

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 7, 2023**  
**District Educational Services Center**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Members Present**

Christina Gwozdz, Chair	Ingrid Boatright	Earl Campbell
Richard Geier, Vice Chair	Carlton Dallas	Chloe Gordon
Angela Middleton, Secretary	Elizabeth Hey	Victor Ney
	William Smith	Rachel Wisnefski

Colonel Richard Geier 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 discussion relating to school security plans pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-20©; receipt of legal advice regarding three pending claims 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); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed M.B. Kahn Construction Co., contract amendment #32 for Field House Renovations at Hilton Head Island School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Ajax Building Company, contract amendment #32 to proceed with the Safety/Security, Technology/Infrastructure and Athletic Scope at May River High School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)2. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0. Carlton Dallas and Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote.**

Colonel Richard Geier called the meeting back to open session at 6:05 p.m.

**Action from Executive Session**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the January 1 – 31, 2022. Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for February 2, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #32 with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc. for the Field House Renovations at Hilton Head Island High School based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$1,270,740. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #32 with Ajax Building Company for the Safety/Security, Technology/Infrastructure and Athletics Scope at May River High School in the amount of \$6,115,818. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/0/2. Rachel Wisnefski and Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.**

### **Student Performance**

The Whale Branch Early College High School band students performed “Til We Meet Again,” arranged by Ronald J. Sarjeant, under the direction of J. Anthony Gaskin, Director of Bands/Choir.

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

- National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association

### **Public Comments**

The following community members, including students, spoke regarding book banning.

- David Cook, Hilton Head Island
- Mary Foster, Beaufort
- Isabella Troy, Battery Creek Student
- Pete Cooper
- Lizzie Foster, Beaufort Academy Student
- Millie Bennett, Beaufort High School Student
- Janet McCaulay, St. Helena Island
- Claire Bennett, Beaufort
- Wendy Lacombe, Beaufort
- Robin Liebenberg, Hilton Head Island
- Debbie Barton, Bluffton
- Tony Cambria, Bluffton spoke regarding academic achievement
- Melvin Campbell, former Board member spoke regarding Board preparation.

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to extend the first Public Comment section. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0. Christina Gwozdz left the meeting at 6:30p.m.**

- Angela Rossillo (Phone Call), spoke about the book review committee process; updating the registration process; stated that teachers should not teach CRT or SEL; and requested the Board create a form to opt-out of assessments.

### **CLOC Update**

- Mr. Ted Barber presented a CLOC quarterly update.

### **Committee Reports**

*Academic Committee:* Chloe Gordon, chair shared that the committee met to discuss school choice options at LIES and CES and the calendar. Mrs. Gordon provided an overview of the school choice options.

**Mrs. Chloe Gordon made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education on February 7, 2023, approves Lady’s Island Elementary School Choice Program Application to take effect for the upcoming 2023-2024 academic school year with applications starting the spring of 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.**

**Mrs. Chloe Gordon made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education on February 7, 2023, approves Coosa Elementary Project Based Learning School Choice Program Application to take effect for the upcoming 2023-2024 academic school year with applications starting the spring of 2023. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.**

Mrs. Pender provided an overview of Project Based Learning.

**Mrs. Chloe Gordon made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education on February 7, 2023, approves the proposed textbook adoption list as presented at the January 25, 2023, Academic Committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 9/0. Carlton Dallas was absent from the vote.**

Dr. Stratos presented proposed calendars for the 2023-24 school year.

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education on February 7, 2023, approves the 2023-2024 academic calendar A 84/96 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas.**

**Amended motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education on February 7, 2023, approves the 2023-2024 academic calendar A 84/96 with the changes of the calendar being November 10th an academic day, December 21, 2023 a half day and December 22, 2023 a day off. The motion passed 9/1. Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.**

*Legislative Committee:* Earl Campbell, chair shared the legislative update, specifically relating to bills related to Boards of Education.

**Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion for the full board to discuss and send recommendations to the Lobbyist at a future work session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 10/0.**

### **Superintendent's Report**

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Instructional Support Tutoring  
Dr. Stratos presented on instructional support tutoring.

### **Board Business Action**

Board Determination on the Appeals from the Material Reconsideration Committees Reports for the following books

- Milk & Honey by Rupi Kaur
- The Freedom Writer's Diary by The Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell
- Looking for Alaska by John Green
- Impulse by Ellen Hopkins
- Glass by Ellen Hopkins
- Go Ask Alice by Anonymous
- Crank by Ellen Hopkins
- Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher
- The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education on February 7, 2023, concurs with the findings of the January 19, 2023, Book Review Committee findings of the following book titles:**

**Crank, author Ellen Hopkins**

**Glass, author Ellen Hopkins**

**Go Ask Alice, author Anonymous**

**Impulse, author Ellen Hopkins**

**Looking for Alaska, author John Green**

**Milk & Honey, author Rupi Kaur**

**The Freedom Writer's Diary, author The Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell**

**The Poet X, author Elizabeth Acevedo**

**Thirteen Reasons Why, author Jay Asher**

**The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas.**

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the amended motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education on February 7, 2023, has no reason to overturn the findings of the January 19, 2023, Book Review Committee findings of the following book titles:**

**Crank, author Ellen Hopkins**

**Glass, author Ellen Hopkins**

**Go Ask Alice, author Anonymous**

**Impulse, author Ellen Hopkins**

**Looking for Alaska, author John Green**

**Milk & Honey, author Rupi Kaur**

**The Freedom Writer's Diary, author The Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell**

**The Poet X, author Elizabeth Acevedo**

**Thirteen Reasons Why, author Jay Asher**

**The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion failed 2/6/2. Earl Campbell, Rachel Wisniewski, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, Chloe Gordon, and Elizabeth Hey voted against the motion. William Smith and Victor Ney abstained from the vote.**

**The original motion passed 7/2/1. Rachel Wisniewski and Elizabeth Hey voted against the motion. Victor Ney abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to continue meeting until the meeting concluded. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.**

#### **Public Comments**

- Debbie Barton, Bluffton spoke regarding book bans.
- Isabella Troy, Beaufort thanked the Board for their motion.
- David Cook, Hilton Head Island spoke about a Board member, stating he should resign.

**Dr. Rachel Wisniewski made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

- January 17, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- January 27, 2023 Work Session Meeting Minutes

**Future Agenda Topics**

- Mr. Earl Campbell would like to discuss all of the legislative bills.
- Colonel Richard Geier would like to discuss the Lobeco property the district owns.
- Mrs. Chloe Gordon would like to discuss the process and procedures for disciplinary actions.
- Mr. Carlton Dallas would like to discuss assessment results.

**Announcements**

Mr. William Smith announced that its Black History Month, and Battery Creek High School will have a program on February 22.

- Dr. Rodriguez reminded the Board that Thursday through Saturday is the African American History Conference.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:34 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: February 21, 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 discussion relating to school security plans pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-20©; receipt of legal advice regarding three pending claims 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); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed M.B. Kahn Construction Co., contract amendment #32 for Field House Renovations at Hilton Head Island School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Ajax Building Company, contract amendment #32 to proceed with the Safety/Security, Technology/Infrastructure and Athletic Scope at May River High School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)2. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Carlton Dallas and Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote.

### Action from Executive Session

A motion was made to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the January 1 – 31, 2022. Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for February 2, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #32 with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc. for the Field House Renovations at Hilton Head Island High School based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$1,270,740. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisniewski abstained.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #32 with Ajax Building Company for the Safety/Security, Technology/Infrastructure and Athletics Scope at May River High School in the amount of \$6,115,818. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/2. Rachel Wisniewski and Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to extend the first Public Comment section. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. Christina Gwozdz left the meeting at 6:30p.m.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education on February 7, 2023, approves Lady's Island Elementary School Choice Program Application to take effect for the upcoming 2023-2024 academic school year with applications starting the spring of 2023. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

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**A motion was made for the full board to discuss and send recommendations to the Lobbyist at a future work session. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.**

**A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education on February 7, 2023, concurs with the findings of the January 19, 2023, Book Review Committee findings of the following book titles:**

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**The Freedom Writer's Diary, author The Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell**

**The Poet X, author Elizabeth Acevedo**

**Thirteen Reasons Why, author Jay Asher**

**The motion was seconded.**

**An amended motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education on February 7, 2023, has no reason to overturn the findings of the January 19, 2023, Book Review Committee findings of the following book titles:**

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**The motion was seconded and failed 2/6/2. Earl Campbell, Rachel Wisnefski, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, Chloe Gordon, and Elizabeth Hey voted against the motion. William Smith and Victor Ney abstained from the vote.**

**The original motion passed 7/2/1. Rachel Wisnefski and Elizabeth Hey voted against the motion. Victor Ney abstained from the vote.**

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

**A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.**

**Consent Agenda**

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