BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 20, 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 enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion for the following matters: Receipt of legal advice relating to pending claims covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice regarding Riverview Charter School Facilities Proposal pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements related to properties in Southern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of employment, appointment, promotion, compensation pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded by Mr. Alphonso Small. The motion passed 11/0.

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 Beaufort County Board of Education direct the Superintendent to negotiate an agreement with Riverview Charter School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alphonso Small. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon and Isaac Gordon were absent from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to amend the agenda to nominate Carlton Dallas to serve as the South Carolina School Board Association Director from Region 1. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 10/0. Chloe Gordon was absent from the vote. (A 2/3 vote was needed to pass).

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon was absent from the vote.

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

Students Performance – The Creative Arts Singers - the ambassador group from Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts, is comprised of selected 4th and 5th grade Chorus. Members. They are under the direction of Melinda Bray.

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

- April Students of the Month

- Northern BCSD 7th grade student Destiny Simmons, Lady's Island Middle School
- Southern BCSD 2nd grade student Storm Scheriff, M.C. riley Elementary School

- Middle School Soccer and Baseball Awards
- Inaugural Championship Circle Award
- MRHS Band Award
- SC Department of Education Lowcountry Technology Champion
- Teacher of the Year
- Support Staff of the Year
- District Induction Teacher of the Year
- SC Association of School Administrators (SCASA) 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award Alice Walton

Public Comments

- Jim Miller, Bluffton spoke about the May River High School Band, and the award they were recognized for under Points of Celebration

Chair's Report, Colonel Geier stated that he didn't have a Chair's Report for this meeting.

Committee Reports

Finance – Carlton Dallas, chair introduced Mrs. Crosby provided an Executive Summary of the May 15th. Committee meeting. She highlighted the following areas that were covered in the meeting:

- Federal Funding Update
- Transition to Electronic Payment for Travel Reimbursements
- Quarterly Financial Report for the Nine Months Ended
- Organizational Chart for the Finance Department
- Regular Monthly Reports

The following motions were made:

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the filing of E-rate Funding Year 2025 applications for eligible E-rate Category 1 Services, and that by doing so, the Board acknowledges that it will budget for sufficient funds to pay for the District's share of the services that are not supported by the E-rate Program. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leah Frazier. The motion passed 10/0. Chloe Gordon was absent from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education here by authorizes the Superintendent, or their designee, to apply for, sign, submit, and administer federal, state, local, and foundation grant applications and cooperative agreements for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 11/0.

Legislative – Carlton Dallas, chair is asking the Board to provide their Legislative priorities, by next week, and to also identify areas that as a school board, we are effected and we are able to proper some legislative suggestions that are properly vetted within the protocols of the State of Carolina and the school district, and be able to move them forward based on a vote. Looking for opportunities to improve the delivery educational services for our children and families. This has been the primary topic that the committee is working on.

Operations - Victor Ney, chair provided an update from the May 13th committee meeting. The update included information on the Maintenance & Custodial Update, Construction Update, Work Force Housing, and the FY2027 8% CIP List. The following motions were made:

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the amended motion to by striking the current language and inserting: *'to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a shared use agreement with Abode Development for potential use of BCSD property in support of workforce housing focused on teachers, and to bring any proposed agreement back to the Board for approval.* The motion was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Hey. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a shared use agreement with Abode Development for potential use of BCSD property in support of workforce housing focused on teachers, and to bring any proposed agreement back to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to finalize easement documents and sign Pritchard Street Easement Agreement and the Intergovernmental Cost Share Agreement with the Town of Bluffton. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Early Childhood Learning Lab

Dr. Mary Stratos introduced Mrs. Ashley Gould made a presentation on Early Childhood Observation/Lab Classrooms. The Early Childhood Observation/Lab Classroom provides a real-world structured environment where adult learners observe young children's behavior, development, and learning processes in action.

Board Business

- Budget Certification
  Mrs. Crosby presented an Executive Summary for the Superintendent's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The summary provides the following:
  - An Overview
  - Budget Priorities
  - Financial Highlights
  - Key Changes and initiatives for FY2026
  - Next Steps and the action that is requested:

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2025 -2026 General Fund Budget in the amount of $376,980,000 with an operations millage rate of 126.1 mills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Debt Service Fund Budget in the amount of $108,300,686 with a debt service millage rate of 36.3 mills. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 11/0.

- Proposed OE-5 Financial Planning Policy Change

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that Beaufort County Board of Education approve the proposed changes to OE-5 – Financial Planning. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Hey. 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

- First Quarter FOIA Report
- March 4, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- March 25, 225 Board Work Session Minutes

Future Topics

N/A

Announcements

- Dr. Rodriguez announced personnel changes.
  - Ms. Melissa Pender, current principal at Coosa will serve next year as an Executive Director over Elementary
  - Michelle Sackman, current principal at Beaufort Elementary will serve as Director of Teaching and Learning in the Instructional Services Division.
  - Brandy Bullock will be the principal at Bluffton Elementary
  - Michelle de Bruin, will be the principal at Beaufort Elementary
  - Kelly Goudy, will be the principal at Coosa Elementary
- Mr. William Smith gave a Thank you for the Cinderella Ball that was held over the weekend. He praised the staff for a job well-done!

- **Public Comments**
  - John Amanchukwa, Hardeeville, who spoke about student safety, the specific books that are in Beaufort High school's library that he believes are harmful to children.
  - Jim Miller, Bluffton, spoke about the award that May River High School achieved, and that it has only been won twice in this district in the last 50 years.
  - Ivie Szalai, Beaufort who spoke about the Oath of Office that Board members took.
  - Janet Gould, from the League of Women Voters of Beaufort. She reiterated their support and appreciation for teachers.
  - David Cook, Hilton Head Island, whose topic was on Parents Rights and advocating for his children in the schools.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:11p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) Date: June 10, 2025

Ingrid Boatright, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion for the following matters: Receipt of legal advice relating to pending claims covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice regarding Riverview Charter School Facilities Proposal pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements related to properties in Southern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of employment, appointment, promotion, compensation pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1). The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

<u>Action from Executive Session</u>

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education direct the Superintendent to negotiate an agreement with Riverview Charter School. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon and Isaac Gordon were absent from the vote.

A motion was made to amend the agenda to nominate Carlton Dallas to serve as the South Carolina School Board Association Director from Region 1. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. Chloe Gordon was absent from the vote. (A 2/3 vote was needed to pass).

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon was absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the filing of E-rate Funding Year 2025 applications for eligible E-rate Category 1 Services, and that by doing so, the Board acknowledges that it will budget for sufficient funds to pay for the District's share of the services that are not supported by the E-rate Program. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. Chloe Gordon was absent from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board of Education here by authorizes the Superintendent, or their designee, to apply for, sign, submit, and administer federal, state, local, and foundation grant applications and cooperative agreements for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was amended by striking the current language and inserting: *'to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a shared use agreement with Abode Development for potential use of BCSD property in support of workforce housing focused on teachers, and to bring any proposed agreement back to the Board for approval.* The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a shared use agreement with Abode Development for potential use of BCSD property in support of workforce housing focused on teachers, and to bring any proposed agreement back to the Board for approval. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to finalize easement documents and sign Pritchard Street Easement Agreement and the Intergovernmental Cost Share Agreement with the Town of Bluffton. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0/1. William Smith abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2025 -2026 General Fund Budget in the amount of $376,980,000 with an operations millage rate of 126.1 mills. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board of Education approve and certify the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Debt Service Fund Budget in the amount of $108,300,686 with a debt service millage rate of 36.3 mills. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that Beaufort County Board of Education approve the proposed changes to OE-5 – Financial Planning. 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

- First Quarter FOIA Report
- March 4, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- March 25, 225 Board Work Session Minutes