



ACE

**Beaufort-Jasper Academy
for Career Excellence**

80 Lowcountry Drive
Ridgeland, SC 29936
843-987-8107

Dr. Michael Lovecchio, Director
Ms. Carrie Chappell, Asst. Director

Beaufort-Jasper ACE
Quarterly School Board Meeting
February 5, 2026
5:45 PM Executive Session
6:00 PM General Session

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Carlton Dallas, Chairman
Mr. Ms. Eleanor Hazel
Mr. Maurice Lawyer

Mr. Alphonso Small
Dr. Deloris Young

MEMBERS ABSENT

Col. Richard Geier
Mr. William Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dallas called the meeting to order at 5:48 PM.

The roll was taken. The establishment of a quorum was met.

The media was properly notified, and there were no public comments.

Mr. Dallas asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Lawyer made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Small. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Contractual Matters

OPENING OF GENERAL SESSION AT 6:20 PM

Mr. Dallas asked whether there were any recommendations resulting from the Executive Session. Mr. Lawyer made a motion to reset the rotation for the Board Chair, with Beaufort serving as Chair for two years, followed by Jasper serving as Chair for two years, noting that the Jasper County Board members are trained. The motion was seconded by Mr. Small and passed unanimously.

Dr. Lovecchio asked if anyone would like to nominate a new Chairman. Mr. Lawyer nominated Col. Richard Geier, seconded by Ms. Hazel. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lovecchio asked if anyone would like to nominate a Vice Chairman. Mr. Small nominated Ms. Hazel, seconded by Mr. Dallas. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dallas asked for a motion to approve the personnel matters. Ms. Hazel made a motion to approve the personnel matters, seconded by Mr. Lawyer. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Dallas asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Hazel made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Lawyer. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Dallas asked if there was a motion to approve the Minutes from the November 19, 2025 meeting. Ms. Hazel made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Lawyer. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION: Presented by Auditors Manley Garvin

Luke Vickery spoke about the Audit of Financial Statements.

Emphasizing that it was an unmodified (clean) opinion on the Ace's financial Statements and in relation to the supplementary information for the year ended June 30, 2025. Report dated November 18, 2025.

- General Fund balance increase of approximately \$181,000
- Special projects decrease of approximately \$700 in fund balance
- Education Improvement Act remained at \$0 in fund balance
- Capital Projects increase of approx. \$2,000,000 in fund balance

FY 2026 2ND Quarter Financial Summary, Audit Presentation by Katie Abar

General Fund Revenues

- Local revenue received is 50%. Districts are arranging for electronic tuition payments to the County in lieu of paper checks sent to BJACE.

General Fund Expenditures

- Total FY26 spending is reported at \$1,773,517 or 43% of the budget.

Fund Balance

- The fund balance of the General Fund is currently reported at \$1,106,457 as of 12/31/15, or 27% of the budget.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Lovecchio discussed the Skills USA trip for our students participating in competitions in each of their categories. They will be staying overnight. He is asking for approval for the students and teachers to travel to Columbia, SC, and Greenville, SC. Ms. Hazel asked for a motion to approve the trip to Skills USA. The motion was made by Mr. Lawyer, seconded by Mr. Small. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lovecchio discussed the textbook adoption process, explaining the need for the district to be able to receive textbooks from the state at no cost, as other schools do. He noted that the district has had to purchase several textbooks in the past, which has been costly. Dr. Lovecchio requested Board approval for the adoption of state-provided textbooks. Ms. Hazel called for a motion to approve the textbook adoption. Mr. Small made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lawyer. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lovecchio reviewed enrollment numbers for the spring program, reporting a total of 181 students. Of those enrolled, 21.43% are from Jasper County and 78.57% are from Beaufort County. He highlighted that the program is performing exceptionally well, with an ACE attendance rate of 95.56%.

Some students are currently participating in internships with local businesses. These students attend school for half of the day and then transition to paid internships, where they apply the skills they have developed through ACE. In addition, they have the opportunity to work after school hours and on weekends.

Dr. Lovecchio discussed student post-secondary interests, including college or university, trade and technical schools, community college, workforce entry, military service, and apprenticeships. He presented the percentage of students interested in each pathway. This information will assist the Guidance Counselor and Career Development Facilitator in better understanding students' goals and providing targeted guidance and support.

English teachers have been working closely with students to develop their LinkedIn profiles and resumes, helping them build a professional online presence. This preparation equips students with the skills and confidence needed for job interviews and internship opportunities.

Recruiting for the upcoming school year has officially begun. A total of 635 students have completed interest forms, not including Bluffton High School, marking the highest number of interest forms ever received. Applications will be reviewed, and accepted students and their schools will be notified in late April.

We received a \$25,000 grant from the City of Hardeeville, which will be used to purchase a new plasma cutter for the Welding Program. This marks the second consecutive year that we have received grant funding from the City of Hardeeville. In addition, we received a grant from the state that will allow us to purchase new radios for the school. Our current radios are outdated, and the new equipment will greatly benefit our shop teachers by improving communication and safety.

The architects visited ACE last week to assess facility needs and identify necessary improvements. Electrical upgrades were identified as the top priority, along with the installation of a new public address (P.A.) system to enhance safety.

HIGHLIGHTS

Good Audit Report
Good numbers for student enrollment
Over 635 students are interested in attending ACE
\$25,000 grant from the City of Hardeeville

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advisory Meeting on February 11, 2026
Winter Break February 16th-18th
Continued recruiting
Skills USA in March
Governance Meeting March 19th

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hazel asked for a motion to conclude the Board Meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lawyer, seconded by Mr. Small. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

