BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
September 2, 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
	Alphonso Small	William Smith

Colonel Richard Geier called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to go into Executive Session for the following reasons: Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; employment, appointment, promotion, compensation pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); receipt of legal advice related to settlement of two legal claims covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice relating to instructional materials covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 8/0. Chloe Gordon, Isaac Gordon, and Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote.

Action from Executive Session

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

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the August 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alphonso Small. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence.
Colonel Geier stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance – Whale Branch Early College High School Band under the direction of Mr. Gaskins.

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

- 2025 Inez Tenenbaum Leadership Award Recipient Dr. Elandee Thompsonn, Principal at Battery Creek High School

Public Comments

- Anthony Cambria, Bluffton, SC spoke regarding the Public Comment Policy. (Provided written document of his public comment).

Chair's Report

- Colonel Geier stated that the Board received a report on the Sand Shark 2020 Project June 20th by USCB. The Board made a motion at its June 24th meeting not to support the use of any school operations or debt service funds for the construction of any non-district facilities. The motion passed overwhelmingly with no "no" votes, and one abstention.

- On June 26th, the Superintendent, Ms. Boatwright and Colonel Geier had a meeting with Dr. Pannu and Mr. Stewart regarding information on the project.
- Colonel Geier attended the Southern Beaufort County, Jasper County Planning Organization meeting, and it was suggested that a joint meeting be scheduled with County Council, School Board and with Ms. Heizer to talk about how this project could be funded and the hopes that we can have a vote by the County Council. The School Board does not make the decision, but County Council does.

Committee Reports

Academic - Chloe Gordon, chair, provided a summary of the Academic Committee that was held on August 26, 2025. The committee reviewed the following Administrative Regulations:

- SS-3 Assignment of Students to Schools
- SS-4 Assignment of Students to Classes
- SS-5 Student Attendance
- SS-6 Entrance Age
- SS-8 Admission of Nonresident Students

The committee also had an update on Health Program.

- Mr. Smith also stated that some of the board members were in attendance at the School Law Conference in Charleston where they met Gavin's father, and why Gavin's Law was put in place.

Finance- Carlton Dallas, chair, and Mrs. Tonya Crosby provided an update from the Finance Committee meeting. That was held on August 14, 2025. The Finance Committee reviewed the regular monthly reports:

- Monthly Budget Report
- Monthly Transparency Report
- Monthly $100,000 Report (Detail and Consolidated)

- Mrs. Crosby continued the update with the discussion of the recommended changes to the monthly Transparency Report, and an update on Fund Balance Transfer and Debt Service.

Legislative – Carlton Dallas, chair updated the Board and stated that the committee is looking at how the Committee takes a proactive posture in terms of what are things that affect the school district. It doesn't have to originate within the school district but also outside.

Operations – Victor Ney, chair started his report with the recommendation for the Bluffton Elementary School Library Dedication. The Bluffton Elementary SIC requested that the Media Center be named in honor of Mrs. Victoria Moody. She was the first and only Media Specialist Librarian for Bluffton Elementary School since it was built 26 years ago.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Operations Committee recommend to the Board of Education that the Bluffton Elementary School Media Center be named after Mrs. Victoria Moody in honor of her service to the Beaufort County School District as the first media specialist and for her 26 years of service. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 11/0.

Mr. Ney continued with his report by updating the Board on the 2nd Quarter FOIA Report (it will be placed on the next Consent Agenda), a Construction Update, and the Custodial and Maintenance update.

Mr. Ney made presented the update on Watercrest Agreement and made the motion.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Beaufort County Board's Operations Committee recommends that the Board of Education support a future easement allowing the connection of Ambrose Run to WK Alston requiring concessions for leasing to teachers. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ingrid Boatright.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made an amended motion: That the Board of Education supports a future easement allowing the connection of Ambrose Run to WK Alston requiring concessions for leasing to teachers and possible calming measures. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion failed 5/5/1 Ingrid Boatright, Carlton Dallas, Richard Geier, Elizabeth Hey. Victor Ney voted in favor of the amendment. David Carr, Leah Frazier, Chloe Gordon, Alphonso Small, William Smith. Isaac Gordon abstained.

Mr. William Smith made the motion to table the motion. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr.

Mr. Ney suggested that the motion be voted down instead of tabling the motion.

Mr. Smith withdrew his motion to table.
The original motion failed 1/10. Mrs. Elizabeth Hey voted in favor of the motion.

Technology – Ingrid Boatright, chair updated the Board on the committee meeting that was held on September 17th. The committee reviewed the report on equipment failures, and lost equipment. The Committee suggested that there be a survey of the community, parents, teachers, to see how they feel about what the current state of technology is.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the technology committee recommend that the Board of Education direct the Superintendent to provide a technology climate survey. The motion was seconded Mr. Alphonso Small. The motion passed 11/0.

Superintendent's Report
Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Release of State Assessment Scores

Dr. Mary Stratos introduced her staff, then presented the 2025 SC Ready and EOCEP Data. The information is raw data. Information will be brought in October for the accountability components, once the data has been scrubbed and the students who have been in attendance for the 45th day and the 135th day. Dr. Stratos interrupted the information that was reported in the presentation for the Board.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 11/0.

Consent Agenda

- June 24, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- July 8, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Public Comments

- Jim Miller, Bluffton spoke about the amount of autonomy between schools for band.

Announcements

- Mr. William Smith thanked Dr. Rodriguez, Ms. Alice Walton and their staff; the recruiters and the principals on the hiring and filling the vacancies for this school year.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:18 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) Date: November 4, 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 following reasons: Employment Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report; employment, appointment, promotion, compensation pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); receipt of legal advice related to settlement of two legal claims covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice relating to instructional materials covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 8/0. Chloe Gordon, Isaac Gordon, and Elizabeth Hey 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 August 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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

A motion was made that the Operations Committee recommend to the Board of Education that the Bluffton Elementary School Media Center be named after Mrs. Victoria Moody in honor of her service to the Beaufort County School District as the first media specialist and for her 26 years of service. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Beaufort County Board's Operations Committee recommends that the Board of Education support a future easement allowing the connection of Ambrose Run to WK Alston requiring concessions for leasing to teachers. The motion was seconded.

An amended motion was made: That the Board of Education supports a future easement allowing the connection of Ambrose Run to WK Alston requiring concessions for leasing to teachers and possible calming measures. The motion was seconded and failed 5/5/1 Ingrid Boatright, Carlton Dallas, Richard Geier, Elizabeth Hey. Victor Ney voted in favor of the amendment. David Carr, Leah Frazier, Chloe Gordon, Alphonso Small, William Smith. Isaac Gordon abstained.

A motion was made to table the motion. The motion was seconded.
The motion to table the motion was withdrawn.

The original motion failed 1/10. Mrs. Elizabeth Hey voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made that the technology committee recommends that the Board of Education direct the Superintendent to provide a technology climate survey. 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

- June 24, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- July 8, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes