

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**School Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 9, 2024**  
**District Educational Services Center**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Members Present**

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

Earl Campbell  
Chloe Gordon  
William Smith

Carlton Dallas  
Elizabeth Hey

**Members Absent**

Ingrid Boatright  
Victor Ney

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of negotiations incident to proposed sales of two properties in Northern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed purchases of two properties in Southern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed award of Custodial Services Contracts RFP #24-022 pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements for 90 day extension of ESS Contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to pending claim covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); receipt of legal advice regarding Riverview Charter School contract covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Ms. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 6/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton was absent from the vote. Ingrid Boatright and Victor Ney were absent from the meeting.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Action from Executive Session**

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Willow Run property with the Town of Bluffton. The motion was seconded by Ms. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 6/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to accept the offer for the Cherokee Road property and to submit the offer to the South Carolina Department of Education for review and approval. With the South Carolina Department of Education approval, the Superintendent shall finalize the sale of the property and deposit the proceeds into a Capital Projects Fund of the School District. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell.

The motion passed 6/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to issue an intent to award for custodial services to AMB Industry Groups LLC for Bluffton Group 2 and Beaufort Group 2, Interstate Premier Services Corporation for the Hilton Head Island Group and Bluffton Group 1, and the Budd Group Inc. for Beaufort Group 1, Beaufort Group 3, and Beaufort Jasper ACE, as described in RFP #24-022. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to enter into negotiations and execute a contract with the contractors upon successful negotiations and the expiration of the protest period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 6/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve the extension of the current contract with ESS for a period of ninety (90) days, ending September 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 5/2/1. Chloe Gordon and William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the June 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024, Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 7/0/1. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0.

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

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

**Public Comment** – There were no public comments during this time.

### **Chair's Report**

Chair Gwozdz shared that the Board will hold a Special Called Executive Session meeting for Student hearings on Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Lynn Stokes-Murray, Director, Government Relations, Burr Forman McNair, provided an Legislative Update on update.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Update for SY24-25 Graduation  
Dr. Mary Stratos presented information from the Class of 2024 and an update for SY24-25 graduation dates.

### **Board Business**

- Approval of District Strategic Plan  
Dr. Frank Rodriguez provided an executive summary of the new five-year strategic plan. Dr. Stratos presented school renewal plans.

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County School Board of Trustees approve the district strategic and school renewal five-year plans for the 2024-2029 five-year cycle. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 8/0.**

- Approval of District's Rebranding and Logo  
Dr. Candace Bruder presented two logos and two tagline options for Board approval.

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board authorize the adoption of option A as the district's new logo. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 7/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board authorize the adoption of option B as the district's new branding tagline. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion failed 3/5. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, Chloe Gordon, Elizabeth Hey and William Smith voted against the motion.**

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board authorize the adoption of option A as the district's new branding tagline. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion failed 4/4. Carlton Dallas, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton and William Smith voted against the motion.**

- Donation from Jennifer Scanlin of Hilton Head for Costumes/Dance Materials

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to accept a donation from Jennifer Scanlin valued at \$9,185.00 for costumes/dance materials for the dance/and drama departments for Beaufort County School District. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 8/0.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

- June 25, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

**Colonel Richard Geier made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angela Middleton. The motion passed 8/0.**

#### **Public Comment**

- Jim Miller of Bluffton, spoke regarding the importance of music education and requested adding music to the district strategic plan.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:03 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) Date: August 13, 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 negotiations incident to proposed sales of two properties in Northern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed purchases of two properties in Southern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed award of Custodial Services Contracts RFP #24-022 pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements for 90 day extension of ESS Contract pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to pending claim covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); receipt of legal advice regarding Riverview Charter School contract covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 6/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton was absent from the vote. Ingrid Boatright and Victor Ney were absent from the meeting.

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A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to issue an intent to award for custodial services to AMB Industry Groups LLC for Bluffton Group 2 and Beaufort Group 2, Interstate Premier Services Corporation for the Hilton Head Island Group and Bluffton Group 1, and the Budd Group Inc. for Beaufort Group 1, Beaufort Group 3, and Beaufort Jasper ACE, as described in RFP #24-022. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to enter into negotiations and execute a contract with the contractors upon successful negotiations and the expiration of the protest period. The motion was seconded and passed 6/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

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A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the June 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024, Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded and passed 7/0/1. Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0.

**A motion was made that the Beaufort County School Board of Trustees approve the district strategic and school renewal five-year plans for the 2024-2029 five-year cycle. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0.**

**A motion was made that the Board authorize the adoption of option A as the district's new logo. The motion was seconded and passed 7/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

**A motion was made that the Board authorize the adoption of option B as the district's new branding tagline. The motion was seconded and failed 3/5. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, Chloe Gordon, Elizabeth Hey and William Smith voted against the motion.**

**A motion was made that the Board authorize the adoption of option A as the district's new branding tagline. The motion was seconded and failed 4/4. Carlton Dallas, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton and William Smith voted against the motion.**

**A motion was made to accept a donation from Jennifer Scanlin valued at \$9,185.00 for costumes/dance materials for the dance/and drama departments for Beaufort County School District. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0.**

**A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0.**

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