

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 26, 2024**  
**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
	Rachel Wisnefski	

**Member Absent**

Elizabeth Hey

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 6/0. Carlton Dallas, Chloe Gordon, William Smith, and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the vote. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the meeting.**

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

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

**Riverview Charter School Annual Report**

Ms. Liz O'Brien, Interim Director of Riverview Charter School, presented their annual report.

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2023 Riverview Charter School Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the vote.**

**Recommended Motion from Policy Committee on Proposed Public Comments Policy, 1st Reading**

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski provided background information regarding the recommended motion from the Policy Committee.

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to strike Section II.C from the Proposed Public Comments Policy GC-2. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 8/1. Victor Ney voted against the motion. William Smith was absent from the vote.**

**Legislative Update**

Ms. Lynn Stoke-Murray, Director, Government Relations, Burr Forman McNair, presented legislative updates.

**Bond Resolutions**

- Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and sale of the Referendum Bonds
- Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation Bond refunding the Series 2021E Bond
- Resolution Approving the prepayment of the 2016 Installment Purchase Revenue Refunding Bonds and Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a Taxable General obligation Bond in Connection with the Prepayment.

Mrs. Tonya Crosby introduced Frannie Heizer, Partner at Burr & Forman LLP, who shared information on the bond resolutions. Ms. Heizer explained each of the bonds and read into the record the resolutions for each.

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education Authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$439,035,000 general obligation bonds, in one or more years, in one or more series, with appropriate series designations, the issuance of general obligation bond anticipation notes, in one or more years, in one or more series, with appropriate series designations and the issuance of bonds through the SCAGO go program in one or more years, in one or more series, with appropriate series designations, by the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; providing for the form of the bonds and notes; fixing certain details of the bonds and notes; authorizing the superintendent of the school district or his lawfully-authorized designee to determine certain matters relating to the bonds and notes; providing for the payment of the bonds and notes and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon.**

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski amended the motion to reflect the bullet stating Construction and equipping a new Pre-K through 5 and any other modifications reflecting the election ballot language. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**The original motion passed with the addition of the amendment 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of a not to exceed \$16,293,200 general obligation refunding bond, series 2024, or such other appropriate series designation, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bond; authorizing the superintendent or his lawfully-authorized designee; to prescribe certain details relating to the bond; providing for the payment of the bond and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of a not to exceed \$13,000,000 taxable general obligation bond, series 2024a, or such other appropriate series designation, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bond; delegating to the Superintendent or his lawfully authorized designee the authority to determine certain matters relating to the bond; providing for the payment of the bond and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; authorizing prepayment of the \$29,050,000 installment purchase refunding revenue bonds (school district of Beaufort county project) series 2016; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

#### **Budget Priority Discussion**

Dr. Rodriguez led a discussion and budget priority exercise with the Board.

#### **Discussion of Joint Meeting with Beaufort County School Board/Jasper County School Board regarding ACE Funding**

Dr. Rodriguez and the Board discussed a joint meeting with the Jasper County School Board. The Board agreed to suggest February 26 – 29, 2024 beginning either at 5:00 or 6:00 as possible meeting dates.

#### **State 90 Day Plans**

Principals Marva Neal from Whale Branch Elementary & James Davis Early Learning Center, Elizabeth Rivera from Joseph Shanklin Elementary, and Mr. Brandley Tarrance from Robert Smalls Leadership Academy presented their 90-day plans.

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve the South Carolina Department of Education school turnaround plans for the district's identified underperforming schools: Whale Branch Elementary School, Joseph Shanklin Elementary School, and Robert Small Leadership Academy. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 8/0. Ingrid Boatright was absent from the vote. Rachel Wisnefski left the meeting at 12:00p.m.**

**Strategic Plan Waiver**

Mr. Robert Flowers presented the strategic plan waiver that will be submitted to the State Department of Education.

**Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve the district’s request to seek a three-month extension for the submission of our district strategic plan and the school renewal plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 8/0. Ingrid Boatright was absent from the vote.**

**Facility Master Plan**

Mrs. Carol Crutchfield presented the 2024 Facility Master Plan.

**2019 Bond Referendum After Action Report**

Mr. Robert Oetting presented information from the 2019 Bond Referendum after-action report.

**Committee for Naming the New School**

Mr. Freddie Lawton provided information on the process and work that the Naming Committee for the new elementary school will do. The school will be located on the May River campus. He also shared the names of the committee members.

**Committee Assignments**

Dr. Gwozdz named the Board members assigned to the Board committees.

- Academic – Chloe Gordon, (Chair), Angela Middleton, William Smith
- Finance – Dick Geier, (Chair), Earl Campbell, Elizabeth Hey
- Operations – Carlton Dallas (Chair), Chloe Gordon, Victor Ney
- Legislative – Rachel Wisnefski (Chair), Earl Campbell, Elizabeth Hey
- Policy – Rachel Wisnefski (Chair), Ingrid Boatright, Carlton Dallas
- Results – Dick Geier (Chair), Ingrid Boatright, Elizabeth Hey
- Technology – Ingrid Boatright (Chair) Victor Ney, William Smith
- BJACE – Earl Campbell, Carlton Dallas, Dick Geier

The work session adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:16 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 approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed 6/0. Carlton Dallas, Chloe Gordon, William Smith, and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the vote. Elizabeth Hey was absent from the meeting.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the 2023 Riverview Charter School Annual Report. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the vote.

A motion was made to strike Section II.C from the Proposed Public Comments Policy GC-2. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1. Victor Ney voted against the motion. William Smith was absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education Authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$439,035,000 general obligation bonds, in one or more years, in one or more series, with appropriate series designations, the issuance of general obligation bond anticipation notes, in one or more years, in one or more series, with appropriate series designations and the issuance of bonds through the SCAGO go program in one or more years, in one or more series, with appropriate series designations, by the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; providing for the form of the bonds and notes; fixing certain details of the bonds and notes; authorizing the superintendent of the school district or his lawfully-authorized designee to determine certain matters relating to the bonds and notes; providing for the payment of the bonds and notes and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded.

An amended motion was made to reflect the bullet stating Construction and equipping a new Pre-K through 5 and any other modifications reflecting the election ballot language. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

The original motion passed with the addition of the amendment 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of a not to exceed \$16,293,200 general obligation refunding bond, series 2024, or such other appropriate series designation, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bond; authorizing the superintendent or his lawfully-authorized designee; to prescribe certain details relating to the bond; providing for the payment of the bond and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of a not to exceed \$13,000,000 taxable general obligation bond, series 2024a, or such other appropriate series designation, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bond; delegating to the Superintendent or his lawfully authorized designee the authority to determine certain matters relating to the bond; providing for the payment of the bond and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; authorizing prepayment of the \$29,050,000 installment purchase refunding revenue bonds (school district of Beaufort county project) series 2016; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the South Carolina Department of Education school turnaround plans for the district's identified underperforming schools: Whale Branch Elementary School, Joseph Shanklin Elementary School, and Robert Small Leadership Academy. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0. Ingrid Boatright was absent from the vote. Rachel Wisnefski left the meeting at 12:00p.m.

**A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the district's request to seek a three-month extension for the submission of our district strategic plan and the school renewal plan. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0. Ingrid Boatright was absent from the vote.**