BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2026
Beaufort County Chamber

Members Presents

Carlton Dallas, Chair	Ingrid Boatright	Richard Geier
David Carr, Vice Chair	Isaac Gordon	Christina Gwozdz
Victor Ney, Secretary	Elizabeth Hey	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. Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board include a nomination for the secretary/treasurer position on the South Carolina School Board Association under business action. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 7/3. Carlton Dallas, Alphonso Small, and William Smith voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon was absent from the meeting.

Public Comments – No Comments during the first period.

CLOC Update – Mr. Ray Warco provided an update on CLOC. He stated that he would start by explaining who CLOC represents, and their purpose. Mr. Warco reported that the 2019 referendum is 99% complete and the 2023 referendum remains within the original $439 million budget.

Chair's Report - Mr. Dallas updated the board on recent meetings and events that he attended including hosting a TV show on WHHI. The topic was the Graduation Class of 2026. Mr. Dallas shared statistics regarding the class of 2026. Further information is shared under the Superintendent's Report.

Board Business Action

- Nomination to the Secretary/Treasurer position on the South Carolina School Board Association. Mr. Dallas clarified that the nomination for the position of Secretary/Treasurer is separate from his current regional director's role.

  Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Beaufort County School Board supports the nomination of Dr. Christina Gwozdz to the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the South Carolina School Board Association. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 6/4. Carlton Dallas, Isaac Gordon, Alphonso Small and William Smith voted against the motion.

Committee Reports
Academic Committee: David Carr, chair provided an update from the May 18, 2026 Academic Committee meeting. The committee reviewed updates to the following Administrative Regulations:

- SS-21 Secret Societies and Gang Activity

- SS-26 Weapons in Schools
- SS-29 Use of Metal Detectors

The committee also was provided with a Right Choice Program Update.

Finance Committee: Richard Geier, chair provided an update from the May 21, 2026 Finance Committee meeting. He reported that t65% of the budget had been expended with stable spending trends. The committee also reviewed transparency reports, third quarter financial reports showing strong revenue connections, and E-rate funding applications.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement

- BCSD University
  Dr. Rodriguez introduced Dr. Chad Cox who presented an overview of the Beaufort County School District's partnership with OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) through USCB, explaining how they adapted their presentations for the public audience, which included retirees and professional from various backgrounds. The presentation detailed the roles of key departments leaders. Department leaders were introduced, and their roles explained.

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- 2026-2027 Budget Update
  Dr. Rodriguez updated the Board that the district's budget has been through reading by County Council, and both readings have been unanimously supported by County Council. The Financial Team was given credit and accolades for their great work on the budget.

The Board moved Points of Celebration up on the agenda.

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

- May Student of the Month
  - Southern BCSD 4th grade student Tate Bigwood, Red Cedar Elementary School
- Middle School Athletic Awards
- 2025-2026 BCSD Championship Circle Award – Bluffton Middle School

Dr. Rodriguez recognized and presented the Superintendent's Challenge Coin to Ms. Brisbane at Robert Smalls International Academy for the innovative student newspaper project. Mr. Terrance shared copies of the newspaper with the Board members.

Other Matters under Superintendent's Report

- Graduation Recap
  Dr. Mellow Lee provided an Executive Summary on the BCSD 2026 Graduates. The presentation included BCSD Graduate Facts, and a video of students who speak about their plans for their future. Dr. Lee also thanked maintenance, technology and County Channel teams for their support of graduation events.

Future Topics

- Right Choices – William Smith
- Finance – Wiliam Smith
- Setting the Agenda- Christina Gwozdz

- Board Policy – Christina Gwozdz
- FOIA- Christina Gwozdz

Announcements
N/A

Public Comments
- James Miller, spoke regarding the Outstanding Performance Award in Band.
- Anthony Cambria, spoke regarding student achievement.

Executive Session
Mr. Victor Ney made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of Employment Matter re: May 2026 Personnel Ratification Report pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of personnel matter 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(a)(2); receipt of legal advice related to distribution of surplus TIF funds for the City of Beaufort pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:30pm.

Action from Executive Session

Mr. Dallas called the meeting back to open session at 8:38p.m.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the employment listed on May 1, 2026- May 30, 2026 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Christina Gwozdz. The motion passed 10/0.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education deny the request of an employee to pursue a grievance against the Superintendent in accordance with Board Policy GC-12. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 9/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mr. Victor Ney made the motion that the Board of Education recall the remaining TIF 2 funds from the City of Beaufort to include interest earned on the surplus funds since the date the surplus funds should have been distributed to the school district. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Smith. The motion passed 10/0.

Motion to adjourn by unanimous consent.
The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

(Signature on Official File Copy) Date: July 14, 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. A motion was made for the Board to include a nomination for the secretary/treasurer position on the South Carolina School Board Association under business action. The motion was seconded and passed 7/3. Carlton Dallas, Alphonso Small, and William Smith voted against the motion. Chloe Gordon was absent from the meeting.

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