BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025
Hilton Head Island 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	Alphonso Small
	William Smith	

Member Absent
Victor Ney

Colonel Richard Geier called the meeting to order at 4:30pm

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment, appointments, promotion, compensation pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #59 with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc, for Bluffton High School Safety and Security Referendum Scope Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of proposed selection of Construction Manager at Risk Services – contract RFP #26-006, for renovation and modification projects pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property located in southern Beaufort County pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of information relating to security plans pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-20(c) and 30-4-70(a)(3). The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 9/0. Chloe Gordon was absent from the vote. Victor Ney was absent from the meeting.

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 Amendment 59 with M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc for the Bluffton High School Safety/Security scope based on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) proposal of $845,615. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 10/0. Victor Ney was absent from the meeting.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to issue an award for Construction Manager at Risk Services to M.B. Kahn Construction and Thompson Turner Construction, for renovation and modification projects as described in RFP #26-006. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to execute a contract with the contractors upon the expiration of the protest period. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Hey. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve the purchase of a weapons detection system in the amount of $600,000, to be funded from the remaining 2019 referendum proceeds and $425,000 of operational costs for the 2025-2026 school year from the Special Projects Fund. Any grants awarded for this initiative will be used to offset the cost of the total project. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hey made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Colonel Geier stated that we had a major incident in our county. Mr. William Smith made a statement regarding the tragedy that manifested on St. Helena Island. He thank everyone for their care and concerns and asked for continued prayer, followed by a moment of silence.

Colonel Geier stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance – Hilton Head High School's Seahawk Stage Company under the direction of Kimberly Guinn.

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

- September Student of the Month
  Southern BCSD 5th grade student Luca Ricciardi, Red Cedar Elementary School.

Public Comments – No Public Comments for the first Period

Committee Reports

Finance- Carlton Dallas, chair, provided an update from the October 9th Finance Committee meeting.

- The Finance Committee reviewed the monthly reports:
  - Monthly Budget Report
  - Monthly Transparency Report
  - Monthly $100,000 Report (Detail and Consolidated)
- The committee review OS-13 Summary MWBE Utilization Plan. Recent audits across the state have resulted in findings due to School District administration not having annual approval of this plan even when no changes have been made. The proposed provision allows the district's administration to bring this plan forward for approval only when material changes are proposed. Minor changes will be provided to the Board as information only.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hey made the motion that the Finance Committee recommend to the full Boad the approval of revisions to OS-13R (2) Minority Women Business Utilization Plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Chloe Gordon. The motion passed 3/0.

- Mrs. Crosby presented an Executive Summary for the FY2025 Budget Book. The book is online.
- The Budget Book was successfully delivered to the GFOA with an application for the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. If awarded, it would be the district's 13th time receiving the award. The award signifies the School District's comment to transparency and alignment with its strategic plan.
- Mrs. Crosby also presented an Executive Summary on the Audit Update, and a Bond Update. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for December 4th.

Legislative – Carlton Dallas, chair updated the Board on the work the Legislative committee is trying to do.

Operations – David Carr, provided an update on the October 14th Operations Committee Meeting in the absence of Victor Ney. Dr.

- Whale Branch Elementary SIC Recommendation
  Principal Carlos Williams and SIC Chair Jessica Russell presented a proposal to rename the media center at the James J. Davis Early Learning Center in honor of Pastor James Moore.

Dr. David Carr made the motion that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation to name the J.J. Davis Early Learning Center Media Center after Pastor James E. Moore in honor of his service to the Whale Branch Community, Beaufort County School District and Beaufort County. The motion was seconded by Pastor Isaac Gordon. The motion passed 10/0.

- Watercrest Apartment Easement Request
  Representatives of the property owner and the development team, including Mr. Steve Andrews proposed several community concessions for the exchange for the easement. The new proposals were the construction of a right turn lane into the school, valued at approximately $500,000; 15 discounted apartment units at 20% below market rate reserved for school employees; a designation of emergency reunification, site donation, drop off location and sidewalk improvements.

  The committee took no action and requested a revised written proposal that included a draft easement agreement binding on future property owners, a clarification of the easement and possible cash contribution, and clarification of traffic impact.

- Dr. Candace Bruder, and Ms. Molley Godley presented the 3rd Quarter FOIA LOG 2025. The staff recorded 31 FOIA requests received during the 3rd Quarter. This number is up from 24 during the previous quarter. The requests primarily are contracts, RFPS and enrollment data. The Committee voted to have the report placed on the Consent Agenda.

- IS-30 – Animals on District Grounds and in District Facilities was reviewed.

- Bus Transportation Routes
  The staff from Transportation presented information on the Bus Transportation Routes. They provided a notebook with all the routes. They discussed congestion concerns particularly during peak drop off and pick up times.

Dr. David Carr made the motion that the Board of Education accept the submitted R16 and R17 Reports. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

- Mr. Augustine Varga presented an Executive Summary for Projects through September 30, 2025.
- The monthly Maintenance/Custodial report was reviewed.
- The Student Assignment meeting for schools south of the Broad are taking place over the next couple of weeks. The next Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for November 13th where HR will be presented, and November 18th for the regular scheduled Operations Committee meeting.

Technology – Ingrid Boatright, chair reported that the committee is working on a process of generating surveys that will be going out to the community. Staff, teachers, principals, district staff will get a survey that will focus on areas that are really relevant to the staff. The students will have a separate survey.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board authorizes the Technology Committee to proceed with a district-wide survey on technology use and perceptions among students, families, staff and the community. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Hey. The motion passed 10/0.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- State Parent Engagement Policy
  Dr. Stratos, introduced Dr. N'Kia Campbell who updated the Board on the Parent Engagement Conference that she attended and what the district is doing.
  - Dr. Campbell stated that the South Carolina Family Engagement framework is very clear on what is expected for each of their stakeholders. The District Strategic Pillars
    - Build a district-wide culture of pride, trust and respect
    - Align new and existing community and parent partnerships
    - Ensure staff, families, students and the community have timely access to information and engagement opportunities.

Board Business

No Board Business

Dr. David Carr made the motion to approve the Consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Hey. The motion passed 10/0.

Consent Agenda

- OE-12 Instructional Program

Public Comments

- James Miller, Bluffton spoke on the topic 4A State Band Competitions. May River High School participated.
- Anthony Cambria, Bluffton spoke on the topic Academic Achievement specifically Algebra.

Future Topics

- **William Smith – Agenda Setting Meeting**

Announcement

- Colonel Geier reminded board members about the invitation to visit the SCDOE

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:53pm.

(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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A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

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A motion was made that the Board of Education accepts the recommendation to name the J.J. Davis Early Learning Center Media Center after Pastor James E. Moore in honor of his service to the Whale Branch Community, Beaufort County School District and Beaufort County. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.

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A motion was made to approve the Consent agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0.