

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2024
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 5:15p.m.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of 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 Lobbyist Contract renewal with Bur Forman Law Firm pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained 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 December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. 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 January 16, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the Burr Forman LLC Engagement letter dated January 11, 2024, to provide legislative lobbying services before the 2024 South Carolina General Assembly and Executive Branch as outlined in the letter. I further move that the Board authorize the Chair to sign the engagement letter on behalf of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed in memory of two students, Jerrieme "LJ" Washington (Battery Creek HS) and Kameah Frazier (Hilton Head Island HS), and former Technology Director, Anne Carver.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

The election of officers was conducted by Judge James A. Grimsley, III.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to nominate Dr. Christina Gwozdz as Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion to close the nomination. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. Dr. Gwozdz was elected as Chair 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Chloe Gordon made the motion to nominate Colonel Richard Geier as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to close the nomination. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. Colonel Geier was elected as Vice Chair 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion to nominate Mrs. Angela Middleton as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Chloe Gordon.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion to close the nomination. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. Mrs. Angela Middleton was elected as Secretary 11/0.

Dr. Gwozdz presented Judge Grimsley with a service award.

Public Comment

- Julie Nizam, phone call - commented on improvements needed for the May River High School band program.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Richard Geier, chair provided an update from the Finance committee’s meeting regarding the Board’s budget priorities. The Board agreed to take the Superintendent’s priority list and rank their top ten and turn them in to Robyn Cushingberry by Friday, January 19th. The Board will discuss the results at the January 26th Work Session.

Operations Committee – Richard Geier, chair provided an update from the Operations Committee and made the following recommendations:

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education give the Superintendent authority to finalize the easement along Port Royal Elementary School for parking and sidewalk with the Town of Port Royal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education give the Superintendent authority to enter negotiations for the easement along Stuart Point Road with Property Acquisitions and negotiations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney.

Amended motion: change easement to “right of way”. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. Robert Oetting provided an executive summary of construction updates.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.

Consent Agenda

- November 30, 2023 Special Called Executive Session Board Meeting Minutes
- December 12, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

Announcements

- Dr. Rodriguez thanked the Board for their service to the community and recognized Board Appreciation Month.
- Dr. Gwozdz asked Board members to send her their committee preferences by January 23. She will announce committee members at the work session on January 26. She also reminded the Board to send their top 10 budget priorities by Friday, January 19.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:55 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: February 6, 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 discussion of 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 Lobbyist Contract renewal with Bur Forman Law Firm pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Action from Executive Session

A motion was made to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for January 16, 2024. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the Burr Forman LLC Engagement letter dated January 11, 2024, to provide legislative lobbying services before the 2024 South Carolina General Assembly and Executive Branch as outlined in the letter. I further move that the Board authorize the Chair to sign the engagement letter on behalf of the Board. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

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

A motion was made to nominate Dr. Christina Gwozdz as Chair. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to close the nomination. The motion was seconded.
Dr. Gwozdz was elected as Chair 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to nominate Colonel Richard Geier as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to close the nomination. The motion was seconded.
Colonel Geier was elected as Vice Chair 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to nominate Mrs. Angela Middleton as Secretary. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to close the nomination. The motion was seconded.
Mrs. Angela Middleton was elected as Secretary 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education give the Superintendent authority to finalize the easement along Port Royal Elementary School for parking and sidewalk with the Town of Port Royal. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board of Education give the Superintendent authority to enter negotiations for the easement along Stuart Point Road with Property Acquisitions and negotiations. The motion was seconded.

Amended motion: change easement to "right of way". The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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

Consent Agenda

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