



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
Board Work Session
April 30, 2026
10:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Col. Richard Geier, Chair
Mr. Maurice Lawyer
Mr. William Smith

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Ms. Eleanor Hazel, Vice Chair
Dr. Deloris Young

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Alphonso Small

CALL TO ORDER

Col. Geier called the meeting to order at 10:39 AM. The roll was taken. The establishment of a quorum was met. The media was properly notified, and there were no public comments.

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

Col. Geier asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Lawyer. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Introduction to ACE Enrollment Report

- Dr. Lovecchio provides an overview of ACE, its history, and the enrollment process.
- The program starts in January of junior year and continues into senior year.
- ACE offers two-semester programs and one-semester programs in Culinary Arts and EMS.

Details of ACE Programs and Certifications

- Dr. Lovecchio explains the structure of ACE programs, including block scheduling and ELA classes.
- Students have options to return to their feeder school, do work-based learning, or stay at ACE for a one-semester program.
- ACE students complete various certifications, such as OSHA 10, CPR, and industry-specific certifications.
- The state is moving towards tiered certifications, which ACE has been implementing for years.

Questions and Clarifications on ACE Programs

- A question was asked about the sequence of classes, and Dr. Lovecchio clarified that students take three blocks of a course before moving to the next level.
- Dr. Lovecchio provides historical context on ACE's funding and operational structure, including the split between Beaufort and Jasper Counties.
- Ms. Crosby adds that state law mandates Beaufort to oversee ACE's finances.
- Dr. Lovecchio discusses ACE's recruitment process, including tours, presentations, and outreach to elementary and middle schools.

Challenges and Solutions in ACE Enrollment

- Concern was expressed about Jasper County's low participation in ACE and the need to increase it.
- Dr. Hickson explains efforts to address the issue, including assigning a director to collaborate with ACE and the feeder schools.
- Dr. Lovecchio provides data on ACE's fall enrollment and the number of returning students.
- The discussion includes the impact of changing the cosmetology and barbering programs to two semesters, increasing capacity for more students.

Discussion on ACE's Capacity and Recruitment

- Mr. Lawyer asked about ACE's capacity, and Dr. Lovecchio confirmed a capacity of 215 students.
- Mr. Smith asked about the intake process and the rigor of the GPA requirement.
- Dr. Lovecchio explains the criteria for accepting students, including academics, discipline, and attendance.
- The discussion highlights the need for better communication and collaboration between ACE and the feeder schools to increase participation.

Final Remarks and Next Steps

- Col. Geier asked to see the data on the students' GPAs on a curve. Dr. Lovecchio will be working to bring that information to the next Board meeting in June.
- Ms. Hazel emphasizes the importance of addressing Jasper County's low participation and the need for a team effort.
- Dr. Young and Ms. Hazel express gratitude for the efforts to recruit and support students at ACE.
- Col Geier asked if there was a motion to change the agenda to have lunch before the tour of ACE. Mr. Smith made a motion to change the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Lawyer. Motion passed unanimously.
- Board Members toured the facility.
- Col. Geier asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lawyer made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Col. Geier. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 PM.