

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

**Members Present**

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

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 5:00 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)(20); Employment Matter re: 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 30-4-70(a)(4). The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/0 Elizabeth Hey was absent from the vote.**

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:00 p.m.

**Action from Executive Session**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the February 1-28, 2023, personnel ratification report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. 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 March 7, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.**

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 Beaufort High School Dance Ensemble performed under the direction of Theresa Baker Wallace, Lead Teacher for the Arts and Dance Teacher.

**Points of Celebration**

- Wrestling State Champions
  - Battery Creek High School -Gunnar DeGroat

- Beaufort High School – Colton Hares
- Bluffton High School – Jada Lawrence
- May River High School – Isaiah Wysong
- **National Social Worker Week**  
Dr. Gwozdz read a proclamation into record.
- **School Counselor of the Year**
  - The district’s Middle School Counselor of the Year, Tekerria Brown from Robert Smalls International Academy
  - High School Counselor of the Year, Laura Marshall from May River High School
  - Rookie School Counselor of the Year, Arriel Young from Port Royal Elementary were commended.
  - School Counselor of the Year, Candace Washington from Broad River Elementary School  
A short video of the surprise announcement was played <https://youtu.be/zdsQAhJ3LRQ>
- **DAR Contest Winner-** Lincoln Benson from H.E. McCracken Middle School won both the regional and state levels.

### **Public Comments**

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

- Isabella Troy, Beaufort
- Elizabeth Foster, Beaufort
- Patrick Good, Beaufort
- Madelyn Conford, Beaufort
- Millie Bennett, Beaufort
- Claire Bennett, Beaufort
- Jason Mott, Bolton, NC
- Julie Matthews, Beaufort
- Ivie Szalai, Beaufort
- Mel Campbell, Hilton Head Island
- Melinda Henrickson, Beaufort
- Don Timms, Hilton Head Island
- Angela Rossillo, (phone call)

### **CPRC 2.0 Committee Update**

Mr. Ed Burns, one of the committee members gave an update on potential project items the committee had discussed.

### **Chair’s Report**

Dr. Gwozdz reminded Board members to file their SC Statement of Economic Interest Form by March 30, 2023.

Colonel Richard Geier shared information from the family literacy night that took place at Whale Branch Elementary last week.

### **Committee Reports**

Legislative Committee: Earl Campbell, chair shared information from the lobbyist regarding upcoming legislation.

Dr. Gwozdz encouraged board members to attend the “Day on the Hill” April 19.

Technology Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair shared that the committee met with Mr. Mark Chauhan and discussed the referendum; what kind of technology storage the district is considering; and data.

### Superintendent's Report

#### Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Curriculum Update  
Dr. Mary Stratos introduced Karen McKenzie who provided a curriculum update.

#### Other Matters

- Guidance Counselor Update  
Dr. Juliet White provided an update on the recently held Guidance Counselor Conference, hosted by the Palmetto School Counselor Association.

### Board Business Action

- Board Determination on the Appeals from the Materials Reconsideration Committee Reports for the following books:
  - Eleanor Park by Rainbow Rowell
  - Grown by Tiffany Jackson
  - I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson
  - Mondays Not Coming by Tiffany Jackson
  - Sold by Patricia McCormick
  - All The Things We do in the Dark by Sandra Mitchell
  - City of Heavenly Fire, by Cassandra Clare
  - I am not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika Sanchez
  - Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education on March 7, 2023, concurs with the findings of the January 16, 2023, Book Review Committee findings of the following book titles:**

- Eleanor Park by Rainbow Rowell
- Grown by Tiffany Jackson
- I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson
- Mondays Not Coming by Tiffany Jackson
- Sold by Patricia McCormick
- All The Things We do in the Dark by Sandra Mitchell
- City of Heavenly Fire, by Cassandra Clare
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**The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/3. Elizabeth Hey, Victor Ney, and Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion.**

- Discussion on Reducing Scope of Book Appeals from Ten to Five  
Mr. Victor Ney led a discussion on reducing scope of book appeals from 10 to 5.  
**Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the School Board direct the Superintendent to reduce the Scope of book Appeals from Ten to Five. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Hey. The motion failed 3/7/1. Ingrid Boatright, Earl Campbell, Carlton Dallas, Richard Geier, Chloe Gordon, Christina Gwozdz voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.**

### Future Agenda Topics

- Dr. Rachel Wisnefski would like an update on aligning PreK.

- Mr. William Smith would like an update from Dr Rodriguez on hall monitors and School guidance counselors.
- Mrs. Boatright would like an understanding of the work order process.
- Mrs. Chloe Gordon would like a report on discipline procedures.

**Announcements**

- Mr. Smith acknowledged schools who participated in Red Across America last week.

**Public Comments**

- Ivie Szalai, Beaufort spoke about the book review process and the appealed for Hall Monitors.
- Patrick Good, Beaufort apologized on behalf of the community group attending the meeting for their laughter during public comment.
- Clair Bennett, Beaufort spoke regarding the book review process and opt-out forms.
- Isabella Troy, Beaufort thanked the Board for their work and expressed her frustration with the book review process.
- Mary Foster, Beaufort spoke regarding policy and procedure during public comment.
- David Cook (phone call), spoke about parental rights.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:58 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: April 4, 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)(20); Employment Matter re: 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 30-4-70(a)(4). The motion was seconded and passed 10/0 Elizabeth Hey was absent from the vote.

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- Grown by Tiffany Jackson
- I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson
- Mondays Not Coming by Tiffany Jackson
- Sold by Patricia McCormick
- All The Things We do in the Dark by Saundra Mitchell
- City of Heavenly Fire, by Cassandra Clare
- I am not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika Sanchez
- Me and Earl and the Dying Girl by Jesse Andrews

The motion was seconded and passed 9/3. Elizabeth Hey, Victor Ney, and Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the School Board direct the Superintendent to reduce the Scope of book Appeals from Ten to Five. The motion was seconded and failed 3/7/1. Ingrid Boatright, Earl Campbell, Carlton Dallas, Richard Geier, Chloe Gordon, Christina Gwozdz voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.