

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Joint School Board & SIC Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2022

Members Presents

Christina Gwozdz, Chair
Cathy Robine, Vice Chair

Earl Campbell
Tricia Fidrych
William Smith

Melvin Campbell
Richard Geier

Members Absent

Angela Middleton, Secretary
Ingrid Boatright
Rachel Wisnefski

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

The Board and SIC members networked and wrote their topics of interest under their school group (elementary, middle, high) on chart paper from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 7/0. Angela Middleton, Ingrid Boatright and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the meeting.

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

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Dr. Gwozdz provided information regarding the meeting format and read the topics of interest. The group decided which topics they would like to discuss. Topics not covered during the discussion will be discussed at the Board's January work session meeting and brought back to SIC members at the March Joint Board/SIC meeting. SIC topics are attached.

- **Year-Round Calendar**

SIC Members shared their thoughts on bringing the year-round calendar back. The question was asked if the district is still locked into following the state law requiring schools to not start prior to the third Monday in August and shared that a year-round calendar may impact the AP program.

Board members offered their thoughts on the year-round calendar and how next steps will be decided.

- **Parental Involvement**

The SIC members shared their thoughts on parental involvement and what they do to get parents involved. Parents have lots of opinions, but don't show up to the meetings where they can make an impact.

Board members shared their own experiences and asked if there were enough funds budgeted to provide for the various activities, and prizes. Board members also spoke about the importance of parent and community engagement.

- **Cell phone use during instruction**

An SIC member shared her experience as a teacher with students using phones and ear pods during instruction. One of the suggested solutions is working with parents; simply taking away the phone does not work. Other members shared their experiences and the differences per grade levels.

Dr. Gwozdz will share the operational items that were written for discussion with Dr. Rodriguez directly.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:37 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: January 17, 2023

Angela Middleton, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 7/0. Angela Middleton, Ingrid Boatright and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the meeting.

SIC Topics

Elementary School

- Partnership/meetings among feeder elementary schools to encourage retention to middle school
- Trauma informed training for all staff
- Parent involvement
- Afterschool programs and partnerships
- Broken playground equipment at Whale Branch Elementary
- Ant Hills and Wasp Nest at WBE
- Cross walks and crossing guards available for walkers at WBE?
- Garage and bathrooms are dirty WBE
- Teacher Assistants and help in Classroom WBE
- Summer HVAC issues in Aug when it has been off all summer
- Substitute shortage
- Map testing reading if can be split into two parts so means two days to complete reading portion they score might improve.

Middle School

- Recruitment and Retention – Overloading instructional coaches and STEM coordinators with teaching or watching classrooms due to shortages or teachers leaving
- Year-Round Calendar
- Referendum 2023
- Develop pipeline from well-established Universities to grow applicant pool - SPED

High School

- Bus Transportation (Hire more drivers)
- Safety concerns due to growth in Bluffton
- Larger schools should have more SROs
- Cell Phone during instruction
- Career pathways for students when the traditional pathway not conducive for learning.
- Re-districting
- Year- Round Calendar