

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2024
Hilton Head Island Middle School
Media Center
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present

Christina Gwozdz, Chair
Richard Geier, Vice Chair

Ingrid Boatright
Carlton Dallas
Elizabeth Hey
William Smith

Earl Campbell
Chloe Gordon
Victor Ney
Rachel Wisnefski

Member Absent

Angela Middleton, Secretary

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of receipt of legal advice related to pending and settled legal claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice and attorney client privilege communication regarding pending workers' compensation claim pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed Amendment #2 with Little Diversified Architectural Consulting for the Hilton Head Island High School rebuild design and construction administration work pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(20; Home School Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 7/0. Chloe Gordon, William Smith, and Rachel Wisnefski were absent from the vote. Angela Middleton was absent from the meeting.

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

Action from Executive Session

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve the settlement authority in the pending worker's compensation case involving the female claimant consistent with the terms discussed in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #2 with Little Diversified Architectural Consulting for the Rebuild of Hilton Head Island High School design and construction administration work funded by the 2023 referendum in the amount of \$4,307,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 8/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 8/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed in memory of Robert Smalls, a bookkeeper who recently passed away.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance – The Hilton Head Elementary Singing Otters performed *Follow the Rainbow* and *Walkin' On the Beach* under the direction of music teacher Michelle Cramer.

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

- **March Student of the Month for Southern Beaufort County** – 8th grade student Finlay Wrobel, at Bluffton Middle School.
- **SC Art Education Association Youth Art Month Winner** – Honora Mayers, student at Hilton Head Island high School.
- **Middle School Coaches and Players of the Year for Middle School Spring Sports**
 - **Coach of the Year**
 - Haleigh Easter – Girls Track and Field, Hilton Head Island Middle School
 - Darren Weingart – Boys Track and Field, Bluffton Middle School
 - Trey Austin – Boys Soccer, Bluffton Middle School
 - Emily Rietveld – Girls Soccer, H.E. McCracken Middle School
 - Bobby Freeman – Baseball, Hilton Head Island Middle School
 - James Bazzel – Softball, Bluffton Middle School
 - **Coaches Choice Coach of the Year**
 - Angelina Hedden – Girls Soccer, Hilton Head Island Middle School
 - Dwon Fields – Baseball, Bluffton Middle School
 - **Player of the Year**
 - Julian Gonzalez – Boys Soccer, Bluffton Middle School
 - Kendal Bremby – Girls Soccer, H.E. McCracken Middle School
 - Issac Roman – Baseball, Hilton Head Island Middle School
 - Emelia Carmany – Softball, Bluffton Middle School

Chair's Report – Dr. Gwozdz congratulated the senior class and their families on upcoming graduations.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Richard Geier, chair shared information from the committee's May 15 meeting including financial reports.

- Denise Mattson presented an overview on Title One.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to authorize the Superintendent to apply for, sign, submit and administrator Grants. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/0. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to authorize the filing of E-rate Funding Year 2024 application for eligible E-rate Category 1 Services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/0. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

Operations Committee: Carlton Dallas, chair shared information from the May 14th committee meeting.

- Carol Crutchfield provided information on the Maintenance and Custodial report. Mr. William Smith stated that Brandy Majors, the Facilities Support Manager, has done a great job providing information to the Operation Committee.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Grant Submission Summary Update
Dr. Mary Stratos presented an update on grant submissions and explained the processes.

Other Matters

- Cell Phones Follow-Up
Dr. Rodriguez provided an update on research completed regarding developing a cell phone policy.
- Administrative Regulation SS-7 Possession/Use of Electronic Communication Devices in School
Dr. Rodriguez shared the updated- red-lined version of AR SS-7. The updated version will also include any action that will come from the legislation.

Board Business Action

- 2024 – 2025 Budget Certification
Mrs. Tonya Crosby shared information on the 2024-2025 Budget. She also explained why the Board needed to take two different actions, and the purpose.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$359,170,000 with an operations millage rate of 121.8 mills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 10/0.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Debt Service Fund Budget in the amount of \$108,063,241 with a debt service millage rate of 36.3 mills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 10/0.

Consent Agenda

- May 7, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- OE16.1 and 16.2 FOIA – 2024 First Quarter FOIA Report

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mrs. Ingrid Boatright would like a follow-up on the electronic comment card.

Announcements

- Dr. Rachel Wisniewski, representing District 7, shared that tonight would be her last meeting, as she is vacating her seat due to a move out of district. Several Board members thanked Ms. Wisniewski for her service.
- Victor Ney shared that he attended two district events – the CinderellaFella Ball and Teacher and Support Staff of the Year announcements at Okatie Elementary.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:18 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: June 11, 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 8/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote. Rachel Wisnefski was absent from the vote.

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A motion was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

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