

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2022
District Educational Services Center
Hybrid Meeting

Members Presents

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

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice regarding one pending claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to fiscal authority covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice regarding settled claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); personnel Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

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

Action from Executive Session

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the October 1 to October 31, 2022. Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for November 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education accept an offer and direct the Superintendent to enter into a contract to purchase property A in the Bluffton SC area in the amount not to exceed \$1,750,000 using remaining bond proceeds from FY2017-2018 Eight Percent bond issues. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education accept an offer and direct the Superintendent to enter into a contract to purchase property B in the Bluffton SC area in the amount not to exceed \$2,750,000 using remaining bond proceeds from FY2017-2018 Eight Percent bond issues. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Colonel Richard Geier stated, “as a result of Dr. Frank Rodriguez receiving a highly effective performance rating leading the BCSD in the 2021-2022 school year, I move that the Board of Education will immediately discuss ways to bring his employment contract in alignment with his performance.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/0.

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

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance

The Joseph Shanklin Elementary School third grade Sand Dollar Scholars performed “The Ghost of John” under the direction of music teacher Karen Jordan.

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

- **September Student of the Month – Northern Beaufort County School District, St. Helena Elementary 1st grade student Jaidynn Hall Austin.**

Public Comments

The following community members spoke regarding banning books and the book review process.

- Martha Settle, Beaufort
- Mare Deckard, Port Royal
- Peter Birschbach, Port Royal
- Barb Nash, Beaufort
- Kathleen Lauret, Beaufort
- Timothy Dodds, Beaufort
- Frances Eubank, Beaufort
- McKinley Person, Beaufort
- Barbara Berry, Port Royal
- James Woodfin, Pooler
- Emily Mayer, Bluffton
- David Cook, Hilton Head Island
- Susan Boyd, Beaufort
- Kathy DeLong, Beaufort
- Madison Hahn, Bluffton
- Noah Keefer, Savannah
- Katherine Freligh, Charleston
- Josh Malkin, Columbia

- Celeste Nalwasky, St. Helena Island
- Lori Wottlgemuth Toll, Beaufort
- Tim Joy, Beaufort
- Debbie Burke, Okatie
- Jodie Srucek, (Phone Call)
- Celeste DiCarlo Nalwasky (Phone Call)
- Skip Hoagland, Hilton Head Island spoke regarding the school budget.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to continue with public comment to hear the voices of everyone. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion was passed 10/0.

Chair's Report

Dr. Gwozdz read the summary of Superintendent Dr. Frank Rodriguez's 2021-2022 performance evaluation.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee: Tricia Fidrych, chair shared that the committee met on October 24 and discussed the health education act. The committee also discussed changes to policy GC-2-23L regarding responding to public comment. The next committee meeting is Monday, November 7 with a discussion about the Health Advisory Committee on agenda.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve changes to GC-2.3L to read: Persons appearing before the board should be aware that Board members are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. However, only the presiding Chair may respond to give direction to the Superintendent to provide follow-up with the member of the public. Questions may be directed to the Board, but answers may be deferred pending proper background investigation and formal consideration to administration. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisniewski.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to postpone the discussion of this motion until after January 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

Technology Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair asked Mr. Mark Chauhan to introduced representatives of Plante Moran. They are the vendor who completed the external technology services audit. Plante Moran representatives summarized the audit findings.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Teaching and Learning Update
The Instructional Services Department staff presented an update on teaching and learning.

Public Comment

- Ivie Szalai, Beaufort spoke regarding student vaping and books with sexually explicit material.

Other Matters

- Library Media Services Update
Dr. Mary Stratos provided updates on library media services and administrative regulation IS-38.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to continue the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/0.

Dr. Gwozdz called Mr. Smith out of Order and called for a recess at 9:55.

The Board returned to open session.

Mr. Smith appealed the ruling by the Chair that he was out of order and Mr. Melvin Campbell seconded the appeal. The motion voted on was to uphold the Chair's decision that Mr. Smith was out of order and the Board needed to move on to Vaping. The motion passed 6/2/1. Melvin Campbell, William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote. Angela Middleton was absent from the vote.

- Discussion on Vaping
Derek Skaggs presented a presentation on student vaping.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education direct the Superintendent to develop a feasibility plan for the hiring of hall monitors for all BCSD middle and high schools for SY '23-'24. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0/1. Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

Consent Agenda

- October 18, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- October 26, 2022 Special Called Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 10/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mr. William Smith would like to discuss the state school report cards.

Announcements

Dr. Gwozdz shared that there is a virtual legislative preview from noon to 1 p.m. on November 2. Board members need to register in advance for the link.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: December 13, 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 regarding one pending claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to fiscal authority covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice regarding settled claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); personnel Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded and passed 8/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

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A motion was made that the Board of Education will immediately discuss ways to bring his employment contract in alignment with his performance. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

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

A motion was made to continue with public comment to hear the voices of everyone. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

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A motion was made to postpone the discussion of this motion until after January 1, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to continue the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to appeal the ruling by the Chair that he was out of order and Mr. Mel Campbell seconded the appeal. The motion voted on was to uphold the Chair's decision that Mr. Smith was out of order and the Board needed to move on to Vaping. The motion passed 6/2/1. Melvin Campbell, William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote. Angela Middleton was absent from the vote.

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A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.