BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
November 4, 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	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 purpose of discussion of Personnel Matter re: Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); receipt of legal advice relating to three pending legal claims covered by the attorney-client privilege 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. 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Victor Ney. The motion passed 11/0

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 October 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 10/0. Leah Frazier was absent from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to finalize the contract for the purchase of the property as presented in Southern Beaufort County. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Hey. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Leah Frazier was absent from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 10/0. Leah Frazier was absent from the vote. The October meeting minutes and OE-13 Discipline were removed from the consent agenda.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed.

Colonel Geier stated that the media was properly notified.

Student Performance – Hilton Head Island Middle School String Orchestra, under the direction of Catherine Hardy.

CLOC Update – Mr**.** Ray Warco, chair for the CLOC presented the School Board Update through 3rd quarter. The report included the following information:

- 2019 and 2023 Bond Referendum highlights
- 2019 and 2023 Referendum Financial Updates

Public Comments – No Public Comments for the first Period

Chair's Report

- Colonel Geier reported that he attended the South Carolina Department of Education School Board members get to know your South Carolina Department of Education. He hopes that other board members will be able to attend the next meeting in November.
- Colonel Geier was asked to submit a proposal to the South Carolina School Board Association to provide a presentation for one of the breakout sessions about how the Board was able to pass two successful referendums.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that Colonel Geier give the presentation at the School Board Association Meeting on the success of the referendum. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 11/0.

- The last item under Colonel Geier's report is the discussion of the Lobeco property. He is suggesting that the property be swamped with the County. The district doesn't have a use for it, and the County would like to expand in the area. He suggested that the Operations Committee discuss and bring back a recommendation to the full Board.

Committee Reports

Academic – David Carr, reported on the October 23rd Academic Committee. The agenda included items from Student Services and Instructional Services Divisions.

- OE-13 Discipline was discussed. Dr. Cox provided examples and background information for each subsection of the OEs. A unanimous vote by the committee members was made to approve and place on the November 4th consent agenda, but the full Board has requested that it be moved off.
- The following Administrative Regulations were presented:
  - SS-30 Student Concerns, Complaints and Grievances
  - SS-32 Student Initiated, Non-School Sponsored Extra-Class Activities
  - SS-33 Student Fundraising Activities
  - SS-34 Student Activities Funds
  - IS-20 Career – Transition to Work Education
  - IS-20.1 Solicitation of Students for Employment
  - IS-20.2 Work-Based Learning Guidelines
  - IS-38.1 Procedures for Handling Questioned or Challenged School Library Materials
  - IS-43 Grading/Assessment Systems
- Upon completion of the discussion of the Administrative Regulations, the committee discussed the following:
  - Local Board Approved Courses
  - Choice Programs

  The following motions were brought forward.

Dr. David Carr made the motion that the Board of Education approve the new Local Board approved Courses for Algebraic Application, and the Mock Trials and Court System. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Dr. David Carr made the motion that the Board of Education approve the existing Local Board Approved Courses for use for 2025-2026 Academic School Year. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 11/0.

Dr. David Carr made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Choice Programs for Whale Branch Elementary School STEAM and Hilton Head Island High School Visual and Performing Arts Request for Choice Programs. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Hey. The motion passed 11/0.

Dr. David Carr made the motion that the Board of Education approves the Health Advisory Committee Bylaws Update. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.

Ad Hoc Policy – Elizabeth Hey, chair reported that the committee met on October 28 and held a vote for chair of the committee.

- The committee members are Victor Ney, Leah Frazier, William Smith, Isaac Gordon and Elizabeth Hey. Ingrid Boatright has been attending as Parliamentarian.
- The Ad Hoc committee was brought about due to a State Policy demand for Live Streaming of all the board meetings, and the requirement must be in place by January 1, 2026. (The board currently streams all the meetings).
- It was suggested about the possibility of bringing live streaming in-house with our tech department and our tech team.
- The committee discussed looking at the State Policy versus the Policy that the Board already has in place and looking for any gaps that need to be closed.
- The committee had a follow-up meeting before the November 4th board meeting but will report out later.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- SC State Report Card
  Dr. Mary Stratos presented the updates from the un embargoed state assessment data.
  The summary of ratings:
  - For a second year in a row, there are not schools that are unsatisfactory.
  - Removed from Underperforming School Designation:
    - Port Royal Elementary increased to excellent.
    - Lady's Island Middle increased to Average

    Bluffton High has been rated Excellent for the fifth year in a row.

  Principals Vicki Goude, Chavone Browne, and Carlos Williams each spoke about the work they did at their schools to improve their scores.
- Federal Funding Update
  Mrs. Tonya Crosby provided an Executive Summary on how the 2025 federal government shutdown affects school meal operations, the SNAP program and other federal funding for the school district.

Board Business

- Motion to Amend the Previously Adopted Motion of October 7th Regarding the Purchase of Property in Southern Beaufort County
  Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to amend the previously adopted motion of October 7th, regarding the purchase of property in Southern Beaufort County. The amendment proposes to substitute the approved funding source with 2026 8% funds designated for land acquisition, for a total of $6,250,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Isaac Gordon was absent from the vote.

- Discussion of State Dept Response Letter Regarding the Review of Instructional Materials.
  The South Carolina Board of Education determined that it was appropriate for the Beaufort County School Board to consider these materials currently. There were no objections to placing the books on the December 9th board meeting.

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

- September 2, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- September 16, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Public Comments

- James Miller, Bluffton spoke on the topic State Band Competitions.
- Anthony Cambria, Bluffton spoke on the topic Student Achievement and Academic Performance

Future Topics

- OE-13 Discipline place on Work Session Agenda
- Carlton Dallas – Impact that student to Teacher ratio and how we reduce the student to teacher ratio so that kids get more support in each class.
- Ingrid Boatright – What is being done with Civics Education
- William Smith – Athletic Directors

Announcement

- Dr. Rodriguez announced that the Choice Booklets are available
- Choice Schools Showcase - November 13, 2025 at the Culinary Institute for Southern Beaufort County And November 15, 2025 at Robert Smalls Leadership Academy for Northern Beaufort County.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:15pm

(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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<u>Action from Executive Session</u>

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A motion was made that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to finalize the contract for the purchase of the property as presented in Southern Beaufort County. The motion was seconded and passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Leah Frazier was absent from the vote.

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/0. Leah Frazier was absent from the vote. The October meeting minutes and OE-13 Discipline were removed from the consent agenda.

A motion was made that Colonel Geier give the presentation at the School Board Association Meeting on the success of the referendum. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the new Local Board approved Courses for Algebraic Application, and the Mock Trials and Court System. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve the existing Local Board Approved Courses for use for 2025-2026 Academic School Year. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

Consent Agenda

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