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed purchase of property in Bluffton, South Carolina pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Whale Branch Early College for safety/security, technology/infrastructure and athletic scope Contract Amendment #3 to Charles Perry Partners, Inc. (CPPI) pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Beaufort High School for 2nd floor HVAC upgrades Contract Amendment #27 to Thompson Turner Construction pursuant to S.C. code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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

A motion was made that the Board approve the JROTC Level 7 and 8 honor courses and the CTE and health Sciences Level 3 honors courses. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board ask the Chair to assign to the Policy Committee the duty of developing a policy to re-establish the Local Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. Melvin Campbell voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the administration's recommendation to pay employees one-half of their daily rate of pay for lapsed sick leave days and/or vacation days at the end of each school year. The district will begin making payments in accordance with this initiative on July 1, 2023 for days lapsed during the 2022-2023 school year from the General Fund budget. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to postpone the current motion until the work session. The motion was seconded and failed. 3/7/1. Earl Campbell, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, Cathy Robine and William Smith voted against the motion. Ingrid Boatright abstained from vote.

The original motion passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the administration's recommendation to pay out accrued sick days for employees retiring January 1, 2023 or after at one-half the employee's daily rate from the General Fund budget. Employees must be a minimum of 5 consecutive years of service with the Beaufort County School District at the time of their retirement to be eligible. The motion was seconded and passed 9/2. Earl Campbell and William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 12/0.

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