

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 5, 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	Elizabeth Hey	Victor Ney
	William Smith	Rachel Wisnefski

Colonel Richard Geier called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice related to one potential legal claim, two pending legal claims and two settled legal claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Adult Ed/Home School Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Thompson Turner Construction contract Amendment #57 GMP for new bus entrance road improvement scope at Okatie Elementary School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed selection for contractor RFP #23-022, Construction Management for new PK-5-Elementary School on May River Campus pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/2. Chloe Gordon and Carlton Dallas were absent from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier called the meeting back to open session at 6:01p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for September 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #57 for Okatie Elementary School Road Improvement scope with Thompson Turner Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum price of \$884,092.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 5/2/4. Ingrid Boatright and William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton, Rachel Wisnefski, Chloe Gordon, and Elizabeth Hey abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board authorize the Superintendent to issue an award to Thompson Turner Construction, to provide Construction Management at Risk Services for the New PK-5 Elementary School on the May River Campus, as described in RFP #23-022. 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. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 7/1/3.

William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton, Rachel Wisnefski, and Chloe Gordon abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0. Christina Gwozdz left the meeting at 6:15pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed in memory of two Battery Creek High Schools students and Mr. Michael Harris, the son of the late Mildred Wilson who served as a principal at St. Helena elementary School. Mr. Harris passed away on August 29th. He was a retired teacher who worked at Whale Branch Middle School.

Colonel Geier stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance – The Lady’s Island Middle School Theatre and Chorus performing “Hidden Treasure” from Pirates, the Musical under the direction of Lynda McLain.

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

- **SCSBA Boardmanship Institute Recognition for School Board Members**
 - Colonel Richard Geier Level 2
 - Mrs. Angela Middleton Level 2
 - Dr. Rachel Wisnefski Level 2
 - William Smith Level 3

Public Comments

- Ann Maria Tabernik, Beaufort County Council Woman, praised Dr. Rodriguez and Tonya Crosby for their hard work in preparing the FY 2023 budget.
- Lori Hlaban, Beaufort spoke regarding book bans.
- Bruce Page, Beaufort, spoke regarding book reviews and removals.
- David Cook, (phone call) spoke regarding student surveys, and the no trespass order issued against him.

Chair’s Report

Colonel Geier shared topics that five Board members recently learned while attending the SCSBA School Law Conference in Greenville.

Committee Reports

Academics Committee: Chloe Gordon, chair shared that the Committee reviewed several updated Administrative Regulations. Dr. Stratos provided information on the Administrative Regulations (ARs).

ACE Committee: Richard Geier, co-chair provided an update on the work that the ACE Board is conducting.

Ad Hoc Results Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair shared an update from the Results committee.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to remove the pandemic section from the current evaluation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/2. Angela Middleton and Carlton Dallas voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to adjust the financial domain to make the highest achievable score on budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas.

Mr. William Smith made an amended motion to make the previous motion effective for the next school year's evaluation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion failed 1/8/1. Victor Ney voted in favor of the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.

The original motion passed 7/2/1. William Smith, and Victor Ney voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to change under the Superintendent's Evaluation "Student Achievement measurable components" that we use the coherent governance evaluation tools for 2022-2023 evaluation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 8/2. Victor Ney and Carlton Dallas voted against the motion.

Finance Committee: Richard Geier, chair shared an update from the Finance Committee.

- Mrs. Crosby presented information on the fund balance and mileage. She also presented an update on the employee pay schedule and ESSER dashboard.
- Colonel Geier shared a synopsis of information from a presentation on the community engagement initiative.

Operations Committee: Richard Geier, chair shared an update from the Operations Committee.

- Dr. Candace Bruder addressed questions concerning the 2nd Quarter FOIA Monitoring Report.
- Mr. Robert Oetting briefed the Board on the vandalism incident at Hilton Head Island Middle School.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- ISD Presentation – SC Ready Results
Dr. Mary Stratos introduced ISD staff, who then presented on SC Ready and SC Pass testing data.

Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion to extend the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 7/1/1. Victor Ney voted against the motion. Elizabeth Hey abstained from the vote. (Rachel Wisnefski left the meeting at 9:00p.m.)

Board Business Action

- Recommended motion to appoint Rebecca Stempel, Coordinator of Early Childhood and Parenting Education to the Beaufort County First Steps local Partnership Board.

Ashley Hutchinson, Director of Readiness, provided information on the First Step Partnership Board.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to appoint Rebecca Stempel, Coordinator of Early Childhood and Parenting Education to the Beaufort County First Steps local partnership Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/0.

- Approval of Transportation Routes
Mr. Oetting provided information on bus transportation routes.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Transportation Routes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/0.

- Donation from Charter One Realty in the amount of \$5,000 to Bluffton High School for celebrating staff and students.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education accept the donation from charter One Realty in the amount of \$5,000 to Bluffton High School for celebrating staff and students. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0.

- Approval of Annual Work Plan

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2024 Annual Work Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 8/1. Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

Consent Agenda

- August 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- August 25, 2023 Work Session Meeting Minutes

The items on the consent agenda were voted on separately.

Mr. William Smith made the motion to approve the August 1, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the August 25, 2023 Work Session meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mr. William Smith would like to discuss the total cost of the community engagement initiative as well as the total cost of legal representation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. by unanimous consent.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: October 3, 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 one potential legal claim, two pending legal claims and two settled legal claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Adult Ed/Home School Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Thompson Turner Construction contract Amendment #57 GMP for new bus entrance road improvement scope at Okatie Elementary School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed selection for contractor RFP #23-022, Construction Management for new PK-5-Elementary School on May River Campus pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 9/2. Chloe Gordon and Carlton Dallas were absent from the vote.

Action from Executive Session

A motion was made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for September 5, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #57 for Okatie Elementary School Road Improvement scope with Thompson Turner Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum price of \$884,092.00. The motion was seconded and passed 5/2/4. Ingrid Boatright and William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton, Rachel Wisnefski, Chloe Gordon, and Elizabeth Hey abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board authorize the Superintendent to issue an award to Thompson Turner Construction, to provide Construction Management at Risk Services for the New PK-5 Elementary School on the May River Campus, as described in RFP #23-022. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the contractor upon the expiration of the protest period. The motion was seconded and passed 7/1/3. William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton, Rachel Wisnefski, and Chloe Gordon abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. Christina Gwozdz left the meeting at 6:15pm.

A motion was made to remove the pandemic section from the current evaluation. The motion was seconded and passed 8/2. Angela Middleton and Carlton Dallas voted against the motion.

A motion was made to adjust the financial domain to make the highest achievable score on budget. The motion was seconded.

An amended motion was made to make the previous motion effective for the next school year's evaluation. The motion was seconded and failed 1/8/1. Victor Ney voted in favor of the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.

The original motion passed 7/2/1. William Smith, and Victor Ney voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to change under the Superintendent’s Evaluation “Student Achievement measurable components” that we use the coherent governance evaluation tools for 2022-2023 evaluation. The motion was seconded and passed 8/2. Victor Ney and Carlton Dallas voted against the motion.

A motion was made to extend the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed 7/1/1. Victor Ney voted against the motion. Elizabeth Hey abstained from the vote. (Rachel Wisnefski left the meeting at 9:00p.m.)

A motion was made to appoint Rebecca Stempel, Coordinator of Early Childhood and Parenting Education to the Beaufort County First Steps local partnership Board. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the Transportation Routes. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education accept the donation from charter One Realty in the amount of \$5,000 to Bluffton High School for celebrating staff and students. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the 2024 Annual Work Plan. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1. Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

A motion was made to approve the August 1, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.

A motion was made to approve the August 25, 2023 Work Session meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.