

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2023
Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts
Multi-Purpose Gym
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.

Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice related to a pending legal claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to social media litigation covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to one dismissed legal claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of employment, appointment, promotion, compensation pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/0. Elizabeth Hey and William Smith were 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 that the Beaufort County Board of Education retain the Wagstaff & Cartmell legal team to represent the Beaufort County School District in the Social Media Litigation being filed in the federal district court. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to table the motion until a public session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/1/1. Carlton Dallas voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Dr. KaRon Webb as principal of May River High School. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the agenda with the minutes on the consent agenda voted individually. 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.

Public Comments

- Robin Liebenberg, Hilton Head Island, spoke regarding proposed changes to public comment policy.
- Nancy Williams, Hilton Head Island, spoke regarding book bans.
- Ivie Szalai, Beaufort spoke about obscene materials in school libraries.
- Susana Cook, Hilton Head Island, spoke about obscene materials in books.
- David Cook, Hilton Head Island, spoke regarding a study of the effects of pornography on children then threw Chicken feed at the Board members.

Chair's Report

Dr. Gwozdz shared that the Board's August 25th Work Session will begin at 8:00am instead of 9am and go to 1:00pm to accommodate Board members who will be attending the SCSBA School Law Conference in Greenville.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Earl Campbell, committee member shared a summary of the finance committee meeting. Mrs. Tonya Crosby provided an update on debt service.

Technology Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair shared that the committee met and was presented information on the district's disaster recovery plan. Mrs. Boatright also shared information on topics for the next committee meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Biology Textbook Adoption
Dr. Mary Stratos introduced Karen McKenzie, who presented on biology textbook adoption.

Mrs. Chloe Gordon made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approves the adoption of the following state approved Biology book titles as presented from the May 24, 2023, Academic Committee:

Biology I: Inspire Science: Biology, McGraw Hill

Biology I Honors: Inspire Science: Biology, McGraw Hill

Biology 2: SC Miller & Levine Biology Savvas Learning

AP Biology: Biology for the AP Course, Bedford, Freeman and Worth

The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.

Board Business

- 8% Bond Resolution \$30,000,000
Mrs. Crosby presented information on an 8% bond resolution for FY 2025 and introduced Frannie Heizer and Brian Nurick of Compass Municipal Advisors.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing a bond issuance and sale in an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000 to fund the FY2025 8% capital projects. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

- SCAGO Installment Purchase Bond Resolution \$3,000,000
Mrs. Crosby and Ms. Heizer presented information on the SCAGO installment purchase bond resolution.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing the SCAGO installment purchase bond issuance and sale in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

- Second and final reading for the motion that the Board of Education add “and Volunteers” to the end of OE.4 sub 5.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion for 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 Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 8/1/2. Christina Gwozdz voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon and Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

- Second and final reading for recommended motion that Policy GC-5.1 second sentence: “Committee customarily will prepare recommendations in a form of a motion for future Board agenda and consideration”.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion for the 2nd and final reading for recommended motion that Policy GC-5.1 second sentence: “Committee customarily will prepare recommendations in a form of a motion for future Board agenda and consideration”. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

- Second and final reading for recommended motion to add to GC2.11.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.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion for the 2nd and final reading for recommended motion to add to GC2.11.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 10/0/1. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

- Motion to support the committee's recommendation's appeals from the Materials Reconsideration Committee Reports for the following books:
Ask the Passengers by A.S. King
Collateral by Ellen Hopkins
Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah J. Mass
Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Mass
Living Dead Girl by Elizabeth Scott
More Happy than Not by Adam Silvera
Perfect by Ellen Hopkins

Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion to support the committee's recommendation's appeals from the Materials Reconsideration Committee Reports for the following books:

Ask the Passengers by A.S. King

Collateral by Ellen Hopkins

Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah J. Mass

Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Mass

Living Dead Girl by Elizabeth Scott

More Happy than Not by Adam Silvera

Perfect by Ellen Hopkins

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 8/3. Elizabeth Hey, Victor Ney, and Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion.

Consent Agenda

- June 2, 2023, Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- June 13, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the June 2, 2023, Special Called Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/0.2. Ingrid Boatright, and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the June 13, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 11/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mr. Victor Ney would like to review an interlibrary loan policy.
- Dr. Rachel Wisnefski would like to see the budget breakdown by facility.
- Mr. William Smith requested to review school rankings and end-of-year testing.
- Mr. Carlton Dallas would like a strategic study reviewing the learning gap from birth to 5 years old.
- Mrs. Chloe Gordon would like to discuss safety precautions at Board members.

Public Comments

- Mary Foster, Beaufort spoke about the book *Push*.
- Ivie Szalai, Beaufort again spoke about obscene materials in school libraries.
- David Cook, (phone Call) spoke about the book policy and stated that he achieved the reaction that he wanted from the Board, and that his behavior would continue.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:27 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: July 11, 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 related to a pending legal claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to social media litigation covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to one dismissed legal claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of employment, appointment, promotion, compensation pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Elizabeth Hey and William Smith were absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education retain the Wagstaff & Cartmell legal team to represent the Beaufort County School District in the Social Media Litigation being filed in the federal district court. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to table the motion until a public session. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1/1. Carlton Dallas voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Dr. KaRon Webb as principal of May River High School. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to approve the agenda with the minutes on the consent agenda voted individually. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approves the adoption of the following state approved Biology book titles as presented from the May 24, 2023, Academic Committee:

Biology I: Inspire Science: Biology, McGraw Hill

Biology I Honors: Inspire Science: Biology, McGraw Hill

Biology 2: SC Miller & Levine Biology Savvas Learning

AP Biology: Biology for the AP Course, Bedford, Freeman and Worth

The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing a bond issuance and sale in an amount not to exceed \$30,000,000 to fund the FY2025 8% capital projects. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing the SCAGO installment purchase bond issuance and sale in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made for 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 8/1/2. Christina Gwozdz voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon and Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

A motion was made for the 2nd and final reading for recommended motion that Policy GC-5.1 second sentence: "Committee customarily will prepare recommendations in a form of a motion for future Board agenda and consideration". The motion was seconded and passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

A motion was made for the 2nd and final reading for recommended motion to add to GC2.11.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 10/0/1. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to support the committee's recommendation's appeals from the Materials Reconsideration Committee Reports for the following books:

- Ask the Passengers by A.S. King
- Collateral by Ellen Hopkins
- Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah J. Mass
- Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Mass
- Living Dead Girl by Elizabeth Scott
- More Happy than Not by Adam Silvera
- Perfect by Ellen Hopkins

The motion was seconded and passed 8/3. Elizabeth Hey, Victor Ney, and Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion.

A motion was made to approve the June 2, 2023, Special Called Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.2. Ingrid Boatright, and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the June 13, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.