

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 4, 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 4:30 p.m.

**Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice regarding Fiscal Authority covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); 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); Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report and personnel matter; discussion of 2023-2024 employment recommendations 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 Construction Management at Risk Services for the Rebuild of Hilton Head Island High School RFP #23-012, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed negotiations incident to proposed J.E. Dunn Construction Contract Amendment #4 for Robert Smalls International Academy referendum Phase 2 scope and FY 2021 8% capital scope pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Ajax Building Company, LLC, construction contract amendment #40 for food service equipment improvement at 20 BCSD schools pursuant to S.C. code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 9/0. Chloe Gordon and Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote.**

Dr. 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 March 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023. Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith abstained from the vote. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the vote.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of an Induction Contract teacher, Employee A is not renewed for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the vote.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of an Induction Contract teacher, Employee B is not renewed for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the vote.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of a Letter of Agreement teacher, Employee C is not renewed for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/0/2. Elizabeth Hey and William Smith abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of an Induction teacher, Employee D is not renewed for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for the renewal of certified employees for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for April 4, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to issue an award to M.B. Kahn Construction co., to provide Construction Management at Risk Services for the Rebuild of Hilton Head Island High School, as described in RFP #23-012. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the contractor upon the expiration of the protest period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #40 with Ajax Building Company for the Food Service Equipment Improvements at 20 BCSD schools in the amount of \$995,006.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #4 for Robert Smalls International Academy with JE Dunn Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$1,704,365.38. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.**

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 Lady's Island Elementary School D'Arts Music group performed "The Joy of Music" by John Riggio, under the direction of music teacher John Bittner.

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

- **February Students of the Month**
  - Northern BCSD – Joseph Shanklin Elementary School – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student Germayori Del Cid Ramirez
  - Southern BCSD – Bluffton Middle School – 7<sup>th</sup> grade student Baylor Davis
- **Hyper Resolution Beaufort High School Robotics Team won the Design Award at the VEX SC State Finals**
- **SkillsUSA State Champions**
  - May River and Bluffton High School Students

### **Public Comments**

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

- Peter Cooper, Student
- Millie Bennett, Beaufort High School Student
- Isabella Troy, Battery Creek Student
- Elizabeth Foster, Student
- Claire Bennett, Beaufort
- Mary Foster, Beaufort
- Carrie Kearney, Beaufort
- Robin Liebenberg, Beaufort
- Susan Madison
- Melinda Hendrickson
- Barb Bausch
- Mare Deckard, Port Royal
- Melvin Campbell, former Board member spoke on student equity
- Julie Matthews, Beaufort made two apologies, then spoke on school safety, and book banning.
- Valerie Byrd, (Phone call)
- David Cook, (Phone call), spoke regarding curriculum for advanced 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA, survey, library opt out form and public comment rules
- Katherine Freligh (Phone call), spoke regarding book review sources

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to extend the first Public Comment section. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/3. Carlton Dallas, Elizabeth Hey and Victor Ney voted against the motion.**

### **Chair's Report**

Dr. Gwozdz shared information from the community forum on child/adolescent mental health and wellness. She then shared that the County Channel will resume broadcasting Board meetings in May.

### **Committee Reports**

Legislative Committee: Earl Campbell, chair shared the committee met with district lobbyist Lynn Stokes Murray prior to the board meeting. Ms. Murray joined the meeting and updated the Board on what was going on during this legislative session. Ms. Murray also answered questions concerning the recommended Legislative Agenda Priorities.

**Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion to approve the Legislative Agenda Priorities. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0. Ingrid Boatright was absent from the vote.**

*Academic Committee:* Angela Middleton shared that the committee met and discussed the library opt-out form, school choice, and the 2023-24 academic calendar.

Dr. Mary Stratos provided updates to the 2023-24 academic calendar. The updated graduation dates are:

June 3, 2024 @7:00PM - May River High School

June 4, 2024 @ 7:00PM Beaufort High School

June 5, 2024 @ 7:00PM Bluffton High School

June 6, 2024 @ 10:00AM Battery Creek High School

June 6, 2024 @ 7:00PM Hilton Head Island High School

June 7, 2024 @ 10:00AM Whale Branch Early College High School

June 7, 2024 @ 7:00PM Make-up

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County School District Board of Education approve the calendar change recommendation for the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar and 2024 Graduation Dates. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

The committee will discuss Right Choices and discipline on April 20 at 4:30 p.m.

*Finance Committee:* Richard Geier, chair shared that the committee met on March 25 and received monthly budget reports as well as a report on ESSER funds.

At their next meeting, the committee will discuss SRO funding, cost benefit analysis of contracted custodians, and the Minority/Women Business Enterprise Report.

*Operations Committee:* Richard Geier, chair shared that the committee met March 14 and received an executive summary of construction updates from Mr. Rob Corbin.

Mr. Robert Oetting provided an update on the River Ridge Academy Easement.

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education grant approval of a driveway access easement for University Investments LLC to access Raider Drive. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.**

The committee also discussed changes to ARs HRS-5 Staff Contract and Compensation, HRS-16 Staff Leave, HRS18-1 Annual Leave Pay, and HRS31 Resignation of Professional Staff.

The committee will discuss the following topics at its next meeting.

- The job description of the District Athletic Director
- Student Discipline
- The process for sending a student back to home school from Right Choices
- The cost benefit analysis of hiring custodians.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Goal #1 Student Achievement**

- Update on Library Opt-Out Form  
Dr. Stratos presented an update on the library opt-out form.

**Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion to extend the meeting until the end of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 11/0.**

## **Public Comments**

- David Cook, (Phone Call) spoke on surveys in the schools.

## **Board Business Action**

- Donation from the South Carolina Department of commerce in the amount of \$6,000 for supplies for MedTech7 Stem Summer Camps.

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the donation from the South Carolina Department of Commerce in the amount of \$6,000 for supplies for MedTech7 Stem Summer Camps. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 10/0. Richard Geier was absent from the vote.**

- Acceptance of OE6.9 – OE6.17 Debt Presentation

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept OE6.9 – OE6.17 Debt Presentation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.**

- Donation from Big Green Booster Club for a golf cart XRT 1550 sn rx 2234317771 valued in the amount of \$15,500 for BHS Athletic Director and Trainer for on campus transport of gear and injured players.

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the donation from Big Green Booster Club for a golf cart XRT 1550 sn rx 2234317771 valued in the amount of \$15,500 for BHS Athletic Director and Trainer for on campus transport of gear and injured players. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.**

- District Strategic Plan

Dr. Mary Stratos, and Mrs. Karen McKenzie provided background information on the waiver request.

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County School District approve the submission of the seat time waiver to the SCDE. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 11/0.**

- School Renewal Plan

Mr. Nicholas Flowers provided information on the School Renewal Plan.

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County School District approve the annual review of the district strategic plans and school renewal plans. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Consent Agenda**

- March 7, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- March 9, 2023 Joint SIC/Board Meeting Minutes
- March 24, 2023 Work Session Meeting Minutes

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.**

**Future Agenda Topics**

- Mrs. Ingrid Boatright would like a breakdown of ESSER funding spent on community engagement.
- Mr. Carlton Dallas would like a discussion on sharing good news from the district.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:26 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: May 2, 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 Fiscal Authority covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); 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); Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report and personnel matter; discussion of 2023-2024 employment recommendations 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 Construction Management at Risk Services for the Rebuild of Hilton Head Island High School RFP #23-012, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed negotiations incident to proposed J.E. Dunn Construction Contract Amendment #4 for Robert Smalls International Academy referendum Phase 2 scope and FY 2021 8% capital scope pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Ajax Building Company, LLC, construction contract amendment #40 for food service equipment improvement at 20 BCSD schools pursuant to S.C. code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Chloe Gordon and Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote.

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A motion was made that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of an Induction Contract teacher, Employee A is not renewed for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of an Induction Contract teacher, Employee B is not renewed for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of a Letter of Agreement teacher, Employee C is not renewed for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/2. Elizabeth Hey and William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of an Induction teacher, Employee D is not renewed for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

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**A motion was made to approve the Legislative Agenda Priorities. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. Ingrid Boatright was absent from the vote.**

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**A motion was made to extend the meeting until the end of the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.**

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