

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 18, 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	Elizabeth Hey
Angela Middleton, Secretary	Victor Ney	William Smith
	Rachel Wisnefski	

**Member Absent**

Chloe Gordon

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice related to two pending legal claims and one settled legal claim, covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); employment matter regarding Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Thompson Turner Construction contract GMP Amendment #58 for Broad River Elementary School HVAC improvements 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 #11 for Red Cedar Elementary School, Phase 2, Safety & Security and Technology Infrastructure scope pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 8/0. Ingrid Boatright, and Carlton Dallas were absent from the vote. Chloe Gordon was absent from the meeting.

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 Beaufort County Board of Education approve settlement authority in the pending worker's compensation case involving the female complainant consistent with the terms discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the August 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #11 for Red Cedar Elementary School Phase 2 Safety/Security and Technology/Infrastructure scope with Charles Perry Partners for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$2,827,224. 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 #58 for Broad River Elementary School HVAC improvements with Thompson Turner Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$1,779,003. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.**

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. 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.

**Student Performance** – May River High School Mastersingers performing “Java Jive” and “Found/Tonight” under the direction of Jason Snyder, Director of Choral and Orchestral Activities.  
<https://youtu.be/HDexLGsSwsY?feature=shared>

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

- Parker’s “Fueling the Community” Donation  
**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to accept the donation from Parkers kitchen fueling the community in the amount of \$75,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/0.**

Ms. Olivia Parker, Community Outreach Manager with Parker’s Kitchen, presented the district with a check for \$75,000.

- 2023 South Carolina Career Specialist of the Year, Mr. Bradford Wilson from H.E. McCracken Middle School.

### **Public Comments**

- Michele Dallas, Hilton Head Island and member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority made an announcement on a college prep event that the Sorority is sponsoring.
- Richard Bisi, Hilton Head Island spoke regarding test scores.
- Joan Deery, former Board member of Hilton Head Island spoke regarding test scores.
- Robin Liebenberg, Hilton Head Island, spoke regarding teacher support.
- Cathy Robine, former Board member of Hilton Head Island spoke in support of the referendum.
- Ivie Szalai, (Phone call) spoke regarding pornography in books.
- David Cook,(Phone call) spoke regarding the lack of integrity, and district policies.

### **Chair’s Report**

Chair Gwozdz shared information about the history of National Hispanic Heritage month, celebrated September 15 to October 15.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Dr. Rodriguez introduced Dr. Mellow Lee, the new Deputy Superintendent Chief of Schools.
- ISD Presentation
  - Dr. Stratos presented End of Course (EOC) testing data.

- Dr. Stratos shared a video from the State Superintendent announcing that Coosa Elementary School is a National Blue-Ribbon school.

#### **Board Business**

- Recommended motion to approve the FY2025 8% Project List  
Mr. Robert Oetting and Mrs. Carol Crutchfield presented information on the Capital Improvement Plan 8% funds.

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the FY2025 8% Project List. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

#### **Future Agenda Topics**

- Dr. Rachel Wisnefski would like to discuss legislative committee items and land development along Hwy 170 near Okatie Elementary.
- Dr. Christina Gwozdz would like to discuss legislative committee items that she shared with Board members from McCormick County School Board of Trustees.
- Mr. Victor Ney would like an update on his request to review an interlibrary loan policy.

#### **Public Comments**

- Richard Bisi, Hilton Head Island continued to speak on test scores.
- Ivie Szalai, (phone call) spoke regarding the State Superintendent of Education and the State Attorney General's Opinion

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:04 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: October 3, 2023

Angela Middleton, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

## Motion Summary

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

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