

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
November 7, 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

Members Absent

Elizabeth Hey
Rachel Wisnefski

Dr. Chritina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice relating to one pending 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); 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 Amendment #71 for HVAC Upgrade Scope at St. Helena Early Childhood Center pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Thompson Turner Construction Amendment #69 for First Floor HVAC upgrades at Beaufort High School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed M.B. Kahn Construction Amendment #54 for Athletic Package Referendum Scope at River Ridge Academy pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed J.E. Dunn Construction Amendment #11 for additional demolition scope at Robert Smalls Leadership Academy pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of Security/Safety Plans pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-20(c). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0. Elizabeth Hey and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the meeting.

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

Action from Executive Session

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the October 1, 2023 – October 30, 2023 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for November 7, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #71 for St. Helena Early Childhood Center HVAC upgrades with Thompson Turner Construction for a total amount of \$2,818,821.00. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/0.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #69 for Beaufort High School first floor HVAC upgrades with Thompson Turner Construction for a total amount of \$1,503,412. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #54 with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc. for the River Ridge Academy Athletics Package Referendum Scope based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$2,320,750. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/0.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #11 for additional demolition and asbestos abatement scope for Robert Smalls Leadership Academy with J.E. Dunn Construction for a Guaranteed maximum Price of \$808,416. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/0.

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

Student Performance – Beaufort Middle School Gryphon Orchestra performing “Aeolian Rock” by Jeffrey Frizzi and “Bass in Space” by Victor Lopez under the direction of Amanda Trimpey, Band/Orchestra/Music Director.

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

- August Student of the Month – Northern BCSD – Battery Creek High School 12 Grade Student Alizah Mathis
- September Student of the Month – Northern BCSD – Whale Branch Elementary School 4th Grade Student Zaire Evans
- 2023 National Parent Educator of the Year – Debra Washington <https://youtu.be/EyY7TpPbrr4>

Public Comments

The following community members spoke regarding books.

- Mary Foster, Beaufort SC
- Mike Thompson, (phone call)

CLOC Update

Mr. Ted Barber provided a quarterly update on the 2023 Referendum School Board Third Quarter.

Chair’s Report

Dr. Gwozdz shared information on the SCSBA Regional Advocacy meeting that she attended along with Mr. Victor Ney.

Committee Reports

Academics Committee: Chloe Gordon, chair provided an update from the Academic Committee. Dr. Mary Stratos presented information on the Health Advisory Committee and school counseling goals for the 2023-24 school year.

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

Legislation Committee: Earl Campbell, chair stated that the committee provided an update at the Work - Session but the next meeting is November 15 at 5 p.m.

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

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education grant the acceptance of the sewer force-main connection easement for the Watercrest Apartment onto WK Alston as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 6/3. Carlton Dallas, Chloe Gordon, and William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to develop an Ad Hoc Development Committee to research and propose a process for evaluating growth- and growth-related infrastructure issues. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion failed 0/8/1. Ingrid Boatright, Earl Campbell, Carlton Dallas, Richard Geier, Chloe Gordon, Christina Gwozdz, Angela Middleton, Victor Ney voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.

- 3rd Quarter FOIA Report
Mrs. Wendy Cartledge presented the quarterly FOIA report.
- Regulation OS-28
Mr. Oetting provided background information on Regulation OS-28 – Naming New Schools, Mascots & Colors

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion for the creation of Naming New Elementary School Committee in Bluffton. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

The next Operations Committee meeting is November 14 at 5 p.m.

Policy Committee: Ingrid Boatright shared an update from the policy committee.

Technology Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair shared an update from the Technology Committee.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Update from Executive Directors
Dr. Mellow Lee, and the Executive Directors MonaLise Dickson, Chad Cox, and Celeste LaVan provided an overview of a new partnership initiative to improve schools.

Board Business Action

- Donation from Greg and Tonya Ringler in the amount of \$5,000 for Beaufort High School JROTC expenses.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to accept the donation from Greg and Tonya Ringler in the amount of \$5,000 for Beaufort High School JROTC expenses. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/0.

- Discussion of Parliamentarian
Victor Ney led a discussion on having a Parliamentarian position on the Board. The Board agreed to revisit the discussion after reviewing documents from the presentation that Mrs. Helen McFadden on the August 20, 2020 Work-Session.

Consent Agenda

- October 3, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- October 27, 2023 Work Session Minutes
- OE-13 Discipline

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mrs. Ingrid Boatright would like to follow up about getting BOE members on other Boards and would like to discuss the No Phones School movement.
- Mr. Carlton Dallas would like to discuss a Strategic Plan.
- Mr. William Smith would like to discuss hall monitors in schools and the 45-day count.

Announcements

- Chair Gwozdz shared that she has recommended to have a special called meeting on November 13 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the results instrument.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:58 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: November 21, 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 relating to one pending 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); 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 Amendment #71 for HVAC Upgrade Scope at St. Helena Early Childhood Center pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Thompson Turner Construction Amendment #69 for First Floor HVAC upgrades at Beaufort High School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed M.B. Kahn Construction Amendment #54 for Athletic Package Referendum Scope at River Ridge Academy pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed J.E. Dunn Construction Amendment #11 for additional demolition scope at Robert Smalls Leadership Academy pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of Security/Safety Plans pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-20(c). The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Elizabeth Hey and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the meeting.

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A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.

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A motion was made to develop an Ad Hoc Development Committee to research and propose a process for evaluating growth- and growth-related infrastructure issues. The motion was seconded and failed 0/8/1. Ingrid Boatright, Earl Campbell, Carlton Dallas, Richard Geier, Chloe Gordon, Christina Gwozdz, Angela Middleton, Victor Ney voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made for the creation of Naming New Elementary School Committee in Bluffton. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to accept the donation from Greg and Tonya Ringler in the amount of \$5,000 for Beaufort High School JROTC expenses. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Consent Agenda

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