

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 3, 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

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

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board amend the agenda due to exigent circumstances pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-80(A) and add the following matter to the Executive Session Agenda. Receipt of legal advice covered by the attorney client privilege concerning a pending State Ethics Act complaint pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to two settled legal claims and two pending cases 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)(10); Adult Ed/Home School Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(4). The motion was seconded by Mr Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/1. Ingrid Boatright was absent from the vote.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:00 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the September 1 to September 30, 2023, Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education Home School report for October 3, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Boatright had OE-5 Financial Planning from the Consent Agenda.

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

Student Performance – First was the Lady’s Island Elementary Singing Ospreys performing “I Love the Autumn” by Teresa and Paul Jennings under the direction of music teacher John Bittner, followed by the Battery Creek High School Band performing “Pretty Brown Eyes” and “Before I Let Go” under the direction of Band Director Roderick Williams.

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

- **National Blue-Ribbon Award** – Coosa Elementary School
- **District Teacher of the Year** - April Bryant, Coosa Elementary School

Public Comments

The following community members spoke regarding the library book review process.

- Robin Liebenberg, Hilton Head Island
- Mike Covert, Bluffton
- Ivie Szalai, Beaufort County
- Patrick Good, Beaufort County
- Susan Boyd, Beaufort

The following community members were phone calls.

- Richard Bisi spoke regarding the Superintendent’s evaluation.
- Angela Rossillo spoke regarding staff safety and pornographic materials in the schools.

Chair’s Report

Dr. Gwozdz shared that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. She invited the public to attend a ribbon cutting on October 4th at Hilton Head Island Middle School.

Committee Reports

Academics Committee: Chloe Gordon, chair provided an update from the Academics Committee. The committee had an update on the Heath Advisory Committee.

- Dr. Mary Stratos and Mrs. Karen McKenzie provided an update to the following Administrative Regulations.
 - ✚ IS-10 Social Studies Education
 - ✚ IS-12 Arts Education
 - ✚ IS-13 Music Education
 - ✚ IS-14 World Language
 - ✚ IS-39 Virtual Learning

Ad Hoc Results Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair shared an update from the committee. The committee will meet again on Friday, October 6 at 11 a.m.

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

- Denise Mattson provided an update on ESSER funds.
- Kaylee Yinger provided a report on the Minority Women Enterprise Business report.

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

- Rob Corbin provided a construction update.
- Robert Oetting provided a summary of the September maintenance and custodial report.

The Operations Committee will meet again on October 10 at 5 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Career & Technical Education Update
Dr. Mary Stratos introduced Karen Gilbert, and Ralph Lataille, who then provided an update the Career & Technical Education program.

Board Business Action

- Board Determination on the Appeals from the Materials reconsideration Committee Reports for the following books:
69- Damsel by Elana Arnold
70- Empire of Storms by Sarah J. Maas
71- Identical by Ellen Hopkins
72- Leah on the Offbeat by Becky Albertalli
73- Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood
74- Ramona Blue by Julie Murphy

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education concur with the findings of the September 13, 2023 Book Review Committee on the following book titles:

- 69- Damsel by Elana Arnold
- 70- Empire of Storms by Sarah J. Maas
- 71- Identical by Ellen Hopkins
- 72- Leah on the Offbeat by Becky Albertalli
- 73- Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood
- 74- Ramona Blue by Julie Murphy

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

- Donation from the Friends of Shanklin for Hand 2 Mind Intervention kits valued at \$5,999.94 for Joseph Shanklin Elementary School.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education accept the donation from the Friends of Shanklin for Hand 2Mind intervention kits valued at \$5,999.94 for Joseph Shanklin Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.

- Motion to accept OE.5 Financial Planning Report.
Mrs. Jennifer Hamblin addressed questions from the Board concerning OE-5 Financial Planning Report.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to accept OE.5 Financial Planning Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Consent Agenda

- September 5, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- September 19, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- OE-12 Instructional Program

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/0/2. Christina Gwozdz and William Smith abstained from the vote.

Future Agenda Topics

- Victor Ney would like to discuss having a parliamentarian position on the Board.

Announcements

- Dr. Gwozdz recognized Ann Maria Tabernik, County Council liaison, and thanked her for attending.
- Colonel Geier shared that a community group meeting at St. Luke's will tour Port Royal Elementary School on October 4.
- Dr. Wisniewski recognized custodians for National Custodian Day.
- Mr. Smith shared that October is National Principal Month. He also shared information from Beaufort County Youth Conference.

Public Comment

- Ivie Szalai spoke again regarding the book *Damsel*.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:46 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: November 7, 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 accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education Home School report for October 3, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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

A motion was made that the Board of Education accept the donation from the Friends of Shanklin for Hand 2Mind intervention kits valued at \$5,999.94 for Joseph Shanklin Elementary School. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to accept OE.5 Financial Planning Report. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/2. Christina Gwozdz and William Smith abstained from the vote.

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