

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 5, 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 4:30p.m.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of legal advice regarding pending and settled legal claims covered by the attorney client privilege 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 Education Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); discussion of negotiations with property owner incident to property in the Bluffton area, South Carolina pursuant to S.C. Code ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #3 with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc. for the Rebuild of Hilton Head Island High School Phase 1 site work pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 7/0. Chloe Gordon, Elizabeth Hey, Angela Middleton 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

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed in the February 1, 2024 – February 29, 2024 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 9/0. Ingrid Boatright and William Smith were absent from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education Report for March 5, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/0. Ingrid Boatright and William Smith were absent from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #3 with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc for the Rebuild of Hilton Head Island High School Phase 1 Site Work based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$4,235,240. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/0/1. Ingrid Boatright was absent from the vote. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 10/0. Ingrid Boatright was absent from the vote.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed in memory of Phillip Skager, Michael Morris, and Frankie Washington, BCSD students who recently passed away, and Andrea Pejeau, a teacher at Bluffton High School.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance - Coosa and St. Helena Elementary students performed “Ngoma Ya Kilimanjaro” under the direction of music teachers Rachel Smith and Miranda Valentina.

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

- **Students of the Months**
 - December – 8th grade student Colby Jenkins, Robert Smalls Leadership Academy
 - January – 7th grade student Clara Hatfield, Lady’s Island Middle School
- **Wrestling State Champion**
 - Gunnar DeGroat, Battery Creek High School
- **National Career Development Association Poetry and Art Contest 2023-2024**
 - Kacithia Wright, Battery Creek High School
- **SC Induction Teacher of the Year**
 - Mauriana Scullo, Pritchardville Elementary School
- **National Social Worker Week**
 - Dr. Rodriguez read a proclamation into record.

CLOC Report

Mr. Ted Barber provided a quarterly report. Dr. Rodriguez and Board members thanked Mr. Barber for his service as the CLOC Chair.

Chair’s Report

Dr. Gwozdz reminded Board Members to file their annual statement of economic interest that is due by noon on March 30.

Committee Reports

Naming Committee: Mr. Freddie Lawton, Capital Projects Education Manager, provided information on the establishment of the committee and introduced one of the committee members. Mr. Shaun Olson, SIC co-chair and community member, presented information that the committee gathered on potential school names and mascots. The committee recommends adopting the school’s name as May River Elementary School with a manatee as the mascot with school colors of blue, black, and silver/gray.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the Board of Education approve the recommendation from the Naming Committee for the new Elementary School be May River Elementary School, the Mascot Manatee, and the colors Blue, Black and Silver/Grey. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 11/0.

Operations Committee: Carlton Dallas, chair provided an update on committee discussions regarding the custodial cost benefit analysis.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- CTE Update
Mrs. Karen Gilbert provided an update on Career and Technical Educational programming.

Consent Agenda

- February 20, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the February 2024 Board Meeting Minutes on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 11/0.

Announcements

- Dr. Rodriguez shared that the Human Resources Department recently held a special education career fair, resulting in 10 contracts for employment. They also held a job fair at Bluffton High School last Saturday, resulting in 71 contracts offered.
- Mr. William Smith shared SRO Day was the night of the last Board meeting, and thanked SROs for their service.

Public Comment

The following community members were phone calls.

- Ivie Szalai spoke regarding the 60 Minute segment featuring Beaufort County School District.
- David Cook spoke regarding the 60 Minute segment, the Health Advisory Committee, and the celebration of International Women Day and History Month.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:02 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: May 7, 2024

Angela Middleton, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

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A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. Ingrid Boatright was absent from the vote.

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A motion was made to approve the February 2024 Board Meeting Minutes on the Consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

Consent Agenda

- February 20, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes