



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
April 2, 2026
5:30 PM Executive Session
6:00 PM General Session

MEMBERS PRESENT

Col. Richard Geier, Chair
Ms. Eleanor Hazel, Vice Chair

Mr. William Smith
Dr. Deloris Young

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Mr. Maurice Lawyer was present via Zoom after the Executive Session.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Alphonso Small

CALL TO ORDER

Col. Geier called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The roll was taken. The establishment of a quorum was met. The media was properly notified, and there were no public comments. Col. Geier asked for a motion to go into Executive session. Dr. Young made a motion to go into Executive session, which was seconded by Ms. Hazel. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Contractual Matters

OPENING OF GENERAL SESSION

Col. Geier asked whether there were any recommendations resulting from the Executive Session. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve all the Personnel Contractual Matters, which was seconded by Ms. Hazel. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Col. Geier asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Lovecchio requested that an action item regarding overnight trips for the Cosmetology and Barbering programs during state testing be added to the agenda. Col. Geier then asked for a motion to add this item. Mr. Smith made a motion to add the item to the agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Hazel. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Col. Geier asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2026, meeting. Ms. Hazel made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Dr. Young.

Mr. Smith stated that he was not notified of the February 5, 2026, meeting and expressed concern that items were voted on without his knowledge.

Those in favor of approving the minutes were Ms. Hazel, Dr. Young, and Col. Geier. Mr. Smith opposed. The motion carried.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION: Presented by Katie Abar, Director of Budget for BCSD

Ms. Abar presented the 2025–2026 third-quarter financial summary as of February 28, 2026. Her presentation included an overview of local revenue, state revenue, general fund expenditures, and the fund balance. The Beaufort-Jasper ACE financial position through the third quarter of FY26 remains sound.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Lovecchio presented enrollment data for students from Beaufort and Jasper Counties, including a breakdown by school. He also discussed student participation in the SkillsUSA competitions held in Columbia and Greenville, highlighting results by program area. Dr. Lovecchio reported that students earned a total of 9 gold medals, 9 silver medals, and 10 bronze medals.

Board members asked questions and expressed concern regarding enrollment from Jasper County at ACE, specifically the percentage of students from Hardeeville and Ridgeland. Discussion focused on potential strategies to expand recruitment efforts and increase student participation from both areas. Dr. Lovecchio explained the current enrollment and recruitment processes and noted that administration and counselors will conduct further research to identify opportunities for improvement.

A Board work session will be scheduled for the end of April to allow for further discussion regarding student enrollment from both Beaufort and Jasper Counties.

Col. Geier asked for a motion to approve the Academic Calendar for 2026/2027. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Academic Calendar for 2026/2027, which was seconded by Ms. Hazel. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lovecchio requested approval for an overnight field trip to attend the SkillsUSA National Competition in June. Col. Geier asked for a motion to approve the field trip. Ms. Hazel made a motion to approve the overnight field trip, which was seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lovecchio requested approval for upcoming overnight field trips related to state board testing. Col. Geier asked for a motion to approve the overnight field trips. Ms. Hazel made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

The school is currently under contract with Moseley Architects, who are actively working on the schematic design for the facility. Several capital improvement projects are planned, including upgrades to electrical distribution, installation of new fire alarm systems, a public address (PA) system, and camera systems, among other improvements.

It was noted that an immediate improvement needed for the Culinary program is the purchase of a new freezer. Col. Geier asked for a motion to approve the purchase of a new freezer for the Culinary program. Mr. Smith made a motion to authorize the Superintendents of both the Beaufort County and Jasper County School Districts to proceed with the purchase. The motion was seconded by Dr. Young and passed unanimously.

Ms. Chappell, Assistant Director of ACE, presented information on Perkins performance indicators. She reviewed ACE's performance percentages in comparison to state averages and outlined the Perkins V state-determined Levels of Performance for FY24–27. Ms. Chappell reported that a Local Improvement Plan has been submitted to the state, detailing strategies designed to increase the enrollment of non-traditional students at ACE.

Col. Geier asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ms. Hazel. The motion passed unanimously.

HIGHLIGHTS

Skills USA

Good Financial Report

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board work session April 30th

State Board Testing

Completer Ceremonies May 21st 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM