

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2023
District Educational Services Center
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present

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

Member Absent

Angela Middleton, Secretary

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 two pending claims and one potential claim pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Charles Perry Partners, Inc. contract GMP Amendment #07 for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at River Ridge Academy pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Charles Perry Partners, Inc. contract GMP Amendment # 08 Phase 1 for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at Red Cedar Elementary School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed M.B. Kahn contract GMP Amendment #41 for new field house, remaining Athletic Scope PA/ intercom and cabling for Hilton Head Island High School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Thompson Turner Construction contract GMP Amendment #46 for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Thompson Turner Construction contract GMP Amendment #47 for Safety/ Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope at Okatie Elementary School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/0. Angela Middleton was absent from the meeting. Rachel Wisnefski 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 to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the May 1, 2023 – May 31, 2023. Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 8/0. Elizabeth Hey, and William Smith were absent from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #7 for River Ridge Academy Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with Charles Perry Partners for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$2,705,887. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 8/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #8 for Red Cedar Elementary School Phase 1 Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with Charles Perry Partners for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$931,824. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #41 for Hilton Head Island High School Remaining Athletics, Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with M.B. Kahn Construction, Inc., for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$5,648,747. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #46 for Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with Thompson Turner Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$2,751,971. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #47 for Okatie Elementary School Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with Thompson Turner Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$3,098,428. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed in memory of Beckham Midence, a Bluffton High School student who recently passed away.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

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

- **May Student of the Month**
Northern BCSD – Battery Creek High School Student Armani Hutchinson
Southern BCSD – Okatie Elementary School fifth grade student Christian Vazquez.
- **2023-2024 Teachers of the Year and Support Staffs of the Year**
Adult Education
TOY: Gloria Mickle
SOY: Pameka Mulligan

Battery Creek High
TOY: Karen Tooman
SOY: Latricia Brown

Beaufort Elementary
TOY: Suzanne Duvall-Blank
SOY: Myrtle Thompson

Beaufort High
TOY: Megan Stevenson
SOY: Lana Simmons

Beaufort/Jasper Academy for Career Excellence
TOY: Kim McGuire
SOY: Denise Hahn

Beaufort Middle
TOY: Amy Edwards
SOY: Kateria Hamilton

Bluffton Elementary and ECC
TOY: Kristen Seybold
SOY: Deborah Albert
Bluffton High
TOY: Andrew Barnwell
SOY: Laura Pumarejo

Bluffton Middle
TOY: Tyler Smith
SOY: Mary Ann Jones

Broad River Elementary
TOY: Lourdes Ruge
SOY: Tony Butler

Coosa Elementary
TOY: April Bryant
SOY: Jennifer Chastain

H.E. McCracken Middle
TOY: Lisa Lucas
SOY: Samantha Kruggel

Hilton Head Early Childhood Center
TOY: Dani Bothe
SOY: Florida Barroso

Hilton Head Island High
TOY: Tarken Best
SOY: Meghan Burke

Hilton Head Island IB Elementary
TOY: Anjanette Olander
SOY: Marcia Cimpric

Hilton Head Island Middle
TOY: Haleigh Easter
SOY: Sarah Vinopal

Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts
TOY: Mark Sadler
SOY: Faquita Aiken

Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary
TOY: Dana Willingham
SOY: Regina Holmes

Lady's Island Elementary
TOY: Carrie Adkins
SOY: Kartika Greene

Lady's Island Middle
TOY: Alexandria Britt
SOY: Maureen Murphy

May River High
TOY: James King
SOY: Julie Gadley

Michael C. Riley Elementary
TOY: Doris Beishir
SOY: Mayra Dimaio

Mossy Oaks Elementary
TOY: Amanda Freeman
SOY: John Webster Ogle

Okatie Elementary
TOY: Christine Lancaster
SOY: Jennifer Williamsen

Port Royal Elementary
TOY: Sarah Reed
SOY: Elizabeth Bornscheuer

Pritchardville Elementary
TOY: Kailin Kermisch
SOY: Sarai Ortega

Red Cedar Elementary
TOY: Randi Harms
SOY: Eddie Rodriguez

River Ridge Academy
TOY: Jessica Foxworth
SOY: Dr. Peter McCray

Robert Smalls International Academy
TOY: Timothy Kelly
SOY: Tanisha Byas

St. Helena Island Elementary
TOY: Michelle Washington
SOY: Nadiaj Gantt

Whale Branch Early College High
TOY: Josh Ferguson
SOY: Lorna Lamar

Whale Branch Elementary/Davis ECC
TOY: Sholanda Simmons
SOY: Deann Evans

Whale Branch Middle
TOY: Gwendolyn Atkins
SOY: Torrea Washington

Transportation Department
SOY: Amy Munda

Office of Early Childhood Education
SOY: Monique Wallace

District Office: Ana Islas, Bilingual Liaison and District Office Receptionist

Induction Teacher of the Year
Mauriana Sciullo, Pritchardville Elementary

- **River Ridge Academy World and State Robotics Competition Recognitions**
River Ridge Academy had two winning robotics teams – one at the Vex IQ World Championship, and one at the Vex IQ South Carolina State Championship. The ArtemisBots and Hammerheads.
- **Whale Branch Early College High School Girl's Track State Champions and Bradford Thompson, Boys Discus State Champ**
- **LifeVac Donation**
Donation of 40 LifeVac kits, from Mr. Vimal Desai.

- **Tyler Excellence Award**
The BCSD Finance Department
- **Bluffton High School DECA Team International and State Conference Recognitions**

Public Comments

The following community members and students spoke regarding book bans and the book review process.

- Rev. Lori Hlaban, Beaufort
- Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bruff, Beaufort
- T. P. Radorsky, Beaufort
- Elizabeth Foster, Beaufort
- Millie Bennett, Beaufort
- Isabella Troy, Beaufort
- Claire Bennett, Beaufort
- Mary Foster, Beaufort
- Jeff Baker, Beaufort
- Robin Liebenberg, Beaufort
- Rev. Troy Tripp, Beaufort
- Rev. Dr. Patrick Perryman, Beaufort
- Althina Schmidt, Hilton Head Island

Mr. William Smith made the motion to extend the public comment period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

- David Cook, (Phone Call)

Chair's Report

Dr. Gwozdz shared that she was fortunate to be able to attend and briefly speak at the six graduations. She also provided information from the annual legislative reception, that was sponsored by the Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce.

Committee Reports

Academic Committee: Chair Chloe Gordon, chair provided a committee report. Dr. Mary Stratos introduced Karen McKenzie who provided updates to the following Administrative Regulations.

- IS-1 Instructional Goals and Learning Objectives
- IS- 35 Instructional Resources and Materials
- IS-36 Textbook Selection and Adoption
- IS- 49 Graduation Requirements & Diplomas
- IS-53 Teaching About Controversial Issues

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 a Resolution declaring the Cherokee Road property for sale due to the property being unnecessary for educational and administrative purposes according to the district's facilities plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 7/1/. William Smith voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon and Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education accept the 10' construction easement located off the property line of Box Elder and Red Cedar for the installation of sidewalk by Beaufort County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/0. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the vote.

Mrs. Tonya Crosby provided information on the increase in the 8% funds for summer 2024 projects.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the full Board approve the FY2025 8% Capital Projects in an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000 using 8% capital funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made an amended motion that the Board authorize the district to borrow \$30,000,000 not to exceed \$30,000,000 for the use of 8% capital fund for FY 2025. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Colonel Geier shared that Mrs. Wendy Cartledge, and Mr. Carols Cave, presented updates to Administrative Regulations SS-31 Extra Class Activities and SS-36 Student Athletics. The committee recommends the changes come before the full Board during a work session.

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

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the policy committee recommends to the full board that Policy GC-5.1 second sentence: "Committees customarily will prepare recommendations in a form of a motion for future Board agenda and consideration" The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the policy committee recommends to the full the board to add to GC-2.11(b) that any committee reports not available at the time of the draft agenda for board members will be placed on the following board meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the policy committee recommend to the full board the evaluation of an online Public Comment Request Form. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the policy committee recommends to the full board the acceptance of changes to Policy GC2.23 Public Comments and Board of Education Meetings. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright.

Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion to table this item and take to a work session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 8/2. Elizabeth Hey and Victor Ney voted against the motion.

Public Comments

- David Cook, (phone call) spoke regarding pornography.

Results Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair shared a committee report.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to have the Superintendent evaluated on 50% on Operational Expectations for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to complete the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 8/1/1. Victor Ney voted against the motion. Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the amended motion to have the Superintendent's evaluation be based on 50% of Operational Expectations for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to withdraw this motion from Results Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to postpone to the next regular board business report: Technology Report, Biology Textbook Adoption, and the 2nd and final reading for the motion that the Board of Education add "and Volunteers" to the end of OE.4 sub 5. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- 2023-24 Budget Update

Dr. Rodriguez provided a 2023-24 budget update, stating County Council unanimously passed the second public reading.

Board Business

- 2023 Referendum

- Recommended motion Ordering a referendum in the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina, to submit the question of whether the school district shall issue not exceeding \$439,035,000 general obligation bonds, at one time or from time to time; providing for the form of ballot to be used; providing for notice of the referendum; and providing for all other things necessary to submit the aforesaid question.

Dr. Rodriguez introduced members of the referendum team, provided information on completed referendum work and the potential 2023 referendum package. Ms. Frannie Heizer addressed the Board.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education order a referendum in the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina, to submit the question of whether the school district shall issue not exceeding \$439,035,000 general obligation bonds, at one time or from time to time; providing for the form of ballot to be used; providing for notice of the referendum; and providing for all other things necessary to submit the aforesaid question. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski amended the motion to change constructing and equipping a pre-K elementary in Bluffton. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0. The original motion passed with the added changed. 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Ms. Hazier advised the Board that as of the approved vote, the district cannot use district supplies, including data, to advocate for the referendum; the district can educate, not advocate.

Consent Agenda

- May 2, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- May 16, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/0.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:56 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: June 27, 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 two pending claims and one potential claim pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Charles Perry Partners, Inc. contract GMP Amendment #07 for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at River Ridge Academy pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Charles Perry Partners, Inc. contract GMP Amendment # 08 Phase 1 for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at Red Cedar Elementary School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed M.B. Kahn contract GMP Amendment #41 for new field house, remaining Athletic Scope PA/ intercom and cabling for Hilton Head Island High School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Thompson Turner Construction contract GMP Amendment #46 for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure at Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Thompson Turner Construction contract GMP Amendment #47 for Safety/ Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope at Okatie Elementary School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Angela Middleton was absent from the meeting. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the May 1, 2023 – May 31, 2023. Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0. Elizabeth Hey, and William Smith were absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #7 for River Ridge Academy Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with Charles Perry Partners for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$2,705,887. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #8 for Red Cedar Elementary School Phase 1 Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with Charles Perry Partners for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$931,824. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

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A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #46 for Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with Thompson Turner Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$2,751,971. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #47 for Okatie Elementary School Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with Thompson Turner Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$3,098,428. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisniewski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve a Resolution declaring the Cherokee Road property for sale due to the property being unnecessary for educational and administrative purposes according to the district's facilities plan. The motion was seconded and passed 7/1/. William Smith voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon and Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education accept the 10' construction easement located off the property line of Box Elder and Red Cedar for the installation of sidewalk by Beaufort County. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the full Board approve the FY2025 8% Capital Projects in an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000 using 8% capital funds. The motion was seconded.

An amended motion was made that the Board authorize the district to borrow \$30,000,000 not to exceed \$30,000,000 for the use of 8% capital fund for FY 2025. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the policy committee recommends to the full board that Policy GC-5.1 second sentence: "Committees customarily will prepare recommendations in a form of a motion for future Board agenda and consideration" The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the policy committee recommends to the full the board to add to GC-2.11(b) that any committee reports not available at the time of the draft agenda for board members will be placed on the following board meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

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A motion was made that the policy committee recommends to the full board the acceptance of changes to Policy GC2.23 Public Comments and Board of Education Meetings. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to table this item and take to a work session. The motion was seconded and passed 8/2. Elizabeth Hey and Victor Ney voted against the motion.

A motion was made to have the Superintendent evaluated on 50% on Operational Expectations for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to complete the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1/1. Victor Ney voted against the motion. Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

An amended motion was made to have the Superintendent's evaluation be based on 50% of Operational Expectations for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to withdraw this motion from Results Committee. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to postpone to the next regular board business report: Technology Report, Biology Textbook Adoption, and the 2nd and final reading for the motion that the Board of Education add "and Volunteers" to the end of OE.4 sub 5. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education order a referendum in the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina, to submit the question of whether the school district shall issue not exceeding \$439,035,000 general obligation bonds, at one time or from time to time; providing for the form of ballot to be used; providing for notice of the referendum; and providing for all other things necessary to submit the aforesaid question. The motion was seconded.

An amended motion was made to change constructing and equipping a pre-K elementary in Bluffton. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. The original motion passed with the added changed. 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

Consent Agenda

- May 2, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
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