

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2024
District Educational Services Center
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present

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

Ingrid Boatright
Chloe Gordon
Victor Ney
Rachel Wisnefski

Earl Campbell
Elizabeth Hey
William Smith

Member Absent

Carlton Dallas

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment matter re: 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-(a)(4); discussion of proposed selection of architect for professional design services contract, RFQ #24-018, for Lady's island Middle School Replacement School and New Bluffton Early Childhood Center pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed food services capital improvements Amendments #1 and #2 to Ajax Building Company contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations to proposed acquisition of two properties in Southern Beaufort County and proposed sale of property in Northern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0. Chloe Gordon and William Smith were absent from the vote. Carlton Dallas was absent from the meeting.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:03 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the April 1-30, 2024, Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education Report for May 7, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victory Ney. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board authorizes the Superintendent to issue an award to Hord Coplan Macht for a new Bluffton Early Child Center located adjacent to the River Ridge Academy and Quackenbush Architects and Planners for Lady's Island Middle School Replacement School on Active Campus. The Board authorizes the superintendent to negotiate the architectural contracts and upon successful negotiations, execute a contract with the firm. The motion was seconded by Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #01 with Ajax Building Company for the Food Service Storage Units, Cooler and Freezer at the District Educational Services Center (DESC) based on the Guaranteed maximum Price (GMP) of \$922,639. The motion was seconded by Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0/1. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board authorizes the Superintendent to sign a contract for the property in Bluffton and finalize a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Town of Bluffton to be brought to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #02 with Ajax Building Company for the Food Service Equipment at multiple locations based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$952,076. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/0/1. Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 10/0.

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

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance -The Beaufort Middle School's cast of Legally Blonde, Jr. performed "What You Want" under the direction of dance teacher Christine Barr.

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

- **SC VEX State Championship** – Beaufort High School's robotic team, Hyper Resolution.
- **March Student of the Month for Northern Beaufort County** - Ra'nysia Brown, a junior at Whale Branch Early College High School.
- **SC Incubate Debate Coach of the Year** - Mr. Willie White from Whale Branch Early College High School.
- **SkillsUSA State Champions** – Students at the Academy for Career Excellence.
- **Palmetto's Finest** – BJACE
- **Regional Science Fair Winner** – Beaufort Middle School student Ryder Sutton.
- **Middle School Coach's Choice Coach of the Year** – Demeka Taylor, Basketball Coach at Lady's Island Middle School.
- **District Induction Teacher of the Year** – Isabel Smith, Special Education Teacher at Whale Branch Early College High School.

- **South Carolina Coaches Association of Women's Sports All-State Softball Player** – Battery Creek High School Senior, Brooke Crosby.
- **Nurses Appreciation Week**
- **Teacher Appreciation Week**
- **Superintendent of the Year** – Dr. Frank Rodriguez

Chair's Report – Dr. Gwozdz shared remarks on behalf of the Board in recognizing Dr. Rodriguez as the Superintendent of the year. A congratulatory video was shared. <https://youtu.be/tAuciKMhINo>

Committee Reports

Academics Committee: Chloe Gordon, chair provided updates from the April 25 meeting.

Ms. Chloe Gordon made the motion that the Board of Education accept the Honors Application for the Advanced Personal Finance course through Career & Technical Education. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0. Angela Middleton was absent from the vote.

Ms. Gordon shared that the Health Advisory Committee held a meet and greet on May 2 to schedule meetings and provide introductory information.

Finance Committee: Richard Geier, chair provided an update on the \$100k, Transparency, BOE Budget, and ESSER funds reports. Colonel Geier presented information on changes to 5.1 OS-37-R-Procedures for Administering Student Lunch and Breakfast

Ms. Crosby presented the FY2024-25 budget.

Operations Committee: Victor Ney provided an update from the May 14th Committee meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Summer School Update
Dr. Mary Stratos introduced Karen McKenzie, and Melissa Murray, who presented on summer school programming.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- 2024-2025 Budget Discussion
Mrs. Crosby presented the FY2024-25 budget.

Other Matters

- Follow upon Cell Phone Policy from Joint Board SIC Meeting
Dr. Rodriguez began a discussion regarding research he gathered around cell phone use in schools.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County School Board direct the Superintendent to research possible options for the implementation of a district regulation that would prohibit cell phones during instructional time. These options should be presented at the next Board meeting for further Board discussion. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisniewski. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Board Business

- Donation from Friends of Shanklin in the amount of \$15,000 to Joseph Shanklin Elementary School for the 2024-2025 after school program.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$15,000 from Friends of Shanklin to Joseph Shanklin Elementary School for the 2024-2025 after school program. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

- Hilton Head Cluster Magnet Schools Assistance Program Grant
Dr. Mary Stratos presented information on the Magnet Schools Assistant Program Grant.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the Magnet Schools Assistance Program Grant Resolution and authorizes Dr. Christina Gwozdz, Board Chair, to sign the Resolution and the Amendment to the Desegregation Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/0/1. Elizabeth Hey abstained from the vote.

Consent Agenda

- March 5, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- March 14, 2024 Joint Board/SIC Meeting Minutes
- March 22, 2024 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- April 2, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- April 3, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- April 26 2024 Work Session Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 8/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mr. William Smith would like to discuss how many vehicles the district owns and discuss in the Operations Committee.

Announcements

- Dr. Rodriguez reminded the Board about the groundbreaking at Hilton Head Island High School.

Public Comment

- Jennifer Ospina, (phone call), spoke regarding a hazing assault at Hilton Head Island High School.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:57 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: May 21, 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 re: 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-(a)(4); discussion of proposed selection of architect for professional design services contract, RFQ #24-018, for Lady's island Middle School Replacement School and New Bluffton Early Childhood Center pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed food services capital improvements Amendments #1 and #2 to Ajax Building Company contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations to proposed acquisition of two properties in Southern Beaufort County and proposed sale of property in Northern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 8/0. Chloe Gordon and William Smith were absent from the vote. Carlton Dallas was absent from the meeting.

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A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

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A motion was made to accept the donation in the amount of \$15,000 from Friends of Shanklin to Joseph Shanklin Elementary School for the 2024-2025 after school program. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to approve the Magnet Schools Assistance Program Grant Resolution and authorize Dr. Christina Gwozdz, Board Chair, to sign the Resolution and the Amendment to the Desegregation Agreement. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0/1. Elizabeth Hey abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0/2. William Smith and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

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