

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 20, 2024**  
**Hilton Head Middle School**  
**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 6:00p.m.

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. William Smith requested that OE-8 Facilities be removed from the consent agenda and placed under the Operations Committee Report. Dr. Gwozdz requested that the February 6 2024 minutes be voted separately from the other consent agenda items. 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.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

The H.E. McCracken Bulldog Band did not perform due to an unexpected emergency that the Band director had. Dr. Rodriguez and the Board recognized those band members that were presented.

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

- **Student of the Month**
  - January – Southern Beaufort County – Red Cedar Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student Kleymer Maradiaga Matamoros November –
- **Scholastic Arts Gold Key Recipients**
  - Gold Key winners from Bluffton High School- Mia Doty for “The Local Reaper Wears Red” (digital art); Riley Giglio for “The Center” (ceramics and glass); Madison Pirog for “Earth; Wood; and Water” (ceramics and glass); Victoria Wenrick for “Monstrous froglet” (sculpture) and her portfolio.
  - Gold Key winners from Hilton Head High were Rhiannon Curte for “NICOLE” (photography); Ashlynn Fleming for “ONE”, “Hidden”, and “OHIO” (photography); Madison Hall for “Possibilities” and “Solace” (photography); Honora Mayers for “Reflection” (drawing and illustration); Karen McDonnell for “Connected Souls” (photography); Pippa Parsons for “Dancing in Nature’s Beauty” (photography); Kaya Tolly for “Memory Project” (drawing and illustration); and Hanna Walter for “Cannon in Dunvegan” (photography).
  - Gold Key winners from May River High were Katherine Donahue for “Grip” (drawing and illustration) and Emarie Toirkens for “Bee City” (mixed media).
- **School Counselor of the Year**
  - Elementary School Counselor of the Year, Dr. Rebecca Hannahs from Red Cedar Elementary School
  - Rookie School Counselor of the Year, Avery Eldridge from Okatie Elementary School.
  - Beaufort County School District’s 2024 School Counselor of the Year – Cheryl Dopson from Hilton Head Island High School.

- **South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association’s Middle School Athletic Director of the Year** – William Murray from H.E. McCracken Middle School
- **H.E. McCracken Beta Club State Convention Awards**
- **John W. Harris Excellent Educator Award** – Linda Tuttle, Instructional Coach from H.E. McCracken Middle School.
- **Academic WorldQuest** - Bluffton High School  
Dr. Rodriguez also recognized Battery Creek High School as the most improved Academic World Quest team.

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Lynn Stokes Murray provided a brief Legislative update.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Chair’s Report**

Dr. Gwozdz provided an update from the South Carolina School Board Association's Annual Conference.

### **Committee Reports**

*Finance Committee:* Richard Geier, chair shared information from the committee’s February 8th meeting, including financial reports. Denise Mattson addressed questions concerning the Executive Summary for ESSER funds through January 31, 2024. Mrs. Cynthia Phillips addressed questions concerning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Report.

*Operations Committee:* Carlton Dallas, chair shared information from the committee’s February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion that the Board of Education accept the access easement on Raider Drive as shown on Exhibit A for Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc., and authorize the Superintendent to finalize the easement documents. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisniewski abstained from the vote.**

Mr. Dallas provided information from O.E. 8 Facilities Monitoring report. Ms. Alice Walton provided clarification regarding badge access audits.

**Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion to accept O.E. 8 Facilities Monitoring Report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisniewski. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

### **Superintendent’s Report**

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Choice Booklet  
Dr. Mary Stratos presented the school choice booklet.
- Dr. Rodriguez recognized Dr. N’kia Campbell for the successful African American History Conference.

### **Board Business Action**

- Donation from Kasey Rodgers for a Rifton Activity Chair  
**Dr. Rachel Wisniewski made the motion to accept the donation from Kasey Rodgers for a Rifton Activity Chair valued at \$15,000 for students with physical disabilities for positioning in the classrooms, and to be used by students at various schools. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 11/0.**
- Approval of March Work Session Changed to March 22, 2024.

**Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the date change for the March Work Session to March 22, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

- February 6 2024 Board Meeting Minutes Draft  
**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the February 6, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 10/0/1. Christina Gwozdz abstained from the vote.**
- OE16.1 and 16.2 FOIA Report – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Log  
**Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion to approve OE16.1 and 16.2. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.**

#### **Announcements**

- Dr. Gwozdz reminded Board members about the joint meeting with the Jasper County Board of Education regarding ACE on Monday, February 26 at 5 p.m. at ACE.
- Mr. William Smith acknowledged schools that had African American history programs.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:04p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: March 5, 2024

Angela Middleton, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

## Motion Summary

A motion was made to approve the agenda. Mr. William Smith requested that OE-8 Facilities be removed from the consent agenda and placed under the Operations Committee Report. Dr. Gwozdz requested that the February 6 2024 minutes be voted separately from the other consent agenda items. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education accept the access easement on Raider Drive as shown on Exhibit A for Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc., and authorize the Superintendent to finalize the easement documents. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to accept O.E. 8 Facilities Monitoring Report. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to accept the donation from Kasey Rodgers for a Rifton Activity Chair valued at \$15,000 for students with physical disabilities for positioning in the classrooms, and to be used by students at various schools. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to approve the date change for the March Work Session to March 22, 2024. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the February 6, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. Christina Gwozdz abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve OE16.1 and 16.2. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

### Consent Agenda

- February 6 2024 Board Meeting Minutes Draft
- OE16.1 and 16.2 FOIA Report – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Log