BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes -
October 7, 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

Mr. Victor Ney 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); discussion of proposed award of LED Lighting Replacement Services Contract RFP #26-004 pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed purchase of property in Southern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of Phase 6A Renovations scope at the District Educational Services Center pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. David Carr. 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.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed on the September 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alphonso Small. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Ingrid Boatright, and Isaac Gordon were absent from the vote.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to issue an award for RFP #26-004. The Board Authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the contractors upon the expiration of the protest period. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 8/0/1. Ingrid Boatright and Isaac Gordon were absent from the vote. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #110 with Thompson Turner Construction, Inc for the District Educational Services Center Phase 6A renovations based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) proposal of $1,209,963 using 2023 and 2027 8% funds. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 8/1. Ingrid Boatright and Isaac Gordon were absent from the vote. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent to purchase a property in Southern Beaufort County using the proceeds of prior land sales and FY24 Capital Projects Transfer Funds of $4,610,000. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 8/0/1. Ingrid Boatright and Isaac Gordon were absent from the vote. William Smith abstained from the vote.

Dr. David Carr made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0. Ingrid Boatright and Isaac Gordon were absent from the vote.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to issue an award for LED Lighting Replacement Services to Energy Harness Corporation, as described in RFP #26-004. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the contractors upon the expiration of the protest period. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alphonso Small. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Ingrid Boatright and Isaac Gordon were absent from the vote.

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

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

- Northern BCSD 8th grade student Alejandro Martinez Llamas, Robert Smalls Leadership Academy.
- Robert Smalls Leadership Academy was chosen as a winner of the Furniture Design Warehouse Restock the Classroom Public vote.
- School Board Member SCSBA Recognition
  Victor Ney was recognized for reaching Level II of the SCSBA Boardmanship Institute

Chair's Report – Colonel Geier shared the following information:

- The notes that Councilwoman Tabernick provided from the joint County Council and School Board meeting that was held on September 30th concerning the Multi-County Industrial Park.
- Shared the names of those who are interested in serving on the Ad Hoc Policy Committee. The first meeting should be in person if possible. The first item is to elect a chair for the committee and to establish a workplan to brief the full Board and to establish milestones for products.

Public Comments – No public comments for the first period.

Committee Reports

Academic – David Carr provided a summary of the Academic Committee that was held on September 23, 2025 2025. SS-47.1 Seizure Safe School was added to the agenda for review. The committee had a presentation on OE-12 Instruction Program, and reviewed the following Administrative Regulations:

- SS-1 Student Goals and Priority
- SS-2 Equal Education Opportunity & Nondiscrimination
- SS-4 Assignment of student to Classes
- SS-9 Admission of Homeless Students
- SS-13 Student Rights and Responsibilities
- SS-15 Student Involvement in Decision Making
- SS-47.1 Seizure Safe School

The committee also had an update from the Health Advisory Committee from Emily Grey, who also informed the committee that the Health Advisory Committee is a recipient of the SC Alliance for Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance Award. District officials and some committee members will be in attendance on November 14th to receive the award.

Finance- Carlton Dallas, chair, provided an update from the September 18th Finance Committee meeting.
The Finance Committee reviewed the monthly reports:

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

- Mr. Dallas shared that the Finance Committee was introduced to the new Transparency Analytics Report, which is a new six-page analytic report instead of the 100's of pages.

The report features visual graphics that simplify complex financial data. The report is generated through a secure system and organized into a standardized template created by staff that reduces production time and review time. The full set of 100 plus transparency reports will continue to be accessible on the website.

- The next topic was the expansion of enhanced AI reporting. The Finance staff will pilot additional public reports using the new enhanced AI format.
- The committee also reviewed the 4th Quarter Financial Report. The administration projects a 6.8 million increase in the fund balance for fiscal year 2024 through 2025, bringing the total to 21%.
- Mrs. Kaylee Yinger presented the Minority Women's Business Enterprise Report as of June 30th.
- The last item is that Mrs. Crosby and other staff members are working on a plan for AI Basic training for any board members who are interested in understanding the basics. The training will include practicing using some real-world examples, searches and importing, uploading documents into AI to summarize.

Student Performance – Bluffton High School Orchestra under the direction of Alannah Irwin.

Committee Reports (Continued)

Results – Elizabeth Hey, chair provided a report from the September 23rd committee meeting. The committee had three primary points.

- The Board rating requirements for the 2024 – 2025 Evaluation and Future evaluations.
- The Change of the Measurable Component Section of the Superintendent's Evaluation
- The Weighted percentage adjustments

- The committee engaged in a robust conversation with those in attendance. The committee members were all in agreement with the following recommended motions.

Dr. David Carr made the following motion: I move that if Board members are rating the Superintendent at a rating of '1" they must include a minimum of 2-3 sentence explanations for each rating. Explanations are not to be repeated in the evaluation; any repeats will be exempt from inclusion. This rating requirement will be effective for the 2024-2025 academic year and the following proceeding years. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Hey.

Mr. William Smith made an amended motion: I move that if Board members are rating the Superintendent at a rating of '1' they must include a minimum of 2-3 sentence explanation. This rating requirement will be effective for the 2024-2025 academic year and the following proceeding years. The motion was seconded by Ms. Chloe Gordon. The motion failed 3/8. Ingrid Boatright, David Carr, Carlton Dallas, Leah Frazier, Richard Geier, Issac Gordon.

The Original motion passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Alphonso Small abstained from the vote.

Dr. David Carr made the motion that the Board of Education accept the following recommended changes to the 2025-2026 Evaluation instrument:

- **Remove GAP Closure from Measurable Components section of the evaluation tool and in it's place the addition "Superintendents Projects". Two to three Projects will be selected by the Board and Superintendent.**
- **Decrease teacher recruitment & retention from 15% to 10% giving the weight of 8% to Superintendent's Projects, 12% to Achievement and 10% to college or career ready. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Hey. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.**

Technology – Ingrid Boatright, chair gave an update on the September 17th committee meeting. She stated that the committee is seeing better data visualizations about some of the hardware issues. The Technology Committee is trying to go out into the community, into parents, teachers, administrators and talk to them about technology. Find out how they feel and what direction they think is the most beneficial direction for the school district to take and setting technology strategy.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Advanced Course Update
  Dr. Mary Stratos, and Ms. Karen McKenzie provided an over of the advanced courses that are offered in the district and at the schools. The presentation included information on advanced program preparation, the support that is provided, and BCSD Commitment.

Business Board

- Donation from FWDG – Furniture Store in the amount of $5,000 to Robert Smalls Leadership Academy for school supplies.
  Mr. William Smith made the motion that the Board of Education accept the donation from FWDG – Furniture Store in the amount of $5,000 to Robert Smalls Leadership Academy for school supplies. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alphonso Smalls. The motion passed 9/0. Ingrid Boatright and Carlton Dallas were absent from the vote.

- Affordable Housing Update
  Mr. Carlton provided an update on the Affordable Housing meeting that he attended that was sponsored by the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust and was held at Palmetto Electric. Ms. Laura Ulrich, who is the Economics for Indeed Economic Research, provided the presentation. There were about 32 people who attended.

Consent Agenda

- OE-12 Instructional Program

Mr. Alphonso Small made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 9/0. Ingrid Boatright and Leah Frazier were absent from the vote.

Public Comments

- Jim Miller, Bluffton congratulated Whale Branch Band, and spoke about more band participating in the state contests.

Future Topics

- William Smith – Athletic State Champions from last year

Announcements

- Mr. William Smith stated that he and Dr. Carr attended the Hispanic Program at May River High School. Also announced recognized Breast Cancer awareness month, Domestic Violence, and Beaufort County Youth Conference.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:13 p.m.

(Signature on Official File Copy) Date: December 9, 2025
Ingrid Boatright, Secretary, Board of Education
Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

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An Amended motion was made: I move that if Board members are rating the Superintendent at a rating of '1' they must include a minimum of 2-3 sentence explanation. This rating requirement will be effective for the 2024-2025 academic year and the following proceeding years.

The motion was seconded and failed 3/8. Ingrid Boatright, David Carr, Carlton Dallas, Leah Frazier, Richard Geier, Issac Gordon.

The Original motion passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Alphonso Small abstained from the vote.

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A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Ingrid Boatright, and Leah Frazier were absent from the vote.

Consent Agenda

- OE-12 Instructional Program