

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2023
District Educational Services Center
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present

Christina Gwozdz, Chair
Richard Geier, Vice Chair
Angela Middleton, Secretary

Ingrid Boatright
Carlton Dallas
Elizabeth Hey
William Smith

Earl Campbell
Chloe Gordon
Victor Ney
Rachel Wisnefski

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

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice regarding three pending legal claims and one settled legal claim 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). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/0. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski were 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 approve the Superintendent’s recommendations for employment listed on the November 1, 2023-November 30, 2023 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for December 12, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education allow the Superintendent to negotiate the sale of a property in Sheldon contingent on the preservation of a monument located on the property. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the agenda with November 21, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes moved to board business action. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance – Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary 4th Grade Chorus performed Quaver Music’s “Kwanzaa Celebration” under the Direction of music teacher Laura Crim.

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

- November Student of the Month – Northern BCSD – Beaufort Middle School 8th grade student Malchiel (Mikey) Sawyer
- Adult Education Awards

Public Comments

- Melinda Hendrickson, Beaufort thanked the Board, staff and the book review committee for their work during the book review process.

Chair's Report

Dr. Gwozdz shared an update on the SCSBA 2023 Legislative Advocacy Conference & Delegate Assembly.

Committee Reports

Academics Committee: Chloe Gordon, chair shared information from the November 28 meeting.

Mrs. Chloe Gordon made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the Local Board Approved Course Listing for the 2024-2025 School Year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 11/0.

Dr. Mary Stratos addressed questions about the local school board approved course listings.

Mrs. Chloe Gordon made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the Local Board Course: Piano at middle school as an elective course. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Chloe Gordon made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the new honors framework course for Sports Medicine 3. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Chloe Gordon made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the Career and Technical Education secondary marketing textbook for adoption. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Chloe Gordon made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the Choice Program application for Beaufort Middle School's Advancement via Individual Determination AVID choice program. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

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

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve OE6.1 – OE6.8 Financial Administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve OE18 – Food Services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the motion.

The Finance Committee also discussed a budget priority process.

Legislation Committee: Earl Campbell, chair shared an update from the December 5 committee meeting.

Operations Committee: Richard Geier, chair shared an update from the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee received presentations from the Communication and HR Departments.

Policy Committee: Rachel Wisnefski, chair shared information from the policy committee.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to add to bylaws of HAC under III, D: Nomination and membership qualification is subject to Beaufort County Board of Education Policies and BCSD Administrative Regulations (see Regulation HR-6 Staff Ethics). The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to add the word “online” to Policy GC2,11. Rules for Board meetings. Participants must: “Public Comment Cards will be available at the Board meeting site and online”. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.

Technology Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair shared an update from the Technology Committee. Mr. Mark Chauhan shared information with the Board.

Superintendent’s Report

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Debt Presentation by Brian Nurick, Compass Municipal Advisors
Mrs. Tonya Crosby introduced Mr. Brian Nurick of Compass Municipal Advisors, who presented information on debt.

Other Matters

- Administrative Regulation SS-36 Student Athletics
Mr. Carlos Cave provided information on updates to Administrative Regulation SS-36 Student Athletics.

Board Business Action

- Approval of Revised 2024 Board Meeting Calendar
Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the revised calendar. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote. Angela Middleton was absent from the vote.
- Board Determination on the Appeals from the Materials Reconsideration Committee Reports for the following books:
#93 Beaufort by Reed, Amy
#94 grl2grl by Peters, Julie Anne
#95 Layla by Hoover, Colleen
#96 The Infinite Moment of Us by Myracle, Lauren
#97 YOLO by Myracle, Lauren
#98 A Lesson in Vengeance by Lee, Victoria (Second Review)
Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to uphold the appeals from the Materials Reconsideration Committee Reports for the following books:
#93 Beaufort by Reed, Amy
#94 grl2grl by Peters, Julie Anne
#95 Layla by Hoover, Colleen
#96 The Infinite Moment of Us by Myracle, Lauren
#97 YOLO by Myracle, Lauren
#98 A Lesson in Vengeance by Lee, Victoria (Second Review)
The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 6/3. Elizabeth Hey, Victor Ney and Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion. Angela Middleton and William Smith were absent from the vote.

- November 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes Draft
Colonel Geier made the motion to approve the November 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes Draft. The motion passed 8/01. Christina Gwozdz abstained from the vote. Angela Middleton and William Smith were absent from the vote.

Consent Agenda

- OE-1 Global Operational Expectation
- OE-2 Superintendent succession Planning
- OE-3 Treatment of Stakeholders
- OE-4 Personnel Administration
- OE-10 Communication with the Board
- OE-11 Communicating with the Public
- OE-14 Learning Environment/Treatment of Student

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisniewski. The motion passed 9/0. Angela Middleton, and William Smith were absent from the vote.

Future Agenda Topics

- Dr. Rachel Wisniewski would like to review the financial planning OE.
- Mr. Carlton Dallas would like to look at when to start the updated 5-year strategic plan.

Announcements

Dr. Rodriguez wished everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:10 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: January 16, 2024

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 regarding three pending legal claims and one settled legal claim 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). The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the vote.

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A motion was made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for December 12, 2023. The motion was seconded by passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education allow the Superintendent to negotiate the sale of a property in Sheldon contingent on the preservation of a monument located on the property. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the agenda with November 21, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes moved to board business action. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

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The motion was seconded and passed 6/3. Elizabeth Hey, Victor Ney and Rachel Wisnefski voted against the motion. Angela Middleton and William Smith were absent from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the November 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes Draft. The motion passed 8/0/1. Christina Gwozdz abstained from the vote. Angela Middleton and William Smith were absent from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Angela Middleton, and William Smith were absent from the vote.

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