

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 1, 2023**  
**District Educational Services Center**  
**Media Center**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Members Present**

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

**Member Absent**

Elizabeth Hey

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice and review of Safety and Security Plans at Board Meetings covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2); employment matter regarding Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); receipt of legal advice related to four pending legal claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #44 to M.B. Kahn Construction Company, Inc. contract for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure Scope at Bluffton Early Childhood Center pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of promotion of a student pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 7/0. Chloe Gordon, Ingrid Boatright, and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the vote. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the meeting.**

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:05p.m.

**Action from Executive Session**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the July 1, 2023 – July 31, 2023, Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve settlement authority in the pending worker's compensation case involving the female claimant consistent with the terms discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve settlement authority in the pending worker's compensation case involving the male claimant consistent with the terms discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/1. Christina Gwozdz voted against the motion.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #44 for Bluffton Early Childhood Center Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc. for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$1,426,940. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the CLOC presentation which was inadvertently removed. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed. Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

### **CLOC Update**

Mr. Ted Barber presented a quarterly CLOC update.

### **Public Comments**

The following community and staff members spoke regarding educator support and safety.

- Mardy Burleson, Beaufort County School District Employee
- Blu Burleson, Bluffton High School Student
- Kathleen Harper, Beaufort County School District Employee
- Scott Harper, Hilton Head Island
- Emily Mayer, Bluffton
- Melinda Henrickson, Beaufort
- Tim Dodds, Beaufort spoke on Board's Responsibilities

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

- Imelda Eskew, Savannah
- Genie Brainerd, Beaufort
- Robin Liebenberg, Hilton Head Island
- Mary Ruff, Beaufort
- Jeff Baker, Beaufort
- Mike Covert, (Phone call)
- Nancy Ross, (Phone call)
- David Cook, (Phone call)
- Isabella Cook, (Phone call)

### **Chair's Report**

Dr. Gwozdz shared information on the upcoming ribbon-cutting for the new Robert Smalls Leadership Academy building and thanked the public for their referendum support.

### **Committee Reports**

*Operations Committee:* Richard Geier, chair shared an update from the Operations Committee. Colonel Geier made the recommended motion coming out of Operations.

**Colonel Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Raider Drive Water and Sewer Easement Request. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0. Angela Middleton was absent from the vote.**

Mr. Oetting provided a report on the maintenance monthly update .

### **Superintendent's Report**

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

- Recap of Summer Schools and Camps  
Dr. Mary Stratos introduced ISD staff, who then provided an update on summer camps and summer extended learning.
- Other Matters  
Dr. Rodriguez shared information on the upcoming ribbon-cutting for the new Robert Smalls Leadership Academy building on August 7.

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

### **Consent Agenda**

- July 6, 2023 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- July 9, 2023 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- July 11, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

### **Announcements**

- Dr. Rachel Wisnefski reminded everyone that this weekend is Tax Free Weekend.
- Mr. William Smith acknowledged summer graduation.

### **Public Comment**

- Jodie Srutek, Bluffton spoke regarding the book review process and Board meeting security.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. by unanimous consent.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: September 5, 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 and review of Safety and Security Plans at Board Meetings covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2); employment matter regarding Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); receipt of legal advice related to four pending legal claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #44 to M.B. Kahn Construction Company, Inc. contract for Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure Scope at Bluffton Early Childhood Center pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of promotion of a student pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded and passed 7/0. Chloe Gordon, Ingrid Boatright, and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the vote. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the meeting.

### Action from Executive Session

A motion was made to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the July 1, 2023 – July 31, 2023, Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve settlement authority in the pending worker's compensation case involving the female claimant consistent with the terms discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve settlement authority in the pending worker's compensation case involving the male claimant consistent with the terms discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. Christina Gwozdz voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #44 for Bluffton Early Childhood Center Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc. for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$1,426,940. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the agenda with the addition of the CLOC presentation which was inadvertently removed. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the Raider Drive Water and Sewer Easement Request. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Angela Middleton was absent from the vote.

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

### Consent Agenda

- July 6, 2023 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- July 9, 2023 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- July 11, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes