BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Work Session Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2025
District Educational Services Center
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present

Richard Geier, Chair	David Carr	Leah Frazier
Carlton Dallas, Vice Chair	Isaac Gordon	Elizabeth Hey
Ingrid Boatright Secretary	Victor Ney	William Smtih

Members Absent
Chloe Gordon
Alphonso Small

Colonel Richard Geier called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to move into Executive Session for the discussion of proposed selection of architect for Professional Design Services – Renovation & modification Projects contract RFQ#26-08 – Renovation & Modification Projects pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #5 with Turner & Townsend Heery for Referendum (2023) & CIP Program Management Staff Plan for 2026 pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 7/0. David Carr and Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote. Chloe Gordon and Alphonso Small were absent from the meeting.

Action from Executive Session

Colonel Geier called the meeting back to open session at 9:00a.m.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board authorizes the Superintendent to issue an award to McMillan Pazdan Smith – Charleston, SC and Moseley Architects – Charlestin, SC for Renovation & Modification Projects. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate the architectural contracts and upon successful negotiations, execute a contract with each firm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney. The motion passed 9/0.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #5 with Turner & Townsend Heery which authorizes a not to exceed limit for the 2026 staff plan. The motion was seconded by Pastor Isaac Gordon. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Victor Ney.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed for Coach Joseph Stroman. Coach Joe Stroman, a legendary figure at Battery Creek High School, passed away in November 2025. He was inducted into the Battery Creek High School Hall of Fame in 2015 and the South Carolina Coaches Association Hall of Fame in July 2025. The school and community are mourning his loss and celebrating his legacy as a coach and mentor. Colonel Geier stated that the media was properly notified.

Public Comments

- Gwendolyn McKennon, Beaufort, spoke on professionalism among Board members.

Coherent Governance (Board Governance and Evaluating Internal Board Processes)

- Mr. Carlton Dallas presented information on Coherent Governance, and shared information that he received from the conference that he attended on Coherent Governance.
- The Board had a healthy discussion on the pros and cons of Coherent Governance.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board formally reaffirm its comment to the Coherent governance policy framework, and that all governance actions – including board policy development, monitoring, committee structure, and Superintendent accountability – be conducted in alignment with the Coherent Governance model as adopted by this Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

- Mr. Dallas agreed to start developing a Board Evaluation Tool and requested solid feedback from board members in developing this tool.

2026 Board Meeting Calendar

- Robyn Cushingberry presented the 2026 Board Meeting Calendar.
- The Board discussed the dates, and the time for board meetings to start.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made a motion to start the meeting at 5:00pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlton Dallas. The motion passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

- The Board decided to move the discussion and approval of the calendar to the December 9th board meeting.

Lunch Break
Open Session – 12:46pm

Legislative Committee Brainstorming Session

- Mr. Carlton Dallas provided a summary of the couple of exercises that he calls ideation sessions. Out of the two sessions, about 29 really good ideas came out of it. Dr. Rodriguez led the board members in developing a priority list by ranking ideas by using the Menti meter.

Preliminary Budget Discussion

- Mrs. Tonya Crosby provided an Executive Summary on the 2026-2027 Budget update and Key Timeline.
- The Principal's Needs Assessment was conducted early this year. The principals highlights priorities for the upcoming fiscal year:
  - **Mathematics** instruction and resources
  - Support for **Multilingual learners**
  - **Special Education** support
  - **Attendance** improvement initiatives
- Mrs. Crosby stated that these areas will guide resource allocation and strategic planning as they move into staff, community and board discussions.

Chair's Report

- **Port Royal TIF**

  Colonel Geier shared that he and Ms. Alice Howard with County Council were invited to Port Royal City Hall for a briefing with the mayor, one of the Council members, and members of Safe Harbor. He explained the history that the district has with a previous TiF with Port Royal, and the current status. They are coming to the School Board and the County asking for consideration for either a new TIF for 20 year or an extension on the existing TIF for an additional so many years.
  Ms. Howard would like the Board and County Council to have a joint meeting to discuss.

Also, the information will be taken to the Finance Committee for discussion.

- Colonel Geier also clarified that he was caught on mike after the November 4th board meeting was over, making a comment. He clarified that the comment that he made was not directed at a board member.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:03 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

A motion was made to move into Executive Session for the discussion of proposed selection of architect for Professional Design Services – Renovation & modification Projects contract RFQ#26-08 – Renovation & Modification Projects pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #5 with Turner & Townsend Heery for Referendum (2023) & CIP Program Management Staff Plan for 2026 pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 7/0. David Carr and Elizabeth Hey were absent from the vote. Chloe Gordon and Alphonso Small were absent from the meeting.

<u>Action from Executive Session</u>

A motion was made that the Board authorizes the Superintendent to issue an award to McMillan Pazdan Smith – Charleston, SC and Moseley Architects – Charlestin, SC for Renovation & Modification Projects. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to negotiate the architectural contracts and upon successful negotiations, execute a contract with each firm. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Amendment #5 with Turner & Townsend Heery which authorizes a not to exceed limit for the 2026 staff plan. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded .

A motion was made to remove the topic Funeral in Schools. The motion was seconded and passed 6/3. Ingrid Boatright, Carlton Dallas and Leah Frazier voted against the motion.

A motion was made that the Board formally reaffirm its comment to the Coherent governance policy framework, and that all governance actions – including board policy development, monitoring, committee structure, and Superintendent accountability – be conducted in alignment with the Coherent Governance model as adopted by this Board. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to start the meeting at 5:00pm. The motion was seconded and passed 8/1. William Smith voted against the motion.