

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2023
Hilton Head Library
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

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to go 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); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed sale of property on Daufuskie Island covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of promotion of a student pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed extension of ESS contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed selection for architectural services contract, RFQ #23-013, Professional Design Services – Campus Master Plan update and new school in Bluffton pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Thompson Turner Construction contract Amendment #43 GMP for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure Improvements at Port Royal Elementary School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. 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

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve to extend the current contract with ESS for a period of one (1) year. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approves the state waiver appeal for a student at Beaufort High School. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/2. Carlton Dallas, and Christina Gwozdz voted against the motion.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board authorize the Superintendent to issue an award to Quackenbush Architects and Planners for professional design services for the Campus Masterplan Update and new PK-5 Elementary School. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate an architectural contract and, upon successful negotiations, executive a contract with the firm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/0/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #43 for Port Royal Elementary School Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with Thompson Turner Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$1,887,110. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the sale of 20 Maryfield Road on Daufuskie Island in the amount of \$10,000 to Burke Brennan, proceeds from the sale shall be deposited in the district's capital projects fund. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Iain Marx, a Hilton Head Island Middle School student, and Cecelia Payne, a retired instructional coach, who both recently passed away.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance

- Bluffton High School Orchestra shared a recorded performance, performing "The Overture to Barber of Seville" by Gioachino Rossini, arranged by Carrie Anne Gruselle, under the direction of music teacher Allannah Irwin.
- Hilton Head Island High School's Guitar 1 course students performed "Ya te Perdi" & "Se Quedan Viendo" under the direction of band teacher Sean Pribanic.

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

- **2023 Riley Award for SIC Excellence – Hilton Head Island High School**
- **April Student of the Month**
Southern BCSD- Hilton Head Island High School 12th grade student Connor Flood.
- **May River High School Mastersingers – Superior with Distinction Award**
- **River Ridge Academy Band Superior Rating**
- **Regional Science Fair Winner – Myer Smith, Hilton Head Island Middle**
- **2023 Enlighten SC Children's Book Challenge Winners Sawyer Blakley Costello and Kaia Bishop**
- **Student Game Ball Award**
Battery Creek High School student Jesse Beayon

Public Comments

The following committee members spoke regarding the book review committee and upcoming legislation.

- Robin Liebenberg, Hilton Head Island.
- David Cook, Hilton Head Island
- Susan Cook, Hilton Head Island

The following community members, including students, spoke regarding the book review committee.

- Elizabeth Foster, Beaufort
- Patrick Good, Beaufort

- Madelyn Confare, Beaufort
- Millie Bennett, Beaufort
- Holland Perryman, Beaufort
- Isabella Troy, Beaufort
- Claire Bennett, Beaufort
- Pete Copper, Beaufort
- Lori Hlaban, Beaufort

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to extend the public comment until it finished. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

- Susan Forster (Phone Call) spoke about school library standards and curriculum mapping.
- Tanya Hagedorn (Phone Call) spoke about the book review process.
- Lynleigh Rose (Phone Call) spoke regarding access to YouTube on district devices.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Richard Geier, chair provided a committee report, then made the following motion.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to recommend that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent, or his designee, to apply for sign, submit and administer federal, state, local and foundation grant applications, and cooperative agreements for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to recommend that the Board of Education authorize the filing of E-rate Funding Year 2023 applications for eligible E-rate Category 1 Services, and that by doing so, the Board acknowledges that it will budget for sufficient funds to pay for the district's share of the services that are not supported by the E-rate Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.

Operations Committee: Richard Geier, chair provided a committee report, then made the following motion.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Joseph Shanklin Elementary School easement with Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. Robert Oetting provided information on the project.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve giving Beaufort County a blanket easement for ditch cleaning at Whale Branch Early College High School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0/1. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Monitoring Report OE-8 Facilities. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. Oetting provided a construction update.

Policy Committee: Rachel Wisnefski, chair provided a committee report and made the following motion.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Board of Education accept the change of adding the word “secure” to intro of OE-8 for final passage. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Board of Education add “and Volunteers” to the end of OE.4 sub-5. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 8/1/2. Christina Gwozdz voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon and Earl Campbell abstained from the vote.

Superintendent’s Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Arts Presentation
Karen McKenzie provided a presentation on visual and performing arts programs within the district.

Public Comments

- David Cook, Hilton Head Island spoke about employee code violations.

Mr. William Smith made the motion to finish the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 11/0.

Other Matters

Dr. Rodriguez provided a brief referendum update.

Board Business

- 2023-2024 Budget Certification
Mrs. Tonya Crosby presented a 2023-24 budget update.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$320,412,978 with an operations millage rate of 130.0. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/2. Elizabeth Hey and Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Debt Service Fund Budget in the amount of \$90,342,035 with a debt service millage rate of 36.3. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

- Donation from Peter & Amy Keber to purchase an Electric Golf Cart valued at \$6,000 for the Hilton Head High School Athletics for transporting equipment.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to accept the donation from Peter & Amy Keber to purchase an Electric Golf Cart valued at \$6,000 for the Hilton Head High School Athletics for transporting equipment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mrs. Ingrid Boatright requested an agenda topic on Pre-K for employees.
- Mrs. Chloe Gordon requested an agenda topic on school safety

Announcements

Dr. Rodriguez thanked County Council for their support for the Board's fiscal authority.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:25p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: June 13, 2023

Angela Middleton, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

A motion was made to go 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); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed sale of property on Daufuskie Island covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of promotion of a student pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed extension of ESS contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed selection for architectural services contract, RFQ #23-013, Professional Design Services – Campus Master Plan update and new school in Bluffton pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Thompson Turner Construction contract Amendment #43 GMP for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure Improvements at Port Royal Elementary School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the vote.

Action from Executive Session

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve to extend the current contract with ESS for a period of one (1) year. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approves the state waiver appeal for a student at Beaufort High School. The motion was seconded and passed 9/2. Carlton Dallas, and Christina Gwozdz voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board authorize the Superintendent to issue an award to Quackenbush Architects and Planners for professional design services for the Campus Masterplan Update and new PK-5 Elementary School. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate an architectural contract and, upon successful negotiations, executive a contract with the firm. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/2. Rachel Wisnefski and William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #43 for Port Royal Elementary School Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with Thompson Turner Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$1,887,110. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education authorize the sale of 20 Maryfield Road on Daufuskie Island in the amount of \$10,000 to Burke Brennan, proceeds from the sale shall be deposited in the district's capital projects fund. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to extend the public comment until it finished. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent, or his designee, to apply for sign, submit and administer federal, state, local and foundation grant applications, and cooperative agreements for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded passed 11/0.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board of Education authorize the filing of E-rate Funding Year 2023 applications for eligible E-rate Category 1 Services, and that by doing so, the Board acknowledges that it will budget for sufficient funds to pay for the district's share of the services that are not supported by the E-rate Program. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the Joseph Shanklin Elementary School easement with Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve giving Beaufort County a blanket easement for ditch cleaning at Whale Branch Early College High School. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Monitoring Report OE-8 Facilities. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education accept the change of adding the word "secure" to intro of OE-8 for final passage. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education add "and Volunteers" to the end of OE.4 sub-5. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1/2. Christina Gwozdz voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon and Earl Campbell abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to finish the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$320,412,978 with an operations millage rate of 130.0. The motion was seconded and passed 9/2. Elizabeth Hey and Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Debt Service Fund Budget in the amount of \$90,342,035 with a debt service millage rate of 36.3. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to accept the donation from Peter & Amy Keber to purchase an Electric Golf Cart valued at \$6,000 for the Hilton Head High School Athletics for transporting equipment. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.