



ACE

**Beaufort-Jasper Academy
for Career Excellence**

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Ridgeland, SC 29936
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Dr. Michael Lovecchio, Director
Ms. Adrienne Jones, Asst. Director

Beaufort-Jasper ACE
Quarterly School Board Meeting
June 13, 2024
12:45 PM Executive Session
1:00 PM General Session

Members Present

Dr. Thomas Balliet, Chair	Ms. Priscilla Fraser
Mr. Carlton Dallas, Vice Chair present by Zoom	Col. Richard Geier
Mr. Earl Campbell	Ms. Joyce Gerald

Also present: Dr. Michael Lovecchio, Dr. Frank Rodriguez, Ms. Tonya Crosby and Mr. Russell Zimmerman.

Call to Order

Dr. Thomas Balliet called the meeting to order at 12:45 PM.

Roll call was taken. The establishment of quorum was met.

Jill Pongallo said that the media was properly notified and there were no public comments.

Executive Session

Dr. Thomas Balliet called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Col. Richard Geier made the motion to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 6/0.

- Personnel Contractual Matters

Dr. Thomas Balliet called the meeting back to order at 1:08 PM.

Opening General Session

Dr. Thomas Balliet asked if there were any recommendations from the Executive Session. Ms. Joyce Gerald made the motion to accept the Personnel contracts. Seconded by Col. Richard Geier. The motion passed 6/0.

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

Dr. Thomas Balliet called for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Priscilla Fraser made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Ms. Joyce Gerald.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Thomas Balliet called for a motion to approve the amended minutes from February 22, 2024, and the minutes from the Board meeting on April 25, 2024. Ms. Joyce Gerald made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell.

Dr. Thomas Balliet asked the question about the amount of Capital Improvements that was recorded in the minutes on April 25, 2024. The total cost recorded was \$15 million. The actual amount should have been \$13 million. The minutes will be updated to reflect the actual amount of \$13 million. Motion passed 6/0.

Reports and Information

- **Director's Report by Dr. Michael Lovecchio**

Dr. Lovecchio reported that Ms. Vanesa Ruiz, Administrative Assistant, was our support staff of the year and Mr. Joe Johnson, Auto Technology Instructor, was our teacher of the year.

On May 24, 2024, we had our spring Completer Ceremony. One week later, we had students graduating from 8 different High Schools in Beaufort and Jasper Counties.

We had over 400 applications from students to attend BJACE for the upcoming school year. We accepted roughly 175 students from Beaufort County and 50 students from Jasper County. We do have a waiting list for a few programs. We are looking into adding an additional Barbering Instructor. Col. Geier suggested adding a column that would show the capacity for each class. Dr. Lovecchio will add the waiting list, capacity and current enrollment at the next Board Meeting.

We had over 600 certifications and 172 completers this year. We have several people that work on getting the correct numbers to the state.

CMTA presented cost-saving Improvements to ACE. They will be sending us the results in the next few weeks with updated numbers on the improvements that are needed. They are a state vendor which is a huge plus for us because we don't have to go into bids. Hopefully by the August Board Meeting we will be able to present the results.

There is a high demand for Career and Technical Education which is growing rapidly. We need to start planning for 5 to 10 years down the road. We have room to have more CTE

classes. We have land, transportation and infrastructure. We need to figure out how to utilize these areas in the best way possible.

Dr. Balliet asked about the Board Meeting schedule for the upcoming school year. He requested that the August 15th meeting be moved to Thursday, August 22nd. He also suggested having the meeting during the day instead of in the evening. Dr. Lovecchio is going to look into the lunchtime schedule for the new school year and see if we can make adjustments to have the meeting during the afternoon. Ms. Gerald also suggested having a zoom meeting for the Board Meeting instead of meeting in person. All these suggestions will be taken into consideration. Dr. Lovecchio will update the Board meeting schedule and send it to everyone.

- **Budget Update by Ms. Tonya Crosby**

Ms. Crosby stated that the expenditure amounts to \$3,773,232. Increases would be a \$2500 increase to the teacher's salary, plus a step increase for the employees who are already in the system. Dr. Lovecchio's increase will be the same. All other employees, Classified, Administrative, and Professional employees will get a 3% cost of living increase, plus a step increase if they are already in the system. No retirement increases this year.

Health Insurance has an increase on the employer's side. It does not affect the employee. It is an 11% increase and would take effect in January for a six-month period and then another increase the following budgeting year. The total increase amounts to about \$427,000. In agreement with the Operations agreement which is 2/3 Beaufort County and 1/3 Jasper County it will require an increase of \$142,00 for Jasper County and about \$285,000 for Beaufort County.

Ms. Crosby is proposing that the Beaufort Jasper ACE Board approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$3,773,232.

Col. Richard Geier made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 School Year General Fund Budget in the amount of \$3,773,232. Seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell.

Dr. Thomas Balliet asked for a motion to add the projected FY24 decrease in general fund balance of \$131,709 to the FY25 General Fund Budget, making the General Fund Budget \$3,904,941. The amended motion would read the Beaufort Jasper ACE Board approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$3,904,941. The motion was made by Ms. Joyce Gerald. Seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 6/0.

Highlights

600 Certifications for the 2024/25 school year

172 Completers

We have approximately 225 students enrolled for the upcoming school year

Upcoming Events

Facilities Meeting August 19th at 12:00 PM

Board Meeting August 22nd at 12:45 PM

Adjournment

Dr. Thomas Balliet called for a motion to conclude the Board meeting. Ms. Joyce Gerald made the motion to conclude the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. Motion passed 6/0. The meeting concluded at 1:55 PM.