

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2021
District Educational Services Center
Hybrid Meeting

Members Presents

Christina Gwozdz, Chair	Ingrid Boatright	Earl Campbell
Melvin Campbell, Vice Chair	Tricia Fidrych	Richard Geier
David Striebinger, Secretary	Angela Middleton	Cathy Robine
	William Smith	Rachel Wisnefski

Dr. Christina Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment matter regarding personnel ratification Report and employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Robert Smalls International Academy School Early Steel Package pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice regarding employee grievance filed against Trustee pursuant to Policy GC-12; receipt of legal advice regarding pending matter covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 11/0.

Dr. Gwozdz called the meeting back to open session at 6:04 p.m.

Action from Executive Session

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion pursuant to Governance Culture Policy GC-12, I move that the Board retain Attorney Andrea White to investigate a grievance filed by a District employee against a Trustee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for employment listed July 1, 2021- July 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report. The motion was seconded by Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 11/0. [\(The link to the redacted July 1, 2021 – July 31, 2021 Personnel Ratification Report.\)](#)

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion to accept the Superintendent' recommendation to employ Dr. Tommie Riddick as Director of Alternative Education. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The motion passed 8/2/1. Melvin Campbell, and William Smith voted against the motion, and Angela Middleton abstained from the vote.

Mr. David Striebinger made the motion that the Board of Education approve Amendment No. 01 with JE Dunn Construction for an early steel package at Robert Smalls International Academy in the amount of \$5,816,881. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tricia Fidrych. The motion passed 9/1/1. William Smith voted against the motion. Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rachel Wisnefski. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Mr. William Smith made the motion to appeal the decision of the chair that the voting was closed. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion failed 4/6/2. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, Cathy Robine, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. Melvin Campbell and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed.

Dr. Gwozdz stated that the media was properly notified.

Public Comments

- Monica Wiser, spoke regarding COVID.
- Mary E. Moyd, stated that she felt offended that the Beaufort County Board of Education Public Comment Card Rules for Speaking was read before the speakers in attendance addressed the Board, and she alleged the Rules were not read previously to the public. She also had an issue that St. Helena Elementary received used furniture from Beaufort Elementary. The school deserved new furniture, like Beaufort Elementary received.
- Linda Moyd-Hills spoke about the sign listing land for sale on St. Helena Island. Community member questions the graduation schedule.

Chairman's Report

Dr. Gwozdz announced the next work session is scheduled for Friday, August 27, and the next Board Business meeting on August 17 will be held at Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts. She also encouraged all eligible people, 12 years and older, to get the COVID vaccine.

Committee Reports

Academic Committee: Cathy Robine, chair shared that Dr. Mary Stratos presented on student achievement and usage of ESSER funds. The presentation will be presented under the Superintendent's Report.

Ad Hoc Bluffton Committee: Rachel Wisnefski, chair shared that the committee met July 22 and received a presentation from the Beaufort County Treasurer. The committee discussed the trajectory of population and construction growth in Bluffton.

Ad Hoc Results Committee: Cathy Robine, chair presented the revised Superintendents' evaluation metric.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion that the Board approve the revised Superintendent's Evaluation tool for the 2020-2021 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Campbell.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made an amended motion to add the financial oversight to the evaluation. The motion was seconded by Colonel Richard Geier. The amended motion failed 3/8. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Angela Middleton, and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

Original Motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Operations Committee: Tricia Fidrych, chair gave a brief update. Rob Corbin presented the construction update for June.

Mrs. Fidrych gave brief information on the request for an easement at Battery Creek High School.

Mrs. Tricia Fidrych made the motion that the BCSD Board of Education approve the blanket easement between Beaufort County School District and Beaufort Jasper Water Authority at Battery Creek High School. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 11/0.

Mrs. Wendy Cartledge and Mr. Eldridge Black, presented SS-19 Student Conduct on Buses. There were several changes made to the Administrative Regulation. **Section II. Student Conduct on Buses** had several changes.

Mrs. Cartledge presented Administrative Regulation HRS-51 Pregnancy and Lactation. She discussed the changes that were made to the regulation.

Policy Committee: Rachel Wisnefski, chair shared the committee reviewed OE.6.16.

Dr. Rachel Wisnefski made the motion that the policy committee recommends to the full Board that the OE interpretations goes on the consent agenda coming out of committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Technology Committee: David Striebinger, chair shared that the committee held their first meeting to determine the committee's scope.

Superintendent's Report

Goal #1 Student Achievement – Dr. Stratos presented the presentation diving into 2021 to the full Board. It was the same presentation that was given to the Academic Committee.

Public Comments

- Ann Buckley spoke about the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations for returning to school.

Superintendent's Report Continued

Goal #3 Fiscal Responsibility

- ESSR III Application
Mrs. Tonya Crosby presented the ESSER III application and also presented the SC Elementary Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Subgrant Spending Plan Form. The Spending Plan Form addresses the uses of the funds; and the spending plan categories.

Mrs. Ingrid Boatright made the motion to extend the meeting until the completion of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

Other Matters

- School Openings
Dr. Rodriguez stated that masks within buildings can not be required per a state proviso, but they are strongly encouraged.

Dr. Duke Bradley presented the school opening plan. Dr. Rodriguez and Mrs. Jennifer Staton shared information from DHEC – COVID-19 Interim Guidance for K-12 School Operations.

- Update Educational Land Consultant
Mr. Robert Oetting gave an update on the Educational Land Consultant. He stated that he and Mrs. Carol Crutchfield met with two candidates with two different backgrounds. They will have senior staff participate in the selection. They will bring a recommendation to the Board.

Board Business

- **Bond Resolution Refunding Series 2014B Bonds**
Mr. Brian Nurick, Compass Municipal Advisors, LLC presented the Board with information on Refunding Series 2014B Bond.

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$17,245,000 taxable general obligation advance refunding bonds, series 2021, or such other appropriate series designation, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; authorizing the Superintendent to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matter relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0. David Striebinger was absent from the vote. (David Striebinger left the meeting at 9:30pm)

- **Bond Resolution Refunding Series 2012B Bonds**
Brian Nurick, Compass Municipal Advisor, LLC present the Board with information on Refunding Series 2012B Bonds

Colonel Richard Geier made the motion that the Board of Education authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$3,600,000 general obligation refunding bonds, series 2022, or such other appropriate series designation, of the school district of Beaufort County, South Carolina; fixing the form and detail of the bonds; authorizing the Superintendent to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matter relating thereto. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ingrid Boatright. The motion passed 10/0.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Rachel Wisniewski made the motion to postpone the consent agenda items to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cathy Robine. The motion passed 10/0.

Future Agenda Topics

- Colonel Richard Geier would like an update from Maria Walls.
- Mr. Mel Campbell would like an update on the diversity student advisory council.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m. by unanimous consent.

(Signature on Official File Copy) _____ Date: August 17, 2021

David Striebinger, Secretary, Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Robyn Cushingberry, Executive Assistant

Motion Summary

A motion was made to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment matter regarding personnel ratification Report and employment, appointment, promotion, compensation; pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(1); discussion of negotiations incident to proposed Robert Smalls International Academy School Early Steel Package pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2); receipt of legal advice regarding employee grievance filed against Trustee pursuant to Policy GC-12; receipt of legal advice regarding pending matter covered by the attorney client privilege pursuant to SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-70(a)(2). The motion was seconded and passed 11/0.

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A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to appeal the decision of the chair that the voting was closed. The motion was seconded and failed 4/6/2. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, Cathy Robine, Richard Geier, Angela Middleton, Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion. Melvin Campbell and Rachel Wisnefski abstained from the vote.

A motion was made that the Board approve the revised Superintendent's Evaluation tool for the 2020-2021 school year. The motion was seconded.

An amended motion was made to add the financial oversight to the evaluation. The motion was seconded and failed 3/8. Earl Campbell, Christina Gwozdz, David Striebinger, Cathy Robine, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Angela Middleton, and Ingrid Boatright voted against the motion.

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A motion was made that the policy committee recommends to the full Board that the OE interpretations goes on the consent agenda coming out of committee. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

A motion was made to extend the meeting until the completion of the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed 10/1. William Smith voted against the motion.

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