

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2022
Hilton Head Library
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 4:30p.m.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of student physical education waiver 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 Beaufort Middle School for athletics, safety/security, and technology infrastructure Contract Amendment #24 to Thompson Turner Construction GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Broad River Elementary School for safety/security and technology infrastructure Contract Amendment #25 to Thompson Turner Construction GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Coosa Elementary School for safety/security and technology infrastructure Contract Amendment #23 to Thompson Turner Construction GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed James J. Davis Early Childhood Center for safety/security and technology infrastructure Contract Amendment #24 to Ajax Building Company, LLC GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Joseph Shanklin Elementary School for safety/security and technology infrastructure contract Amendment #25 to Ajax Building Company, LLC GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Lady's Island Elementary School for safety/security and technology infrastructure Contract Amendment #26 to Ajax Building Company, LLC GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed St. Helena Elementary School for safety/security and technology infrastructure Amendment #28 to Ajax Building Company, LLC GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. David Striebinger called the meeting back to order at 6:01p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education accepts the Physical Education Waiver as presented during Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board authorize Superintendent Rodriguez to accept the offer and enter a contract to purchase property in Bluffton, South Carolina in the amount of \$886,000 using proceeds from the district's surplus property. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #23 with Thompson Turner Construction for the remaining Technology/Infrastructure Scope at Coosa Elementary School based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$1,732,112. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 8/2/1. Ingrid Boatright and William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #24 with Thompson Turner Construction for the Athletic and Remaining Safety/Security, and Technology/Infrastructure work at Beaufort Middle School based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$5,047,380. The motion was seconded Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 6/3/2. Ingrid Boatright, Cathy Robine and William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #25 with Thompson Turner Construction for the Remaining Safety/Security, and Technology/Infrastructure at Broad River Elementary School based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$1,934,973. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 6/3/2. Ingrid Boatright, Cathy Robine and William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #24 with Ajax Building Company for the Remaining Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at James J. Davis Early Childhood Center based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$2,656,298. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 6/3/2. Ingrid Boatright, Cathy Robine and William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #25 with Ajax Building Company for the Remaining Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary School based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$2,917,165. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 6/3/2. Ingrid Boatright, Cathy Robine and William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #26 with Ajax Building Company for the Remaining Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at Lady's Island Elementary School based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$2,261,015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 6/3/2. Ingrid Boatright, Cathy Robine and William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #27 with Ajax Building Company for the Remaining Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at St. Helena Elementary School based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$2,664,962. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 6/3/2. Ingrid Boatright, Cathy Robine and William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #28 with Ajax Building Company for the Remaining Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at M.C. Riley Elementary School & M.C. Riley Early Childhood Center based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$3,713,771. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 6/3/2. Ingrid Boatright, Cathy Robine and William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to amend the agenda to strike final action on OE8.10, OE8.11, OE8.10, GC.8, GC3.9, GC3.10. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 9/0/2. Tricia Fidrych and William Smith abstained from the vote.

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

Mr. Striebinger stated that the media was properly notified.

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

- May River Regional and State Girl's Golf Team

Public Comment

- David Cook, Hilton Head Island, spoke regarding advocating for his student, his attempt to attend teacher's professional development during Summer Institute, and psychological warfare the district is waging against students.
- Angela Rossillo, (phone call), spoke about the bathroom break policy, opting out of standardized testing, and lack of access to the Summer Institute topics.
- Joseph Castagnino, (phone call), spoke about SEL being taught during Summer Institute and indoctrinating students with Marxist ideas.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Richard Geier, chair shared that the committee met on August 11 and reviewed monthly finance reports and updates to OS 13 and OS 13R.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Plan. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 11/0.

Colonel Geier shared that the future topics for the committee include reviewing 4th quarter financial reports and discussing the idea to conduct a cost benefit analysis regarding custodians and contracting bus drivers.

Operations Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair shared the topics the committee discussed at the last meeting.

- Recommend the Approval of Battery Creek’s High School Naming of the Gymnasium and Wrestling Facility

Mrs. Boatright began with having the Battery Creek Athletic Director Sarah Hayes share information on the name selection of the new gym and wrestling facility.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to recommend the approval of Battery Creek’s High School naming of the Gymnasium and Wrestling Facility. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

- Recommended motion to direct the Superintendent to use the Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) to begin planning for a future referendum.

Mr. Kevin Kelly, Project Director with CBRE-Heery provided information regarding the Facilities Conditions Assessment.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to direct the Superintendent to use the FCA to begin planning for a future referendum. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski amended the motion to strike the words "to use the FCA". The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion failed 2/9. Ingrid Boatright, Earl Campbell, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, Cathy Robine, David Striebinger and William Smith voted against the motion.

The original motion passed 8/1/2. David Striebinger voted against the motion. Christina Gwozdz and Rachel Wisnefski abstained the vote.

The next Operations Committee meetings are scheduled for August 17 and 22 at district office at 4 p.m.

- Recommended motion that Student Services be assigned to the Academic Committee.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to recommend that student services be assigned to the academic committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Cathy Robine abstained from vote.

- Construction Update

Mr. Rob Corbin, Project Manager with CBRE-Heery provided a construction update.

Superintendent’s Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Summer School Update
Dr. Mary Stratos and ISD staff provided an update on summer school.

- TSI/Priority Schools Quarterly Update
Dr. Stratos and Daniel Fallon, presented a quarterly update on the TSI/Priority Schools.
- UVA Cohort Update
Dr. Stratos and Mrs. Monalise Dickson, presented an update on the UVA cohort.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

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

Public Comments

- David Cook (Phone Call) questioned parent consent when it comes to school library books.

Other Matters

- Summer Institute, and First Day of School Update
Dr. Rodriguez provided an update from Summer Institute, the first since 2018. He then provided an update regarding the first day of school.

Board Business Action

- Donation from Healthy Connections Blue Choice Healthy Plan of SC to Whale Branch Middle School in the amount valued at \$7,500 for Sponsorship to School Events.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to accept the donation from Healthy Connections Blue Choice Healthy Plan of SC to Whale Branch Middle School in amount valued at \$7,500 for Sponsorships to School Events. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.

- Student Athletic GPA for Participation
Mr. Melvin Campbell began a discussion regarding student athletic GPA for participation.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion that the Board extend tonight's agenda to finish the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. Melvin Campbell made the motion that Beaufort County School District extend its moratorium on its GPA requirements for extracurricular activities for one year. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/2. Tricia Fidrych and Cathy Robine voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Consent Agenda

- August 2 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- Monthly \$100K Report – May 2022
- Board Monthly Budget Report – August 2022
- Transparency Report – June 2022

Future Agenda Topics

- Colonel Richard Geier would like to revisit the meeting venue.
- Mr. David Striebinger would like a clear definition on what an announcement is.

Announcements

Mr. William Smith announced he visited some schools on the first day of school.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:30 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: September 6, 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 discussion of student physical education waiver 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 Beaufort Middle School for athletics, safety/security, and technology infrastructure Contract Amendment #24 to Thompson Turner Construction GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Broad River Elementary School for safety/security and technology infrastructure Contract Amendment #25 to Thompson Turner Construction GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Coosa Elementary School for safety/security and technology infrastructure Contract Amendment #23 to Thompson Turner Construction GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed James J. Davis Early Childhood Center for safety/security and technology infrastructure Contract Amendment #24 to Ajax Building Company, LLC GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Joseph Shanklin Elementary School for safety/security and technology infrastructure contract Amendment #25 to Ajax Building Company, LLC GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Lady's Island Elementary School for safety/security and technology infrastructure Contract Amendment #26 to Ajax Building Company, LLC GMP pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed St. Helena Elementary School for safety/security and technology infrastructure Amendment #28 to Ajax Building Company, LLC GMP 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 that the Board authorize Superintendent Rodriguez to accept the offer and enter a contract to purchase property in Bluffton, South Carolina in the amount of \$886,000 using proceeds from the district's surplus property. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

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A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to amend the agenda to strike final action on OE8.10, OE8.11, OE8.10, GC.8, GC3.9, GC3.10. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/2. Tricia Fidrych and William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Plan. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to recommend the approval of Battery Creek's High School naming of the Gymnasium and Wrestling Facility. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to direct the Superintendent to use the FCA to begin planning for a future referendum. The motion was seconded.

An amended motion was made to strike the words "to use the FCA". The motion was seconded and failed 2/9. Ingrid Boatright, Earl Campbell, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, Cathy Robine, David Striebinger and William Smith voted against the motion.

The original motion passed 8/1/2. David Striebinger voted against the motion. Christina Gwozdz and Rachel Wisniewski abstained the vote.

A motion was made to recommend that student services be assigned to the academic committee. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Cathy Robine abstained from vote.

A motion was made to accept the donation from Healthy Connections Blue Choice Healthy Plan of SC to Whale Branch Middle School in amount valued at \$7,500 for Sponsorships to School Events. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board extend tonight's agenda to finish the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that Beaufort County School District extend its moratorium on its GPA requirements for extracurricular activities for one year. The motion was seconded and passed 9/2. Tricia Fidrych and Cathy Robine voted against the motion.

A motion was made to approve Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisniewski abstained from the vote.

Consent Agenda

- August 2 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- Monthly \$100K Report – May 2022
- Board Monthly Budget Report – August 2022
- Transparency Report – June 2022