BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2025
District Educational Services Center
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
	William Smith	

Member Absent
Alphonso Small

Colonel Richard Geier called the meeting to order at 8:00a.m.

Mr. Victor Ney made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of Adult Education Monthly Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40 (a)(4); discussion of the 2025-2026 employment recommendations pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #20 with Shoreline Construction & Development LLC for H.E. McCracken Middle School (HEMMS) FY26 8% CIP Partial HVAC System Replacement Scope Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal; discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #21 with Shoreline Construction & Development LLC for M.C. Riley Elementary School (MCRES) FY26 8% CIP Partial HVAC System Replacement and Corridor Painting Scope Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal; discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #30 with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc. for Bluffton High School (BLHS) FY2024 8% CIP Modular Classroom Relocation Scope Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal; receipt of legal advice regarding pending legal claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(4). The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 6/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Ingrid Boatright, Chloe Gordon, Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote. Alphonso Small was absent from the meeting.

Action from Executive Session

Colonel Geier called the meeting back to open session at 9:00a.m.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education accepts the Superindent's recommendations for the renewal of certified employees for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of a Letter of Agreement teacher, Employee A is not renewed for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of a Letter of Agreement teacher, Employee B is not renewed for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leah Frazier. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of a Letter of Agreement teacher, Employee C is not renewed for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leah Frazier. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of a Letter of Agreement teacher, Employee D is not renewed for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of a Continuing Contract teacher, Employee E is not renewed for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leah Frazier. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the monthly Adult Education Report for April 25, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education on April 25, 2025 direct the Superintendent to review and approve qualifying 17-year-old Adult Education Waivers to attend BCSD Adult Education program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 8/2. Leah Frazier and William Smith vote against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #20 with Shoreline Construction & Development LLC for the construction of the H.E. McCracken Middle School (HEMMS) FY2026 8% CIP Partial HVAC System Replacement based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of $870,133. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #21 with Shoreline Construction & Development LLC for the construction of the Michale C. Riley Elementary School (MCRES) FY2026 8% CIP Partial HVAC System Replacement and Corridor Painting Scope based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of $783,209. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 9/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #30 with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc. for the Bluffton High School FY2024 8% CIP Modular Classroom Relocation Scope based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) proposal of $1,071,060. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed.
Colonel Geier stated that the media was properly notified.

Public Comments

- No Public Comments.

FY 2025 – 2026 Budget Presentation

- Mrs. Tonya Crosby presented the Superintendent's Preliminary Budget, and a Budget Handout that provides details in the following areas:
    - Summary of Major Budget Changes
    - Financial Three-Year Comparative Budget

- Preliminary In$ite Report
- Proposed Teacher Salary Schedule 2025-2026
- PreK-5 Schools Staffing Allocation
- PreK-8 Schools Staffing Allocation
- Middle Schools Staffing Allocation
- High Schools Staffing Allocation

Strategic Plan Updates & SRP's

- Dr. Mary Stratos and Mr. Robert Flowers presented the District Strategic Plan and the School Renewal Plans.
- South Carolina law requires school and district strategic plans, which are developed every five years and updated annually. The plans are created using research-based practices to improve student achievement. South Carolina placed into law requirement to meet the Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act of 1993, and the Education Accountability Act of 1998.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve the district strategic plan and school renewal plans for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 10/0.

"Let's Go Public"

- Dr. Candace Bruder introduced Mr. Wayne Johnson with World Desing Marketing. His presentation is on a new initiative, a marketing campaign for the school district. The initial pilot will highlight the Hilton Head Island schools but will market the whole district after the initial start-up.

Colonel Geier recessed the Board for a lunch break at 12:05pm

Open Session

Colonel Geier called the meeting back to open session at 12:45pm.

Legislative Prioritization

- Mr. Carlton Dallas requested that Board members list their legislative priorities, then using the same process that was used to establish the Board's budget priorities, the same process would be used to establish the Board's legislative priorities.

CTE Alignment (Work Force Development – CTE Programs – Facilities)

- Mrs. Karen Gilbert provided an update on the CTE Programs that are being offered in the district. The presentation included information on the certifications that the BCSD high school & BJACE students earned. Mrs. Gilbert shared information on the various business and community partnerships and the CTE goals over the next five-to-ten-year span.

Energy Strategic Cost

- Mr. Robert Oetting presented information on BCSD Energy Strategic Cost. The presentation provided the following information:
  - Expenditures for 2023-2024
  - The State Energy Plan
  - The amount of each energy source er building per month, and the cost of each utility per building per month.
  - Definition of Energy Use Intensity (EUI)
  - Trends, and improvements in new construction that help with energy savings.
  - Recommendations:
    - Prioritize projects based on the highest immediate impact and shortest ROI period.

- ❖ Create a phased approach balancing retrofitting and new builds.
- ❖ Engage stakeholders (teachers, parents, school board, community) in sustainability goals.

Lady's Island Elementary School Cemetery Use

- Mr. Smith shared concerns that the community has in the accessibility of the cemetery. Mr. Oetting stated that we currently provide access, but the issue is when does the district provide access at the back of the school by the playground for the Hearst, and family vehicles to access the Cemetery. Dr. Rodriguez and staff will investigate the ownership of the cemetery, the cost and suggestions for moving the fence, and will bring back the information to the Board.

Lady's island Middle School Development/Green Space

- Mrs. Carol Crutchfield introduced Mr. Ethan James. Mr. James represents landowners that border Lady's Island Middle School. There are a total of six acres, and the Green Space Tax Committee acknowledged that they have an interest in putting Green Space Tax funds toward land acquisition and donating the land to the school district.
- Colonel Geier provided more information that he received from the meeting that he attended. They want to leave the space as a green space, and the district maintain the grounds.

Mr. William Smith made the motion that the Board of education direct the Superintendent to review the acquisition of the lady's Island Middle School Development/Green space proposal. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leah Frazier. The motion passed 9/0.

Discussion on New Student Assignment for May River Elementary School

- Mrs. Carol Crutchfield presented the process for planning for the opening of new schools. The presentation covers the policy that affects Student Assignments, and what steps are taken. The process for the opening for May River Elementary school is August 2027. The Board practice/policy is to have attendance zones in place by October of the year preceding the opening of a new school.
  Steps:
  Step 1 – April/May- Board defines Scope of Work
  Step 2 – Sept- December- Public Meetings
  Step 3 – Jan-Feb. – Staff develops options and review with Board.
  Step 4 – March – June – Public meetings to present options and get feedback.
  Step 5 – Sept – Octo – Board discusses and approves final zones.
- Scope of work discussion
  1. Develop new attendance zones to open May River Elementary and relieve the capacity issues at Pritchardville. Move only areas necessary to achieve this.
  2. Look at all the elementary zones in Bluffton – fix the donut holes and bring enrollments to the target 85% level if possible.
  3. Fix the donut holes that exist at other levels – middle and high attendance zones.
  4. Create a clean feeder system which changes all the levels of attendance zones and creates a new cluster.
  5. Public meetings determined by scope of work.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:32 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) Date: May 6, 2025
Ingrid Boatright, Board of Education
Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

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A motion was made that the Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of a Letter of Agreement teacher, Employee C is not renewed for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's recommendation that the contract of a Letter of Agreement teacher, Employee D is not renewed for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

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