

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 21, 2023**  
**Hilton Head Middle School**  
**Media Center**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Members Present**

Richard Geier, Vice Chair

Ingrid Boatright  
Carlton Dallas  
Elizabeth Hey  
William Smith

Earl Campbell  
Chloe Gordon  
Victor Ney  
Rachel Wisnefski

**Members Absent**

Christina Gwozdz, Chair

Angela Middleton, Secretary

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

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #56 to M.B. Kahn Construction contract for capital improvements at H.E. McCracken Middle School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations of proposed award of Construction Management at Risk Contract for Renovation and Modification Projects, RFP #20-007 pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(20); discussion of proposed award of architectural contract for Professional Design Services for Renovation and Modification Projects, RFQ #24-003 pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed negotiations incident to purchase of property in Bluffton, South Carolina pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 8/0. Victor Ney, and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the vote. Christina Gwozdz and Angela Middleton were absent from the meeting.**

Colonel Geier called the meeting back to open session at 6:00 p.m.

**Action from Executive Session**

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #56 with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc. for the H.E. McCracken Middle School (HEMMS) FY2024 8% Capital Improvements based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$647,600. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 8/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #11 with Turner & Townsend Heery which authorizes a Not to Exceed limit of \$511,414 for the year 2024 program management plan. The motion was seconded by Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 8/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to issue an award to Ajax Building Company, LLC, Charles Perry Partners, Inc., M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Shoreline Commercial, LLC and Thompson Turner Construction, to provide Construction Management at Risk Services for Renovation and Modification Projects, as described in FRP #24-007. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the contractors upon the expiration of the protest period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 7/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to issue an award to Hord Coplan Macht, Jumper Carter Sease Architects, P.A., and Quackenbush Architects and Planners for Professional Design Services for Renovation and Modification Projects. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate the architectural contracts and, upon successful negotiations, execute a contract with the firm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 7/0/1. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Town of Bluffton and negotiate the sale of the properties reviewed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Mr. Earl Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda as presented with OE.15 moved to Board Business. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed for Tommy Thompson who was a student at Hilton Head High School who passed away two weeks ago.

Colonel Geier stated that the media was properly notified.

**Student Performance** – Hilton Head Island Middle School students from chorus and band, under the direction of James Waechter, Chorus, Band and Percussion Director.

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

- August Student of the Month – Southern BCSD – Hilton Head School 12 Grade Student Jesus Morales Cortez.
- September Student of the Month – Southern BCSD – Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student Luis Cortes.
- October Student of the Month – Southern BCSD – Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student Neveah Lawyer.
- May River High School Girls Golf Team
- Hilton Head Island Art Awards
- Bluffton High School Michelin Challenge Winner
- Bluffton High School Youth in Government State Officers
- Beaufort County School District Middle School League Champions

#### **Public Comments**

- Richard Bisi , Hilton Head Island spoke about Superintendent's Evaluation.

- Robin Liebenberg, Hilton Head Island spoke about the State’s proposed change to selection of instructional materials.
- Ivie Szalai (phone call) spoke about the State’s proposed change to selection of instructional materials and read an excerpt from the book Shine.

### **Committee Reports**

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

- Mrs. Crosby presented the FY2023-2024 Budget Book. The book is divided into four sections.
  - Introductory – Information on Guide to the Budget, Executive Summary, Historical Information
  - Organizational -Facts About Beaufort County School District; Mission/Vision Statement; Strategic Plan, Budget Priorities, and Processes
  - Financial - Budget Summary for All Funds, and locations; school profiles
  - Informational – Student Performance Measures; teacher salary schedule; demographics

*Operations Committee:* Richard Geier, chair shared the following information from the Operations Committee.

- Mr. Dave Grissom presented OE15 – Safety and Security. For each section, staff members spoke to their areas. OE 15 has been moved from Consent Agenda to board business.
- Mr. Robert Oetting presented a monthly construction update.
- The revised Fire and Safety Plan was also presented and placed on the Consent Agenda for Acceptance.
- Mr. Dan Rybak from the Town of Bluffton updated the Committee on the Bluffton Pritchard Street Streetscape Storm Project that is about 70% complete.
- Ms. Brittany Fields, with Beaufort County and Ms. Jennifer Bragg, the Consultant for Beaufort County provided information on acquiring an easement on our property in Seabrook.
- Mrs. Brandy Major presented the Maintenance & Custodial Monthly Summary Update for the period of October 1 – 31,2023. The committee requested that the principals be surveyed twice a year, with a rating scale of 1 – 10 indicating “Are they satisfied?”
- The Committee went into Executive Session to discuss receipt of legal advice relating to the pending quiet title action legal claim. There was no action from the Executive Session.
- The next Operations Committee meetings are November 29, 2023 at 5:00.

*Policy Committee:* Rachel Wisnefski, chair shared that the committee discussed procedures for policy revisions, inclusion of policy changes into the handbook, and Policy GC5 – Board Committee Roles and the next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2023.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Community Engagement
  - Dr. Stratos made a presentation on an institute that district leadership attended at Harvard Graduate School of Education. The institute focused on Family Community Engagement. The presentation shows the model that district’s personnel will follow. There are five Essential Support for Community Engagement:
    - Professional Capacity

- Parent & Community Ties
- Student Centered Learning Climate
- Leadership as the driver for change
- Instructional Guidance

#### Other Matters

- Hall Monitors Feasibility  
Dr. Rodriguez and the Board members discussed the feasibility of having hall monitors. The Board did not support having Dr. Rodriguez placing hall monitors in the schools.
- 45-Day Count  
Dr. Stratos provided a 45-Day Count update.

#### Board Business Action

- Resolution Declaring the Results of a Referendum motion to accept Resolution Declaring the Results of a Referendum held on November 7, 2023, on question of the issuance of not exceeding \$439,035,000 General Obligations Bonds of the School District of Beaufort County, South Carolina.  
Ms. Frannie Heizer congratulated the Board and the District on the passing of the Referendum. Ms. Heizer explained the next steps.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education accept Resolution Declaring the Results of a Referendum held on November 7, 2023, on question of the issuance of not exceeding \$439,035,000 General Obligation Bonds of the School District of Beaufort County, South Carolina. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/0.**

- Resolution Authorizing Reimbursement of Expenses incurred prior to the issuance of general obligation bonds approved in a successful referendum held in the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina on November 7, 2023; authorizing the Superintendent or his designees to undertake actions necessary for the issuance and sale of the bonds; and other matters relating thereto.

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education authorize reimbursement of Expenses incurred prior to the issuance of general obligation bonds approved in a successful referendum held in the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina on November 7, 2023; authorizing the Superintendent or his designees to undertake actions necessary for the issuance and sale of the bonds; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisniewski. The motion passed 9/0.**

- Motion to accept OE.15 Safety and Security

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to accept OE.15 Safety and Security. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 7/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisniewski abstained from the vote.**

- Board Determination on the Appeals from the Materials Reconsideration Committee Reports for the following books:
  - #86 Boy Girl Boy by Koertge, Ron
  - #87 Flamer by Curato, Mike

- #88 Grit by French, Gillian
- #89 Lucky by Sebold, Alice
- #90 Scars by Rainfield, Cheryl
- #91 Shine by Myracle, Lauren
- #92 The Carnival at Bray by Foley, Jessie An

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education uphold the appeals from the Materials Reconsideration committee Reports for the following books:**

- #86 Boy Girl Boy by Koertge, Ron
- #87 Flamer by Curato, Mike
- #88 Grit by French, Gillian
- #89 Lucky by Sebold, Alice
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**The motion was seconded by Earl Campbell. The motion passed 5/3/1. Rachel Wisnefski, Victor Ney and Elizabeth Hey voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.**

#### Consent Agenda

- November 7, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- November 13, 2023 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- Revised Fire and Safety Plan

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski 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

**N/A**

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:02 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: December 12, 2023

Angela Middleton, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

## Motion Summary

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