

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 25, 2024**  
**Hilton Head Island Library**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Members Present**

Christina Gwozdz, Chair	Ingrid Boatright	Earl Campbell
Richard Geier, Vice Chair	Carlton Dallas	Chloe Gordon
Angela Middleton, Secretary	Elizabeth Hey	William Smith

**Member Absent**

Victor Ney

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 regarding Fiscal Authority covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice regarding pending legal claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of employment matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of student discipline matter 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. Angela Middleton, William Smith were absent from the vote. Victor Ney was absent from the meeting.**

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:00 p.m.

**Action from Executive Session**

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education enter into an engagement letter with the law firm of Duff Freeman Lyon to provide legal advice to the Board with respect to student disciplinary expulsion appeals and authorize the Board chair to sign the engagement letter on behalf of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 7/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.**

**Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 8/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.**

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:**

- **May Student of the Month for Southern Beaufort County** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade student Samantha Eastering from Daufuskie Island Elementary School.

- **Finance Awards**
  - Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award
  - Government Finance officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

**Chair's Report** – Dr. Gwozdz wished everyone a safe and happy summer break.

### **Committee Reports**

*Finance Committee:* Richard Geier, chair shared information from the committee's June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting including financial reports.

- Mrs. Crosby provided a budget update.

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve the debt service fund millage levy tax year 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 9/0.**

- Mrs. Crosby provided information on the Debt Service fund.

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education authorize all schools to participate in the USDA Community Eligibility Program beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 9/0.**

- Mrs. Crosby and a representative from the Nutrition Group provided information to the Board.

Colonel Geier shared that Mrs. Crosby presented the MWBE and Semi-Annual Sole Source and Emergency Procurement Report.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- ISD Summer Update  
Ms. Karen McKenzie provided an update on summer programming which included the summer camps.

### **Other Matters**

- Cell Phones Follow-Up  
Dr. Mellow Lee presented the cell phone proposal and draft updates on Administrative Regulation SS-27, drafted and informed by information the cell phone committee gathered.

### **Board Business Action**

- 8% Bond Resolution \$43,570,000.  
Ms. Crosby introduced Frannie Heizer of Burr Forman, who presented the 8% Bond Resolution of \$43,570,000.

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$43,570,000 general obligation bonds, series 2024B, or such other appropriate series designation, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; delegating to the Superintendent or his lawfully authorized designee the authority to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.**

- Refunding of Bond Series 2015B in the amount of \$38,750,000  
Ms. Heizer shared information regarding the refunding of Bond Series 2015B.

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion the Board authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$38,750,000 taxable or tax-exempt general obligation refunding bonds, series 2024, or such other appropriate series designation, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; delegating to the Superintendent or his lawfully authorized designee the authority to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Consent Agenda**

- June 11, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- OE.5 Financial Planning

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/0.**

**Future Agenda Topics**

- Dr. Gwozdz would like to discuss the potential purchase of land during an executive session.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:50 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: July 9, 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 receipt of legal advice regarding Fiscal Authority covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice regarding pending legal claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of employment matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of student discipline matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded and passed 7/0. Angela Middleton, William Smith were absent from the vote. Victor Ney was absent from the meeting.

### Action from Executive Session

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education enter into an engagement letter with the law firm of Duff Freeman Lyon to provide legal advice to the Board with respect to student disciplinary expulsion appeals and authorize the Board chair to sign the engagement letter on behalf of the Board. The motion was seconded and passed 7/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Ingrid Boatright abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the debt service fund millage levy tax year 2024. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education authorize all schools to participate in the USDA Community Eligibility Program beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.

A motion was made that the Board authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$43,570,000 general obligation bonds, series 2024B, or such other appropriate series designation, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; delegating to the Superintendent or his lawfully authorized designee the authority to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0. William Smith was absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$38,750,000 taxable or tax-exempt general obligation refunding bonds, series 2024, or such other appropriate series designation, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; delegating to the Superintendent or his lawfully authorized designee the authority to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.

### Consent Agenda

- June 11, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- OE.5 Financial Planning