BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2025
Hilton Head Middle School
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present

Richard Geier, Chair	David Carr	Leah Frazier
Carlton Dallas, Vice Chair	Chloe Gordon	Isaac Gordon
Ingrid Boatright Secretary	Elizabeth Hey	Victor Ney
	Alphonso Small	William Smith

Colonel Richard Geier called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion for the following matters: Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); Adult Education Monthly Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); receipt of legal advice regarding pending litigation covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2);discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #61 with Thompson Turner Construction for Phase 2 Renovations 8% CIP Scope Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #31 with Ajax Building Company, LLC for St. Helena Elementary HVAC Replacement and Casework Replacement 8% CIP Scope Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2);discussion of negotiations incident to an encroachment permit at May River Elementary School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/0. David Carr and Isaac Gordon were absent from the vote.

Action from Executive Session

Colonel Geier called the meeting back to open session at 6:00p.m.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the February 1, 2025 – February 28, 2025 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leah Frazier. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education Report for March 4, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alphonso Small. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #31 with Ajax Building Company, LLC for the St. Helena Elementary School partial HVAC replacement and casework replacement based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) proposal of $1,408,455. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #61 with Thompson Turner Construction, Inc. for the District Educational Services Center phase 2 renovations based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) proposal of $3,958,901.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 6/4/1. Ingrid Boatright, Elizabeth Hey, David Carr, and Alphonso Small voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board authorize the Superintendent to finalize negotiations and sign a May River Elementary School encroachment agreement with New Riverside, LLC. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion failed 0/11.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda with the removal of the February 18, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Doctor David Car. The motion passed 11/0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed for Chasity Ellis, a freshman at Bluffton High School who passed away last week. Colonel Geier stated that the media was properly notified.

Students Performance – The Hilton Head High School Seahawks Singers performed under the direction of Kathleen Morrisroe.

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

- January Student of the Month
  - Southern BCSD 1st grade student Liah Sada Oritz, Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts
- School Counselor of the Year – Jessica Stone from Battery Creek High School
- May River High School Wrestling Class 4A State Championship
- Middle School Winter Sports Award
- SC Athletic Association (SCAAA) Middle School Athletic Director of the Year
- SCAAA Superintendent of the Year

Public Comments

- Richard Bisi, Hilton Head Island, spoke about Public Comments Protocols

Chair's Report

- Colonel Geier acknowledged two former board members in attendance: Joan Deery, and Melvin Campbell. He also announced that Mr. Charles Goethe, a district employee for over 31 years passed, and he was missed during the "Moment of Silence". Colonel Geier also made the following announcements:
  - Mrs. Alice Howard, Chair for Beaufort County Council, asked that the School Board and County Council have a joint meeting. Board members who are interested in the joint meeting should send their agenda topics to Mrs. Cushingberry. The two Chairs will review and establish the agenda.
  - Colonel Geier shared changes for the high school graduations that he would like the Board to make. Graduation gowns will be provided for board members who would like to wear them. Forms are available for Board members to fill out for sizes. He also announced the names of the Board members who will be speaking at each high school graduation. They are the members who represent their district. William Smith, Beaufort High, Carlton Dallas, Bluffton High, Richard Geier, Battery Creek High, Ingrid Boatright, Hilton Head, Isaac Gordon, Whale Branch high, and Victor Ney, May River High. Those who do not give the address this year, will the following year.

Committee Reports

Academics – Leah Frazier provided an update from the February 25th committee meeting on behalf of Ms. Chloe Gordon.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County School Board of Education approve the courses created for Dance Honors Level 5 through 8 as presented on February 25, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Legislative – Carlton Dallas, chair provided an update from the February 26th committee meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Parents Support Program
  Dr. Mary Stratos introduced Ms. Ashley Hutchinson who presented it on Parents Support Program.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Local Tax Revenue Update
  Mrs. Cindy Phillips provided a three-year comparison on local tax collections. The local tax collections are projected to be in $1 million of budget for both Operations and Debt Services. Tax Revenues are on target.

Other Matters

- Update on Cell Phone Ban
  Dr. Mellow Lee provided an Executive Summary on the Cell Phone Ban. The Key Findings, the steps taken, and she provided data on the 2024 -2025 Cell Phone Violations.

Board Business

- Donation from the May River High School Booster Club in the amount of $16,965 to the May River High Softball Program for a Softball Batting Cage, Storage Area, and Roof Covering Updated Cage.
  Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education accept the donation from May River High School Booster Club in the amount of $16,9065 to the May River High Softball Program for a Softball Batting Cage, Storage Area and a Roof covering Updated Cage. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

- Donation from Beaufort Memorial Hospital valued at $25,000 to Support Health and Wellness Activities in High Schools.

  Ms. Chloe Gordon made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education accept the donation from Beaufort Memorial Hospital valued at $25,000 to Support Health and Wellness Activities in High Schools. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.

Consent Agenda

- January 31, 2025 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- February 14, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Future Topics

- Chloe Gordon on Safety and Schools

Announcements

- Ingrid Boatright announced that the second debate took place and that there was a lot of community support. The Chair and Vice Chair from Beaufort County Council, the Mayor of Hardeeville, the Mayor of Beaufort, several city council members, leadership from the Sheriff's department, leadership from the Worlds Affair Office, Mr. Carlton Dallas, and Mr. William Smith.

Public Comments

- Jim Miller, Bluffton shared information about West Florence Band.
- Richard Bisi, Hilton Head Island, spoke on the student achievement gap.
- Davonte Singleton, Riverview Charter School District, invited Board members to the Annual Beaufort Twilight Run

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:59p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) Date: May 20, 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 of discussion for the following matters: Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); Adult Education Monthly Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4); receipt of legal advice regarding pending litigation covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2);discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #61 with Thompson Turner Construction for Phase 2 Renovations 8% CIP Scope Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #31 with Ajax Building Company, LLC for St. Helena Elementary HVAC Replacement and Casework Replacement 8% CIP Scope Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2);discussion of negotiations incident to an encroachment permit at May River Elementary School pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. David Carr and Isaac Gordon were absent from the vote.

<u>Action from Executive Session</u>

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the February 1, 2025 – February 28, 2025 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education Report for March 4, 2025. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #31 with Ajax Building Company, LLC for the St. Helena Elementary School partial HVAC replacement and casework replacement based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) proposal of $1,408,455. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #61 with Thompson Turner Construction, Inc. for the District Educational Services Center phase 2 renovations based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) proposal of $3,958,901. The motion was seconded and passed 6/4/1. Ingrid Boatright, Elizabeth Hey, David Carr, and Alphonso Small voted against the motion. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board authorize the Superintendent to finalize negotiations and sign a May River Elementary School encroachment agreement with New Riverside, LLC. The motion was seconded and failed 0/11.

A motion was made to approve the agenda with the removal of the February 18, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County School Board of Education approve the courses created for Dance Honors Level 5 through 8 as presented on February 25, 2025. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education accept the donation from May River High School Booster Club in the amount of $16,9065 to the May River High Softball Program for a Softball Batting Cage, Storage Area and a Roof covering Updated Cage. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education accept the donation from Beaufort Memorial Hospital valued at $25,000 to Support Health and Wellness Activities in High Schools. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

Consent Agenda

- January 31, 2025 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- February 14, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes