

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
June 11, 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

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

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to go 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 30-4-40(a); receipt of legal advice regarding settled legal claims and pending legal claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed Amendment #25 with Thompson Turner Construction for the Beaufort High School (BHS) 2023 Referendum Safety and Security Scope pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 6/0/1. Earl Campbell, Chloe Gordon, and Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to order at 6:01 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the May 1- 31, 2024, Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Carlos B. Williams as principal of Whale Branch Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to employ Roger E. Ward as principal of H.E. McCracken Middle School. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education/Home School Report for June 11, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #25 with Thompson Turner Construction for the Beaufort High School 2023 Referendum Safety and Security Scope base on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$693,459.00. The motion was seconded by Ms. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. 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.

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

- April Student of the Month for Northern Beaufort County – Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary School 4th Grader, Leyla Figueroa Hercules
- 2024-2025 Teachers of the Year and Support Staff of the Year

The 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year for the following schools are:

Adult Education

TOY: Lois Lewis

SOY: Creighton Weir

Battery Creek High

TOY: John Rutherford

SOY: Gabrielle Heath

Beaufort Elementary

TOY: Marianne Blake

SOY: Joanna May

Beaufort High

TOY: Seth Konoza

SOY: Helen Heyward-Smoaks

Beaufort/Jasper Academy for Career Excellence

TOY: Joe Johnson

SOY: Vanessa Ruiz

Beaufort Middle

TOY: Kayla Felix

SOY: Thomas Orr

Bluffton Elementary and ECC

TOY: Laura VanHorn

SOY: Linda Jenkins

Bluffton High

TOY: Michelle Mostiler

SOY: Keisha Burns

Bluffton Middle

TOY: Victoria Raza

SOY: Laura Vanhouten

Broad River Elementary

TOY: Michelle Johnston

SOY: Darene Scott

Coosa Elementary

TOY: Cherie Mack

SOY: LaTron Holmes

H.E. McCracken Middle

TOY: Christopher Johnson

SOY: Desiree Ryan

Hilton Head Early Childhood Center

TOY: Anna Rehse

SOY: April Blackman

Hilton Head Island High

TOY: Jeremy Willard

SOY: Nina Cortese

Hilton Head Island IB Elementary

TOY: Jill "Miranda" Fernandez

SOY: Susie Dolan

Hilton Head Island Middle

TOY: Timothy Huesing

SOY: Luymar Mora Estrada

Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts

TOY: Melanie Willis

SOY: Alaina Johnson

Joseph S. Shanklin Elementary

TOY: Melissale Rivera Juarbe

SOY: Paola Znbinden

Lady's Island Elementary

TOY: Cinderella Shaw

SOY: Shirley Sanders

Lady's Island Middle

TOY: Dr. Karen Parker

SOY: Christina Kim

May River High

TOY: Kimberly Schmidt

SOY: Jennifer Jones-Brown

Michael C. Riley Elementary

TOY: Roxxan O'Connor

SOY: Valerie Elliot

Mossy Oaks Elementary

TOY: Amber Clark

SOY: Julie Prussia

Okatie Elementary

TOY: Virginia Hallex

SOY: Karen Sirico

Port Royal Elementary

TOY: Grace Heise

SOY: Holly Mehrer

Pritchardville Elementary

TOY: Summer Williamson

SOY: Joe Rowe

Red Cedar Elementary

TOY: Kathleen Ellis

SOY: Rene Lukasavage

River Ridge Academy

TOY: Kimberly Rios

SOY: Brandi Siatkowski

Robert Smalls Leadership Academy

TOY: Sydney Harner

SOY: Raquel Cardenas-Hernandez

St. Helena Island Elementary

TOY: Shirley Close

SOY: Jacqueline Brown-Fields

Whale Branch Early College High

TOY: Jessica Russel

SOY: J-Gala Albany

Whale Branch Elementary/Davis ECC

TOY: Julianne Cooper

SOY: Jane Lowry

Whale Branch Middle

TOY: Lynn Garrett

SOY: Bernard Reid

Transportation Department

SOY: Keven Leavell, Assistant Director

Office of Early Childhood Education

SOY: MaryBeth Christensen, Office Manager

District Office:

SOY: Megan Boyle, Campus Finance Specialist II, Instructional Service Department

Induction Teacher of the Year

Isabel Smith, Whale Branch Early College HS

- **Whale Branch Early College High School Girls' Track State Champions**
- **Middle School Coach's Choice Coach of the Year**
 - Dr. Tamekia Ford – Girls Track and Field, Whale Branch Middle School
 - Janie Williams – Boys Track and Field, Beaufort Middle School
 - Jose' Martinez – Boys Soccer, Robert Smalls Leadership Academy
 - Demeka Taylor – Softball, Lady's Island Middle School

Chair's Report – Dr. Gwozdz congratulated the 2024 high school graduates and their families. She also shared that a few Board members attended the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Reception last weekend.

Committee Reports

Operations Committee: Carlton Dallas, chair provided an update from the Operations Committee meeting. Mr. Robert Oetting addressed the Board's questions regarding funding renovations for the district office.

Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion that the Board of Education approve the FY 2026- Capital project list of \$43,572,000 as presented. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/0.

Mr. Dallas also shared the committee's discussion regarding the Academy for Career Excellence.

Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate with Jasper County School District the funding of capital projects for the Academy of Career Excellence in the amount not to exceed \$6.5 million to be funded by FY2024 excess General Fund balance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 10/0.

Technology Committee: Ingrid Boatright, chair provided an update from the technology committee meeting.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion for the Board of Education to direct the Superintendent to evaluate current processes and look for opportunities to standardize and improve data efficiency. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Boatright and Colonel Geier also discussed esports.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Art Showcase
Dr. Mary Stratos introduced a video highlighting the inaugural art showcase held at the district office on May 30.
- Reporting of Schools Progress
Dr. Stratos provided a report on underperforming schools. Principals Liz Rivera, Joseph Shanklin Elementary, Brad Tarrance, Robert Smalls Leadership Academy, and Marva Neal, Whale Branch Elementary shared information.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Budget Update
Mrs. Crosby provided a FY2024-25 budget update.

Consent Agenda

- May 21, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 10/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Mrs. Ingrid Boatright would like to discuss the future of the DESC office.
- Mr. William Smith would like to discuss technology fees.
- Mr. Carlton Dallas would like to discuss discipline.
- Colonel Richard Geier would like an update from the new director at Right Choices.

Public Comment

- Jim Miller, Beaufort spoke regarding the value of music education.
- Christina Washington, Beaufort spoke regarding school fees.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:00 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: June 25, 2024

Angela Middleton, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

A motion was made to go 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 30-4-40(a); receipt of legal advice regarding settled legal claims and pending legal claim covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed Amendment #25 with Thompson Turner Construction for the Beaufort High School (BHS) 2023 Referendum Safety and Security Scope pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 6/0/1. Earl Campbell, Chloe Gordon, and Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote. William Smith abstained from the vote.

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

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the FY 2026- Capital project list of \$43,572,000 as presented. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate with Jasper County School District the funding of capital projects for the Academy of Career Excellence in the amount not to exceed \$6.5 million to be funded by FY2024 excess General Fund balance. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made for the Board of Education to direct the Superintendent to evaluate current processes and look for opportunities to standardize and improve data efficiency. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

Consent Agenda

- May 21, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes