

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2022
District Educational Services Center
Hybrid Meeting

Members Presents

Christina Gwozdz, Chair	Ingrid Boatright	Earl Campbell
Cathy Robine, Vice Chair	Melvin Campbell	Tricia Fidrych
Angela Middleton, Secretary	Richard Geier	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); Personnel Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; discussion of employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; 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); discussion of proposed selection for architectural services contract RFQ #23-006 Professional Design Services – Rebuild of Hilton Head island High School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Dr. Christina 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 recommendation for employment listed on the November 1 – 31, 2022 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for December 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board authorize the Superintendent to issue an award to Little Diversified Architectural Consulting for professional design services for the Rebuild of Hilton Head Island High School. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate an architectural contract and, upon successful negotiations, execute a contract with the firm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 6/1/3. Cathy Robine voted against the motion. Ingrid Boatright, William Smith, and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda with the removal of OE-2, OE-3, OE10, OE11, OE15, and the September 9 Board meeting minutes from the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 10/0.

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

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Performance

The Coosa Chorus performed “Snowflake Carol” arranged Steve Kupferschmid, under the direction of music teacher Rachel Kirk.

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

- **Character Ed Student of the Month -Northern BCSD**
 - October - Robert Smalls International Academy – 4th Grade Student Cailyn Fields
 - November – Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary School – PreK student Camila Smith
- **Character Ed Student of the Month – Southern BCSD**
 - November – Hilton Head Island High School 9th grade student Jayden Press
- **Beaufort High School National Honors Choir Award**
- **Beaufort High School Football State Championship**

Public Comments

- Robbin Buckaman, St. Helena Island spoke on discipline in the school system
- The following community members, including media specialists, spoke regarding book banning.
 - Amy Trask, Beaufort
 - Jeff Baker, Beaufort
 - Karen Gareis, Bluffton
 - Barb Nash, Beaufort
 - Ivie Szalai, Beaufort
 - Jodie Srutek, Bluffton
 - Emily Mayer, (Phone Call)
- Dr. Susan Wolfe, Hilton Head Island praised outgoing Board member Cathy Robine.
- Amanda Patel, Beaufort request to review discipline policy.

Chair’s Report

Dr. Gwozdz shared that she and Mr. Earl Campbell attended the SC School Board Association legislative conference in Charleston. The SCSBA Delegate Assembly declined to hear the Board’s and McCormick’s legislative proposals from the floor. Dr. Gwozdz also thanked outgoing Board members for their service.

Committee Reports

Academic Committee: Cathy Robine, chair shared that the committee met on November 30th and discussed the following: Administrative Regulations IS-26 Medical Homebound Instruction, SS – 3 Assignment of Students to Schools; SS-28 Pregnant Students, students with Children and Married Students; OE 13- Discipline and OE 14 – Learning Environment/Treatment of Students. The committee met again on December 6th and had a presentation on Local Board Approved Applications; Honors Framework; and an update on Graduation Calendar Dates.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to accept OE-13 Discipline. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 7/2/1. Tricia Fidrych and William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to accept OE-14 Learning Environment/Treatment of Students. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 8/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve the Local Board Approved Courses active and in-active 2022-2023 school year. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve the Local Board approved applications as presented at the December 6, 2022 Academic Committee. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Cathy Robine made the motion to approve the Honor Level Courses as presented at the December 6, 2022 Academic Committee. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/0.

Finance Committee: Richard Geier, chair shared that the committee met on December 5 and received the results of the annual audit.

Mrs. Tonya Crosby presented a video on the audit report from Hope Pendleton, Engagement Partner with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC.

Colonel Geier highlighted the accomplishment of the Finance Department with twenty-one years straight of a no findings audit.

Colonel Geier made the motion to accept OE6.1 – 6.8 Monitoring Report for Financial Administration. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Crosby introduce Joseph Geisweidt with The Nutrition Group, who addressed the Board. Dr. Rodriguez shared food service feedback from students.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to accept OE-18 Monitoring Report School Food and Nutrition Services. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisniewski. The motion passed 10/0.

Colonel Geier share that the future topics for the next Finance Committee meeting will be on the second Thursday in February. The topics will include a transparency report, a discussion on purchases from Amazon, and the impact of ESSER positions.

Operations Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair shared that the committee held two meetings, one for facilities and one for communication. The committee will receive a new construction update tomorrow.

Mrs. Boatright shared information from the Safety and Security presentation.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to accept OE-15 Safety and Security monitoring report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 9/0/1.

Ms. Boatright presented on OE 2 Superintendent Succession Planning. The Operations Committee has asked the Policy Committee to look at adding the Executive Directors to the succession plan.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to accept OE-2 Superintendent Succession Planning. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Boatright presented OE 3 Treatment of Stakeholders.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to accept OE3 - Treatment of Stakeholders. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisniewski. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Boatright presented OE 10 Communicating with the Board.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to accepted OE 10 Communicating with the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Boatright presented on OE 11 Communicating with the Public.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to accept OE11 – Communication with the Public. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 10/0.

Technology Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair shared the committee met to receive information on data recovery and reviewed future topics.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- TSI/Priority Schools Quarterly Update
Dr. Mary Stratos introduced Brett Fritz, acting Director of Data Services, who presented a TSI/Priority Schools quarterly update.

Public Comments

- Jodie Srutek, Bluffton shared a resolution from the Beaufort County Democratic Party Executive Committee.
- David Cook, (Phone Call) thanked outgoing Board member Cathy Robine for her service.
- Isabella Troy, (Student) shared her thoughts on book banning and drug use.

Dr. Rachel Wisniewski made the motion to extend the meeting until we finish. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0/1. Melvin Campbell abstained from the vote.

Superintendent's Report Continued

- Kindergarten Updates
Dr. Stratos introduced Ashley Hutchison, who presented an update on the kindergarten program.
- Other Matters
 - Community Project Review Committee 2.0
Mr. Robert Oetting provided an update on the Community Project Review Committee 2.0.
 - Update on Book Review Committees
Dr. Stratos provided an update on the book review committees.

Board Business Action

- Board 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar
Dr. Rachel Wisniewski made the motion that we approve the alternate 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 6/1/3. William Smith voted against the motion. Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych and Cathy Robine abstained from the vote.
- Approval of Graduation Date Changes
Dr. Stratos presented on graduation date changes.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Board of Education approve the graduation date changes for the 2022-2023 calendar and on the Board of Education Alternate Board Calendar Date. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 7/1/2. Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. Tricia Fidrych and William Smith abstained from the vote.

- September 9, 2022 Work Session Meeting Minutes
Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the September 9, 2022 Work Session Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 7/0/3. Christina Gwozdz, William Smith, and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 8/0/2. Angela Middleton and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Consent Agenda

- November 1, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- November 15, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- November 18, 2022 Board work Session Meeting Minutes
- OE1 – Global Operational Expectation
- OE16 – FOIA Quarterly Report

Future Agenda Topics

- Mr. Earl Campbell would like discipline details at the January work session and RSIA Gaggle information.
- Mrs. Tricia Fidrych shared she would like a discussion on the 4 x 4 high school schedule.

Announcements

Dr. Rodriguez thanked outgoing Board members for placing their trust in him and for their service.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:15p.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 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); Personnel Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; discussion of employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; 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); discussion of proposed selection for architectural services contract RFQ #23-006 Professional Design Services – Rebuild of Hilton Head island High School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

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A motion was made to approve the agenda with the removal of OE-2, OE-3, OE10, OE11, OE15, and the September 9 Board meeting minutes from the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to accept OE-13 Discipline. The motion was seconded and passed 7/2/1. Tricia Fidrych and William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to accept OE-14 Learning Environment/Treatment of Students. The motion was seconded and passed 8/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion.

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A motion was made to accept OE-18 Monitoring Report School Food and Nutrition Services. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to accept OE-15 Safety and Security monitoring report. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1.

A motion was made to accept OE-2 Superintendent Succession Planning. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to accept OE3 - Treatment of Stakeholders. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to accepted OE 10 Communicating with the Board. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to accept OE11 – Communication with the Public. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to extend the meeting until we finish. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Melvin Campbell abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the alternate 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar. The motion was seconded and passed 6/1/3. William Smith voted against the motion. Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych and Cathy Robine abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the graduation date changes for the 2022-2023 calendar and on the Board of Education Alternate Board Calendar Date. The motion was seconded and passed 7/1/2. Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. Tricia Fidrych and William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the September 9, 2022 Work Session Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded and passed 7/0/3. Christina Gwozdz, William Smith, and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0/2. Angela Middleton and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Consent Agenda

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