BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2026
District Educational Services Center

Members Presents

Carlton Dallas, Chair	Ingrid Boatright	Richard Geier
David Carr, Vice Chair	isaac Gordon	Elizabeth Hey
Victor Ney, Secretary	Alphonso Small	William Smith

Members Absent
Chloe Gordon

Mr. Carlton Dallas called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 8/0. Alphonso Small was absent from the vote. Chloe Gordon was absent from the meeting.

Public Comments – No Comments during the first period.

Chair's Report - Mr. Dallas updated the board on recent meetings and events that he attended.

- Senior Scholar night at Bluffton High School.
- South Carolina School Board Association's Day at the Capital. He and Mr. William Smith met with State Representative to discuss education funding and initiatives.

Committee Reports
Finance Committee: Richard Geier, chair provided an update from the April 20, 2026 Finance Committee meeting. He reported that the district is on track with budget revenues at 96.4% of the amended budget through March with discussions about utility cost increases and property tax exemptions. The committee reviewed the changes that were made to Administrative Regulation OS-7.

Operations Committee: Victor Ney, chair, provided an update from the April 9, 2026 Operations Committee meeting. He updated the Board on the referendum projects, including upcoming groundbreaking ceremonies for new schools. The committee discussed recommended options for 8% funding (FY28) for HVAC, paint, roof repairs, technology and additional needs. The committee requested more details of the options that were presented and will bring a recommendation to the full board at its next meeting.

The committee also reviewed the four options that staff presented on School attendance Zones. The meeting focused on reviewing proposed attendance zone changes across elementary, middle and high schools. The team discussed transportation challenges, including route efficiency and bus capacity, particularly around Bluffton High School and McCracken Middle School. Option 4 was suggested as an alternative, but concerns were raised about its high cost and timeline constraints. The Committee requested additional information, so that staff will provide other options at the Operations Committee meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- Summer School

  Dr. McKenzie along with Ms. Sackman, Dr. Holmes, presented information on the Summer Programs. The district plans to offer various summer programs including Summer Reading Academy for elementary students, credit recovery for middle and high schools, and Extended School Year for exceptional learners. This year times have been adjusted based on feedback from last year. Elementary schools will run from 7:45 – 2:45; Middle Schools 8:45 – 12:45; High Schools 8:45 – 12:45pm. Approximately 490 third graders, 360 first graders, and 15 students for Extended School Year are currently projected to participate, though final numbers will be determined after spring assessments. Mr. Smith expressed interest in exploring county council funding for additional summer programs to increase accessibility across different community locations.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- Budget Presentation 2026-2027

  Mrs. Tonya Crosby presented the proposed fiscal year 2026-27 general fund budget totaling $395.3million with no millage increase requested. The budget prioritizes employee compensation, academic programs, and operational services, including a proposed starting teacher salary of $62,587 with a total compensation package of $64,087. The district outlined several contingency plans in case of revenue shortfalls, including the potential use of excess capital project funds, deferring non-essential expenditures, and accessing the $85 million fund balance. An alternative budget scenario was presented that includes an additional $1,00 increase to the starting teacher salary.

  Key Investment Areas:

  - Employee Compensation ($15.2M)
  - Academic Programs ($2.9M Increase)
  - Operational and Support Services ($3.4M Increase)
  - Safety and Security
  - Financial Stewardship and Assumptions
  - Alternative and Enhanced Compensation Scenario

  Mrs. Crosby also presented an alternative to increase the teachers' salaries. The Enhanced Compensation Proposal. Most of the Board do not support the additional increase.

  - Additional $1,000 to Teacher Salary Scale totaling $3,500
  - Cost of $3,032,903
  - Requires a 1.5 mill increase (to 127.6 mills)
  - Contingencies remain
  - Locality Remains
  - Total Compensation Package $65,087.

  Mrs. Crosby also asked that the Board provide a recommendation that they can take to County Council.

Student Performance: The Beaufort Middle School Theater Company, under the direction of Ms. Christine Barr will be performing a selection from the production of "Annie, Jr"

Under Points of Celebration – Dr. Rodriguez and the Board recognized the following:

- Student of the Month for Northern Beaufort County
  - February – St. Helena Elementary Academy – 8th student Ja'quez Manigo

- April – Beaufort Middle School – 8th grade student Zyrielle Brown
- State Wrestling Championships
- South Carolina Music Education Association Solo/Ensemble Festival

Consent Agenda

- April 7, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
- April 24, 2026 Board Work Session Meeting Minutes

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Carr. The motion passed 9/0. Alphonso Small was absent from the vote.

Announcements

- Colonel Geier and Ashley Gould will be providing a briefing to Beaufort Community Partnership on May 11th at 6pm at the District Office regarding early childhood education and will bring the early childhood bus.
- Mrs. Ingrid Boatright announced that she and some symphony members attended the Young Person LinkUp concert that involved over 2,000 students from Hilton Head and Beaufort, and praised Mr. Glenn Frazier with Transportation for his logistic work to the concerts.
- Mr. William Smith announced that there was a viewing at Robert Smalls International Academy for the alumnae of Robert Smalls and a wall honoring those alumni.

Public Comments

- Lauren Schroeder spoke and highlighted the importance of music and arts education.
- John Phillip Schroeder, student praised Ms. Hamner's influence and success of students in music programs.
- Kristi Carpenter, student spoke about the lack of a band program at Hilton Head High School.
- James Miller, spoke in support of the students and the diversity between the schools for the band program.

Future Topics

- Mr. Smith would like information on leasing our buses to community.
- Mr. Smith would like Right Choices report.
- Mr. Smith would like update on Athletics.

Executive Session

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of Employment Matter re: April 20 206 Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); receipt of legal advice related to pending legal claims covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a0(2); receipt of legal advice related to a procurement matter covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Southeast Roofing Solutions, Inc., contract Amendment #6 for the Bluffton Middle School re-roofing scope of work using FY2025 and Fy2027 8% CIP funds pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Southeast Roofing Solutions, Inc. contract Amendment #7 for the Hilton Head Island School for Creative Arts, Phase 1 re-roofing scope of work using Fy2027 8% CIP funds pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2);

discussion of negotiations incident to proposed metalcrafts a Tecta America Co., LLC contract Amendment #2 for the Hilton Head Island Middle School re-roofing scope of work using FY2027 8% CIP funds pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #01 with M.B. Kahn Construction, LLC for the construction of the new Bluffton High School (BLHS) Career and Technical Education (CTE) & Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Addition & Outfitting 2023 Referendum Scope Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Proposal pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2);discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Amendment #17 with Thompson Turner Construction for 2023 Bond Referendum James J. Davis Early Childhood Center Parking Lot Addition and Resurfacing Scope Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) proposal pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 9/0.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:45pm.

Action from Executive Session

Mr. Dallas called the meeting back to open session at 8:55p.m.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the employment listed on April 1, 2026- April 30, 2026 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 8/0. Alphonso Small was absent from the vote.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #06 with Southeast Roofing Solutions, Inc. for the Bluffton Middle School re-roofing scope of work in the amount of $2,772,000 using FY2025 and FY2027 8% CIP funds. The motion was seconded by Pastor Isaac Gordon. The motion passed 8/0. Alphonso Small was absent from the vote.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #07 with southeast Roofing Solutions, Inc for the Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts, the Phase 1 re-roofing scope of work in the amount of $2,378,000 using FY2027 8% CIP funds. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 8/0. Alphonso Small was absent from the vote.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #02 with Metalcrafts a Tecta America Co. LLC for the Hilton Head Island Middle School re-roofing scope of work in the amount of $4,412,500 using FY2027 8% CIP funds. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Hey. The motion passed 8/0. Alphonso Small was absent from the vote.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #01 with M.B. Kahn Construction, LLC for the construction of the new Bluffton High School (BLHS) Career and Technical Education (CTE) & Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Addition & Outfitting based on the Guaranteed maximum Price (GMP) of $13,757,228. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 8/0. Alphonso Small was absent from the vote.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment #17 with Thompson Turner Construction for the James J. Davis Early Childhood Center parking Lot Addition & Resurfacing scope of work with a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of $1,530,239 using 2023 Bond Referendum funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 8/0. Alphonso Small was absent from the vote.

Motion to adjourn by unanimous consent.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

(Signature on Official File Copy) Date: June 23, 2026
Victor Ney, Secretary, Board of Education
Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 8/0. Alphonso Small was absent from the vote. Chloe Gordon was absent from the meeting.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 9/0. Alphonso Small was absent from the vote.

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