BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2024
District Educational Services Center
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present

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

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose for discussion of 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 negotiations incident to proposed Lobbyist Contract Renewal with Burr Forman Law Firm 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); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #2 with Turner & Townsend Heery for 2025 Program Manager staffing plan and reimbursable expenses for the District's 2023 Bond Referendum Program and 8% Capital Projects pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed sale of property in Northern Beaufort County and proposed purchase of property in Southern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon was absent from the vote.

Action from Executive Session

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

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the November 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #2 with Turner & Townsend Heery which authorizes a not to exceed $2,829,940.00 for the 2025 staff plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion to approve the agenda with the removal of OE-10 from the Consent Agenda to Board Business. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 11/0.

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

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance – May River High School Mastersingers performing "Riu, Riu, Chiu" – a Spanish Villancico under the direction of Mr. Jason Snyder.

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

- October Students of the Month
  - Northern BCSD Student of the Month – Coosa Elementary School 3rd grade student Thayne Fagerstrom
  - Southern BCSD Student of the Month – May River High School 9th grade student Karla Rojas Ramirez
- Youth in Government Awards – Bluffton High, Hilton Head High, Battery Creek High, Beaufort High School
- Middle School Fall Sports Awards
- Board Recognition – Ms. Frannie Heizer from Burr and Forman called to express her gratitude and regret for not being able to attend the Retirement Reception that she and Mr. Brian Nurick from Compass Municipal co-sponsored for Earl Campbell. She shared fun financial facts that had occurred over the past 34 years during Mr. Campbell's service on the board.

Public Comments

- Devonte Singleton, Riverview Charter School Director's gave public recognition of newly elected board members, outgoing board members and recognition of school partners like Robert Smalls Leadership Academy. The students at Riverview Charter School were able to use the gym to hold their first girls' and boys' basketball games.
- Mike Haigen, Bluffton spoke regarding his FOIA request that was denied and the Willow Run MOU.

Legislative Update

- Ms. Lynn Stokes Murray, the Director of Government Relations, with Burr Forman McNair provided a summary of the Legislative Session.

Chair's Report

- Dr. Gwozdz provided an update on the SCSBA 2024 Legislative Conference and Delegate Assembly. Seven board members were in attendance, and each had a vote as a delegate at the Assembly. The legislative proposals that are voted on at the assembly become the 2025 legislative agenda.
- Dr. Gwozdz ended her report with reflections of her time and service on the board, and the accomplishments that the Board made together.

Committee Reports

Academic Committee: Chloe Gordon, chair provided an update from the December 6, 2024 Academic Committee meeting. She stated that OE-13 Discipline, and OE-14 Learning Environment/Treatment of Students were presented, and placed on the Consent Agenda.

Finance Committee: Richard Geier, chair provided an update from the December 5, 2024, Finance Committee.

Operations Committee: Carlton Dallas, chair provided an update from the two Committee meetings; November 19th and December 4, 2024. The Human Resources and the Communication Departments presented several OE's, that have been placed on the Consent Agenda. The following recommended motions are coming from the Operations committee:

Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion that the Board of Education name the Beaufort Middle School Media Center after Mrs. Carole Ingram in honor of her service to the Beaufort County School District as the building's first middle school principal. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. (She passed the gavel over to Colonel Richard Geier). The motion passed 10/0. (Victor Ney left the meeting at 6:20pm)

Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate and finalize the Stuart Point Road Easement as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 10/0.

Mr. Carlton Dallas made the motion that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to finalize negotiations and sign the May River Elementary School Easement. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 10/0.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- School Plan Approval

  Dr. Mellow Lee presented the Executive Summary for the Underperforming School Plans. The schools are Port Royal Elementary, Lady's Island Middle, and Battery Creek High School.

  Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve the School Plans that were previously presented to us for Port Royal Elementary, Lady's Island middle, and Battery Creek High School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/0.

Board Business

- Donation from National Christian Foundation in the amount of $7,000 for Red Cedar Elementary School to offset cost for students in 5th grade that are attending Camp Bob Cooper.

  Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education accept the Donation from National Christian Foundation in the amount of $7,000 for Red Cedar Elementary School to offset cost for students in 5th grade that are attending Camp Bob Cooper. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

- Donation from Deborah Davis in the amount of $10,000 for the Gregg David Fund to Bluffton High School.

  Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education accept the Donation from Deborah Davis in the amount of $10,000 for the Gregg David Fund to Bluffton High School. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

- Approval of the 2025 School Board Meeting Calendar

  Mrs. Angela Middleton made the motion that the Board of Education approve the 2025 School Board Meeting Calendar. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/0.

- Approval of OE-10 Communication to the Board (moved from Consent Agenda)

  Mr. William Smith made the motion to approve OE-10. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/0.

Consent Agenda

- November 6, 2024 Special Called Executive Session Board Meeting Minutes

- November 12, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- November 22, 2024 Board Work Session Meeting Minutes
- July 24, 2024 Special Called Executive Session Board Meeting Minutes
- OE-1 Global Operational Expectation
- OE-2 Superintendent Succession Planning
- OE-3 Treatment of Stakeholders
- OE-4 Personnel Administration
- OE-6.1 through 6.8 Financial Administration
- OE-11 Communicating with the Public
- OE-13 Discipline
- OE-14 Learning Environment/Treatment of Student

Future Agenda Topics
N/A
Announcements

- Dr. Rodriguez announced that in January, High School students will be like Elementary and Middle Schools where cell phones will not be allowed at all during the day. They can have it on them, but put it away in a bag, they can't have it out and use it at lunchtime anymore.
- Dr. Rodriguez thanked the three board members personally, Dr. Gwozdz, Mrs. Angela Middleton, and Mr. Earl Campbell. Dr. Rodriguez gave each of the outgoing board members the new Challenge Coin. It has the new school district's logo on it and on the back it says, "This is Our Moonshot Moment".

Public Comment

- James Miller, Beaufort spoke on Band, and the National Band Competition.
- Crystal Simmons Dockery, Beaufort spoke on Bullying in the Schools, and a better system should be put in place.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:53pm.

(Signature on Official File Copy) Date: January 21, 2025
Ingrid Boatright, 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 for discussion of 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 negotiations incident to proposed Lobbyist Contract Renewal with Burr Forman Law Firm 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); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #2 with Turner & Townsend Heery for 2025 Program Manager staffing plan and reimbursable expenses for the District's 2023 Bond Referendum Program and 8% Capital Projects pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed sale of property in Northern Beaufort County and proposed purchase of property in Southern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon was absent from the vote.

<u>Action from Executive Session</u>

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A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #2 with Turner & Townsend Heery which authorizes a not to exceed $2,829,940.00 for the 2025 staff plan. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to approve the agenda with the removal of OE-10 from the Consent Agenda to Board Business. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the School Plans that were previously presented to us for Port Royal Elementary, Lady's Island middle, and Battery Creek High School. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

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A motion was made that the Board of Education accept the Donation from Deborah Davis in the amount of $10,000 for the Gregg David Fund to Bluffton High School. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the 2025 School Board Meeting Calendar. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

A motion was made to approve OE-10. 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.

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