



ACE

**Beaufort-Jasper Academy
for Career Excellence**

80 Lowcountry Drive
Ridgeland, SC 29936
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Dr. Michael Lovecchio, Director
Ms. Carrie Chappell, Asst. Director

Beaufort-Jasper ACE
Quarterly School Board Meeting
February 6, 2025
2:00 PM General Meeting

Member Present

Mr. Carlton Dallas, Chairman
Dr. Thomas Balliet, Vice Chairman
Ms. Carol Bolden

Ms. Priscilla Fraser
Ms. Leah Frazier

Absent

Mr. Alphonso Small

Call to Order

Dr. Thomas Balliet called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.
The roll was taken. The establishment of a quorum was met.
The media was properly notified, and there were no public comments.

Opening General Session

Dr. Thomas Balliet stated that at this time, we need to elect the 2025 Chair and Vice Chair for the ACE board. He opened the floor for nominations to the position of Chair from the Beaufort County School District. He asked for any nominations. Ms. Leah Frazier nominated Mr. Carlton Dallas. There were no other nominations. Mr. Carlton Dallas accepted the nomination. Dr. Thomas Balliet asked if all were in favor. The vote passed unanimously.

Dr. Thomas Balliet asked for nominations for the Vice Chair. Ms. Carolyn Bolden nominated Dr. Thomas Balliet as the new Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Dr. Thomas Balliet accepted the nomination. Dr. Thomas Balliet asked if all were in favor. The vote passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Carlton Dallas asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Thomas Balliet made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Ms. Carolyn Bolden. The motion passed 5/0.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Carlton Dallas asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from November 20, 2024. Dr. Thomas Balliet made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Ms. Priscilla Fraser. The motion passed 5/0.

Reports and Information

Manley Garvin was introduced as the new auditor for the Beaufort County School District. They are also the Auditors for Beaufort-Jasper ACE. Luke Vickery from Manley Garvin reported by Zoom to the Board Members.

The Audit of Financial Statements

- Unmodified opinion on the Academy's financial statements and about the supplementary information for the year ended June 30, 2024
- Report dated November 19, 2024
- Overview of the financial statements
 - General Fund increase in Fund Balance of approx. \$217,000.
 - Special projects increase of approx. \$2,800 in fund balance.

They commented on how well our financial team works to follow good practices. They are always willing to come in if there are any questions. Dr. Lovecchio thanked our finance team for the hard work that they do.

Ms. Tonya Crosby explained why she is doing the reports for ACE. About 15 to 18 years ago, Beaufort County School District managed the finances for ACE. That is when they started doing the financial statements. ACE follows all of Beaufort County School District's financial guidelines.

She stated that things are going very smoothly. We will start paying things automatically to the Treasurer's office instead of mailing checks. This is recommended by the Government Finance Office Association. This will make things happen on time.

Ms. Tonya Crosby said that the boiler had to be replaced. We had violations from DHEC. It was about \$136,00. There will be a motion later for this.

We also had to find new Auditors. The past Auditor no longer works for School Districts. The former Auditors were replaced with Manley Garvin. They come at a high cost. Ms. Abar negotiated a 15% lower rate, and they accepted it.

Cleaning contracts are increasing by 46% from the prior year due to new vendors and new contracts. which may cause somewhat of a deficit. Century Link also tripled their prices.

Century Link services increased in July due to a new internet/data contract. Services increased from \$4,320 annually to \$14,796 annually; an estimated deficit of \$10,031. BJACE is currently in negotiations with a new service provider.

The fund balance of the General Fund is currently reported at \$479,185 as of 12/31/24, or 12.7% of the budget. BJACE is beginning to experience cash flow issues, where the timing of BCSD and JCSD payments must be closely monitored. Current cash flows pose a challenge to accommodate large expenditures.

ACTION REQUESTED: Request for an increase of BJACE Expenditure Budget

The 2024-25 revenue budget exceeds the expenditure budget by \$131,709 due to a projected use of fund balance in the prior fiscal year. Actual spending in the prior year was below projections, increasing the fund balance to \$217,230.

Due to the unexpected purchase of a boiler for \$136,000, BJACE is projected to exceed its overall budget this year. The administration recommends amending the current year's budget to increase the expenditure budget by \$131,709 resulting in a balanced budget of \$3,904,941.

RECOMMENDED MOTION by Tonya Crosby:

I move that the BJACE Board amend the 2024-2025 expenditure budget to increase the budget by \$131,709 to equal the revenue budget of \$3,907,941.

Dr. Thomas Balliet made the motion that BJACE 2024/25 expenditure budget of \$131,709 to equal the revenue budget of \$3,907,941. Seconded by Ms. Carolyn Bolden. The motion passed 5/0.

Directors Report

Skills USA is an overnight trip that will be held in Columbia, SC at the fairgrounds on March 3-5. Right now, we have 60 students and adults. Many students are competing in more than one event. Perkins funding and General funds as well as Student funds have been used to pay for the hotel, travel, and food. The students pay \$40 each for registration. Dr. Thomas Balliet asked what the total amount would be. Dr. Lovecchio said he would get that information to the Board. Private sponsors were suggested for fundraising.

Dr. Lovecchio is asking for Board approval for the students to attend Skills this year.

Mr. Dallas asked for a motion to approve the Skills USA field trip for 2025. Dr. Thomas Balliet made a motion to approve the Skills USA Field Trip. Seconded by Ms. Carolyn Bolden. Motion passed 5/0.

Dr. Lovecchio is asking for Board approval for the Academic Calendar for 2025/2026.

Mr. Dallas asked for a motion to approve the BJACE Calendar for 2025/2026. Ms. Carolyn Bolden made the motion to approve the BJACE Calendar for 2025/2026. Seconded by Ms. Priscilla Fraser. Motion passed 5/0.

Dr. Lovecchio said that the attendance rate for ACE is at 94.5% as of January 29, 2025. That is a very strong percentage, and almost all classes are full. He also talked about the percentages of different populations in the school.

Carrie Chappell, Assistant Director at ACE, spoke about Cognia Accreditation and STEM Certification. We are the first Career and Technical Center to apply for Accreditation. The difference between Cognia accreditation and STEM certification is that the Cognia accreditation process evaluates an institution's overall ability to meet the needs of learners. Cognia STEM certification evaluates whether and how a school or program has built a STEM learning ecosystem that embodies the practices and characteristics of equality-relevant and age-appropriate STEM education.

STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and math education it is an interdisciplinary approach that helps students succeed in college and in their future careers the focus of a STEM education is hands-on, problem-based learning.

A student well-versed and literate in the STEM fields tends to be an innovative and critical thinker. STEM literacy means gainful employment in higher-earning jobs for today and tomorrow's workforce. The next step will be to form a STEM committee. We will work with an evaluator who will be assigned to us.

Highlights

We have over 60 students competing in SKILLS USA in Columbia, SC, 3/3-3/5

Classes are full

95% Attendance rate

Excellent Audit

Boiler Replaced

Upcoming Events

Winter Break February 14th - February 19th

Advisory Meeting, February 28, 2025

Governance Meeting March 13, 2025

Next Board Meeting April 10th

Adjournment

Mr. Carlton Dallas asked for a motion to conclude the Board Meeting. Ms. Leah Frazier made a motion to conclude the Board meeting. Seconded by Ms. Carolyn Bolden. Motion passed 5/0. The meeting concluded at 3:14 PM.