

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 4, 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	

Member Absent

Rachel Wisnefski

Mr. David Striebinger called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz 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); employment matter regarding Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); Adult Ed/Home School Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); Update on Security/Safety Plans pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-20(c). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0. William Smith was absent from the vote. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the meeting.

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

Action from Executive Session

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion for the Board to direct legal counsel to promptly commence a declaratory judgment action to determine the fiscal authority of the school district under South Carolina law. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the September 1 to September 30, 2022 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for October 4, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to approve the agenda with the minutes removed from consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Moment of silence was observed in honor of Mrs. Melissa Smeraldi who passed away on September 28 2022. She was a Special Assistant at May River High School.

Mr. Striebinger stated that the media was properly notified.

Performance

The Lady's Island Elementary School 4th Graders performed a dance to "Beat It" By Michael Jackson, under the direction of dance teacher Vanessa Valdez, followed by the song "Like a Mighty Stream" By Rollo Dilworth, under the direction of music teacher John Bittner.

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

- **August Student of the Month – Northern BCSD Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary School 4th grade Angelic Sanchez Ramirez.**
- **SCSBA Champions for Public Education Award presented by Jamie Devine, President of SCSBA to the CLOC (Citizens Lead Oversight Committee.)**
- **Support Staff of the Year – Mossy Oaks Elementary's school nurse Jodi Knorr**

Public Comments

- Joseph Castagnino, Bluffton spoke regarding parent access to review curriculum materials at May River High School.
- Ms. Marsha White, Ms. Onika Wright, Mr. Troupan, spoke regarding how their children were handled during a situation at Whale Branch Early College High School.
- Beaufort Mayor Stephen Murray spoke regarding annexing Robert Smalls International Academy into the City of Beaufort.
- Julie Matthews, Beaufort spoke regarding schoolbooks and school safety.
- Angela Rossillo, (phone call) spoke regarding SEL and CRT.
- Skip Hoagland, Hilton Head Island, spoke about forming a community forensic audit committee.

Committee Reports

Academics Committee: Cathy Robine, chair shared that the last meeting agenda items covered changes to IS-25, which is now called Multi-Lingual Learners (MLL) instead of English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); an overview of the ISD organizational chart; and a presentation on student-teacher ratios. The committee's next meeting is October 26.

Legislative Committee: Dr. Christina Gwozdz, chair provided a legislative update.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Cognia Update
Dr. Stratos, and Mr. Nicholas Flowers, provided an update on the Cognia process.

Other Matters

- Community Project Review Committee V2.0 Format
Dr. Rodriguez began a discussion regarding the community project review committee format for a possible future referendum and requested each Board member to provide two names of possible committee members.

Board Business

- Update on City of Beaufort's Annexation of Robert Smalls Academy
Mr. Robert Oetting and Dr. Rodriguez provided an update regarding construction permitting and SRO coverage in relation to the City of Beaufort's Annexation of Robert Smalls Academy. City of Beaufort Mayor Stephen Murray also addressed the Board.
- Discussion regarding Executive Session Folders
Mr. Striebinger and the Board began a discussion regarding Executive Session folders. Mrs. Wendy Cartledge provided information regarding what items in the Executive Folders becomes public information.
- September 20, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
Mrs. Ingrid Boatright questioned the use of quotation marks in the public comments section of the meeting minutes.

Mr. William Smith made the motion to postpone conversation until a work session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melvin Campbell. The motion failed 5/5. Ingrid Boatright, Richard Geier, Christina Gwozdz, Cathy Robine, and David Striebinger voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education list in our minutes only the names of those who speak and not the topic. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion failed 5/4/1. Earl Campbell, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

Dr. Christina Gwozdz made the motion to accept the September 20, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/1. Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mr. William Smith would like to discuss school start time.
- Mr. Earl Campbell would like to discuss student discipline.

Announcements

Mr. Smith shared that this month is breast cancer awareness month.

Public Comments

- Lynn Greeley, Beaufort, asked when the Board will answer the public commenter's questions.
- Joseph Castagnino, Bluffton spoke regarding the vote that took place under the consent agenda.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:50 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: October 18, 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); employment matter regarding Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); Adult Ed/Home School Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); Update on Security/Safety Plans pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-20(c). The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. William Smith was absent from the vote. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the meeting.

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A motion was made to accept the September 20, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.