

MINUTES  
Georgetown County Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
Tuesday, March 19, 2024

The Georgetown County Board of Education held a Regular Board Work Session Meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 5:30 p.m., at J. B. Beck Administration and Education Center, 2018 Church St., Georgetown, SC 29440.

The news media was notified of the date, time, location, purpose, and agenda of the meeting.

Members present:

Mr. Bill Gaskins, Ms. Patti Hammel, Mr. Robert Cox, Ms. Lynne Ford, Ms. Sandra Johnson, Mr. Keith Moore, Mr. Scott DuBose, Mr. Randy Walker and Ms. Kathy Anderson.

Also present: Mr. Keith Price, Superintendent, and District Staff.

Chair Gaskins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Gaskins opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Recognitions

SC National Career Development Association Poetry and Art Contest Winners 2023-2024

This year's contest, entitled "Art of the Mind: The Connection Between Wellness and Career Success" encouraged participants to use artistic expression to reflect on their personal journey, career goals, and aspirations while promoting well-being, self-awareness, and resilience. The contest is open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Two Georgetown High School students won first place in their division and their entries will be submitted to the National Contest. Ariel Baker-Alston > Harmony Unveiled: The Dance of Career and Mental Health won first place in the 9th - 12th grade Poetry division. Janae Stuckey won first place in the 9th - 12th grade Art I division for her poster >My Momma Told Me I'm.

March is Music in Our Schools Month

Music in Our Schools Month raises awareness of the importance of music education for all children and reminds citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. Music in Our Schools Month is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community, and to display the value that school music brings to students of all ages. Meris Thompson, fifth grader at Coastal Montessori Charter School, was selected and performed in the SC Elementary Honor Choir held on February 10 in Columbia. This is the first time Coastal Montessori has had a student selected to perform in the Elementary Honor Choir. Meris' music teacher is Tess Humowitz. Brendon MacArthur, a junior at Waccamaw High School, was named to the All-State Senior Band. Brendon plays the bass clarinet and performs with the All-State Band. Two GCSD students, Alayna Shelley from Georgetown High and Addison Cribb from Carvers Bay Early College and Career High School, went to the SC Lower State Piano Festival where they each received a superior rating. Additionally, they were 2 of the 5 students selected to perform at the SC Music Education Association Conference Masterclass in February.

Six Waccamaw High students were selected to All-State Chorus and five Waccamaw High students were selected to the American Choral Directors Association South Carolina Honor Choir. All-State Chorus students performed at Winthrop University on February 29 - March 2 and the

ACDA students performed at Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center on January 19-20. These students are under the direction of Sylvia Plyler.

Stella Fetterman - All-State Chorus

Ava Broach - All-State Chorus

Lily Grant - All-State Chorus

Lillie Danysh - ACDA Honor Choir

Caley Wilder - ACDA Honor Choir

Emmie Bess - All-State Chorus and ACDA Honor Choir

Jaya Mosley - All-State Chorus and ACDA Honor Choir

Anna Whitesides - All-State Chorus and ACDA Honor Choir

#### Georgetown County School District – Spotlight

In honor of Music in Our Schools Month, Waccamaw High School's Concert Choir was spotlighted. Based on their outstanding reputation and a recommendation from a member of the selection committee, the WHS Concert Choir was selected and performed as the official ambassador from SC in the 2023 Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade and 75th anniversary of the WWII commemoration.

#### Public Comments or Requests

Mr. Vincent Davis commented on diversity of administration in the Waccamaw area schools.

Ms. Pelor Richards shared comments about adding cultural backgrounds to student education.

#### Approval of Minutes

Ms. Patti Hammel made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2024, Board Meeting as presented. Ms. Lynne Ford seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

#### Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Lynne Ford made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Ms. Patti Hammel seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Mr. Gaskins requested to amend the agenda and move the first action item to the start of the meeting. Ms. Lynne Ford made a motion to move the Community Project Presentation to the first item of the meeting. Ms. Scott DuBose seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

#### Action Items

##### 1. Community Project Presentation

Presented by Ms. Jessie Walker. Ms. Walker presented to the Board, her request from the City of Georgetown to have a crosswalk bridge installed at the intersection of Lafayette and Highmarket Street. She stated that the funding would come from the 2% Capital sales tax if approved by the City of Georgetown. The crosswalk bridge would help improve the safety conditions for students and pedestrians crossing the busy intersection. She is asking for only the "support" from Georgetown County School District. Mr. Randy Walker made a motion to approve Georgetown County School District supporting the use of the 2% Capital Sales Tax to use towards the crosswalk bridge as presented. Mr. Keith Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

## Information Items

### 1. Georgetown Middle Quarterly Update

Presented by Mr. Seth Hillman. The following is Georgetown Middle Schools growth plan: May of 2024, 5% of students currently scoring "Approaches Expectations" to a score of "Met" on the SC Ready test moving 57.5% to 62.5% for SCReady Math. June 2024, the percentage of students receiving a score on the SCReady TDA will increase from 21.5% to 28% as evidenced by the TDA Score of the SCReady ELA assessment. May of 2024 parent input will increase from 23 to 50 as measured by the School Climate portion of the School Report Card. Steps taken for growth in math are: iReady focus- homeroom and Math classes, Vertical articulation meetings, CFA development and administration using Mastery Connect in all content areas. Steps taken for ELA are: iReady focus- homeroom and ELA classes, School-wide writing initiative, regular practice TDA's, CFA development and administration using Mastery Connect in all content areas. Steps taken for parent input include regular communication in numerous ways, involving all community stakeholders in school events, and increasing family engagement events.

### 2. Policy BFC: Policy Adoption

Presented by Ms. Lindsay Anne Thompson. After review of other school district policy manuals, it is the suggestion of Ms. Thompson to combine Policy BCF: Policy Adoption, BFCA: Board Review of Regulations, BFD: Policy Dissemination, BFE: Administration in Policy Absence, and BFF: Suspension of Policies. The policies will be combined into (one) policy named: Policy BFC: Adoption, Review, and Dissemination of Policies and Administrative Rules and Exhibits. This will update the policy to match the law and current practices.

### 3. Policy IKE: Promotion and Retention

Presented by Ms. Lindsay Anne Thompson. The SC Oversight Committee is changing the requirements for high school scores on school report cards. It will be known as the 6-1-1 Graduation Requirement. It becomes effective in the Fall of 2024. The new system will be implemented to monitor whether or not students are on track for graduation. The following are the changes:

To be classified as a sophomore, a student must have earned at least six units. Those units must include at least one unit in English, and one unit in mathematics

To be classified as a junior, a student must have earned at least twelve units. Those units must include two units of English, two units of mathematics

To be classified as a senior, a student must have earned at least eighteen units. Those units must include three units of English, and three units of mathematics

The Special Education Program portion was also updated to include more clearly defined expectations for the special needs population.

For Multilingual Learners, students classified as English learners and with less than two years of instruction in an English program are exempted from mandatory retention.

### 4. Policy KG: Use of School Facilities

Presented by Mr. Alan Walters. The only change to Policy KG: Use of School Facilities is the addition of legal references.

### 5. Policy AR KG-R: Use of School Facilities

Presented by Mr. Alan Walters. Several updates, changes, and deletions were made to the administrative rule. Several items were outdated and incorrect. The policy was updated to be more streamlined. Mr. Walters has created a user manual that will better assist the public with the rules and regulations regarding renting facilities.

6. Policy File KG-E: Use of School Facilities

Presented by Mr. Alan Walters. This document is the actual signed contract. It was updated to show more detailed information on what the event is for. The contract now includes the charge for security and liability insurance. It was also updated to include more approval signatures.

At 7:08 p.m., Chair Gaskins requested a brief recess for the meeting. Ms. Lynne Ford made a motion to have a brief recess. Mr. Scott DuBose seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Ms. Patti Hammel made a motion to return to session at 7:15 p.m. Ms. Lynne Ford seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

7. Proposed Revisions to Bus Drop-Off Procedures for 2024-2025

Presented by Mr. Alan Walters and Mr. Corey Davis. Green Tag Procedures for 4K – 3rd grade students and students requiring specialized bus transportation for the 2024-2025 school year. Parent completes online registration and indicates the need for bus transportation for the 2024-2025 school year. The school will provide the parent with four green numbered cards matching the ID tag on their child. Green Tag Procedures will begin on the first day of school with a grace period of adjustments through August 30, 2024. Beginning September 3, 2024, all Green Tag Procedures including consequences for non-compliance will be in effect. The parent/guardian will then distribute the green numbered cards to any responsible person they determine eligible to receive their child. If they also want to designate a sibling who is in 4th grade or above and who rides on the same bus, they will need to complete a Green Tag Sibling Consent Form at their student's school and a special indicator (with name) will be marked on the student's ID tag. The school will ensure the child wears their numbered ID tag when they leave the school building at the end of the day. The driver will ensure that the numbered ID tag is visible on the child before leaving the school. At the bus stop, the driver will match the numbered ID tag on the student with the corresponding green numbered card shown by the person receiving the child. If the numbered ID tag indicates a student designee (4th grade, or above), they will release the tagged student to the student designee (4th grade, or above). The driver will retain the numbered ID tag and return it to the school the following day.

8. Special Board Committee for Academic Achievement

Presented by Ms. Patti Hammel. Ms. Patti Hammel, Mr. William Gaskins, Mr. Scott DuBose, and Mr. Keith Moore served on a board committee to support underachieving schools. Ms. Hammel shared that the following schools fall under the umbrella of support: Andrews Elementary, Maryville Elementary, Sampit Elementary, Carvers Bay Middle, Georgetown Middle, Andrews High, Georgetown High, and Carvers Bay High. The improvement plans for these schools are posted on the GCSD website and are available for anyone to review. Each principal presented in depth to the committee their plans for improvement and growth. It was shared how each school was using the state supplied funding to improve scores such as professional development or educational programs. She stated that principals are working closely with staff, parents, and the community to build a better climate.

9. 2024 – 2025 Curriculum Course Guide  
Presented by Dr. Bethany Giles. The catalog is developed to guide students and parents with preparing for their graduation plan. Courses were revised based on school requests and certain programs. Career and Technical Education courses were updated to align with the SC Department of Education's course catalog. Advanced Placement courses were requested by Waccamaw High School. Waccamaw High School applied and was accepted into the AP Capstone™ Diploma Program for Fall 2024. AP Capstone is a diploma program based on two courses: AP Seminar and AP Research.

10. District-Level Department Budget Request Presentations  
Presented by Dr. Bethany Giles. Each member of the Cabinet that requested funds gave their individual presentation.

Mr. Doug Jenkins, Chief Human Resource Officer

Mr. Jenkins requested a salary increase for all nurses at Georgetown County School District. The increase would be based on their position, BSN, MSN, or RN. The total increase in the budget would be approximately \$125,211.

Ms. Kristi Kibler, Director of Communications

Ms. Kibler requested an increase in the stipend amount for all school web masters from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Webmaster duties have increased to include not only their school's website but also social media and parent notifications.

Mr. Alan Walters, Chief Operations Officer

Mr. Walters requested to have eight school monitors. This would be a new position. There would be one monitor for each middle and high school. Four of these positions can be funded through reallocated funds and four would be new funding. The contract days for monitors would be for (180) days and the salary range would be from (\$19,483-\$33,840). Duties would include the following: supervise morning weapons detection screenings, conduct screenings for late arrivals and visitors, monitor Halo sensors, cameras and other security systems, monitor "hot spots" such as restrooms, hallways, cafeteria, external doors, and parking lots.

Ms. Lisa Johnson, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Johnson requested an Administrative Bookkeeper I for Payroll & Benefits. This position would be responsible for the following: improved customer service for about 1,700 employees, process payroll and benefits more efficiently, effectively, and timely, assist with information requests from PEBA & other agencies concerning employees' retirement & benefits, assist with Benefits Open Enrollment, New Hires, & Benefit Changes, respond to employee requests for paystubs, W-2 copies, address changes, leave plan information, tax withholding changes, etc. , review and update employee leave plans prior to running payroll, cross train with Payroll and Benefits staff to learn all payroll duties. Ms. Johnson has identified budgeted funds to be reallocated that will cover this much needed position in the 2024-25 budget.

#### Academics and Student Services

- Mr. Fedrick Cohens, Executive Director of Elementary Schools
- Dr. Marva Tutt, Executive Director of Secondary Schools
- Dr. Pam Vereen, Executive Director of College and Career Readiness
- Dr. Kendra Greene, Executive Director of Special Services

Mr. Cohens requested \$5,000 for the Positive Behavior Management System (Lead Teacher Stipend) 10 schools at \$500.00.

Dr. Tutt requested funding for (AVID) Advancement Via Individual Determination for middle schools. AVID is an in-school academic support program for grades seven through twelve. The estimated amount would be \$81,693, which includes incidentals such as travel and lodging for 4 people per school. Also requested was Positive Behavior Management System (Lead Teacher Stipend) 9@ \$500= \$4500.

Dr. Vereen requested Elementary SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Curriculum-QuaverReady 3 yr. Subscription (\$65,000). She also requested Middle Level College and Career Ready Labs. The purchase of kits and in-person teacher training for STEM classes (\$63,000).

Dr. Greene requested the below:

- NEW Pre-Kindergarten Classroom Sampit Elementary School:  
1 Teacher, 2 Paraprofessionals
- NEW Pre-Kindergarten Classroom Waccamaw Elementary School:  
1 Teacher, 2 Paraprofessionals
- 2 School Psychologists (1 Currently in ESSER, 1 Additional)
- 2 Occupational Therapists (1 Medicaid, 1 Additional)
- 1 Speech (Currently in ESSER)
- 8 Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS)  
(6.5 ESSER, 1.5 Medicaid)
- Lead Nurse (DHEC)
- Autism Class Paraprofessional  
(Currently 0.5 paraprofessional/0.5 ABA)
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapist  
(Staff currently employed is ABA serving 2 roles as 0.5 para/0.5 ABA)
- Itinerant Nurse  
(Currently funded by ESSER)
- Andrews Elementary School Pre-Kindergarten Paraprofessional  
(Currently funded by ESSER)
- 5 Health Room Assistants (DHEC)
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) (Part-time)

#### Action Items

##### 2. Policy BDDH: Public Participation in Board Meetings

Presented by Ms. Lindsay Anne Thompson. The Administration recommended the second and final reading approval of Policy BDDH: Public Participation in Board Meetings as presented. Mr. Keith Moore made a motion to approve Policy BDDH: Public Participation in Board Meetings as presented. Mr. Scott DuBose seconded the motion. Ms. Patti Hammel made a motion to amend Policy BDDH: Public Participation in Board Meetings. She moved to amend the policy to state there would be a 30-minute time limit for all public comments, and if that time limit was not enough, the Board Chair would decide to allow for an extension to the time. Ms. Lynne Ford seconded the motion to amend the policy. Mr. The amendment passed 6-2. Hammel, Ford, Johnson, DuBose, Anderson, and Walker voted yes. Cox and Moore voted no.

Mr. Gaskins asked for a motion to adopt the amended motion. Ms. Patti Hammel made a motion that the Board adopt the amended motion. Ms. Sandra Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-2.

3. Contingency Funding for College and Career Readiness Coaches

Presented by Mr. Keith Price. Mr. Price stated the college and career readiness coaches at each high school are funded through ESSER funds. These coaches play a vital role in preparing students for success and was the number one request by all high school principals. Contingency funding will be set aside out of the District reserve fund balance in case these positions cannot be funded through ESSER funds for another year. Ms. Patti Hammel made a motion to approve the funding of college and career readiness coaches using contingency funding for another year. Ms. Lynne Ford seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Board/Superintendent Comments or Requests

Ms. Sandra Johnson stated that the Waccamaw High School Drama class performed *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and it was wonderful. She also stated that the BEACH singers did an outstanding job at the parenting workshop.

Ms. Kathy Anderson also attended the program at Waccamaw High School and said the students did an outstanding job.

Mr. Keith Moore shared that he appreciated the update by Mr. Hillman, Georgetown Middle School Principal, and the idea of getting parents more involved in school activities.

Mr. Gaskins stated that he visited several schools and was able to witness the AVID program.

Mr. Keith Price announced the Superintendent's Art Awards would be on Monday, March 25. The annual Technology Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 26 at Georgetown High School. Spring break for students will begin on Good Friday, March 29 and last through April 5. On April 13, GCSD will partner with the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce to host the Student Summer Job Fair. Students ages 15 and up can meet with employers looking for help during the summer months.

Executive Session

Mr. Gaskins announced that an executive session would be needed.

1. Student Appeal
2. Employee Discipline Matter
3. Recommendation for Rosemary Middle School Principal
4. Legal Advice Pertaining to District Property

Mr. Robert Cox made a motion to convene in executive session. Ms. Patti Hammel seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0). The Board convened in executive session at 8:39 p.m.

### Open Session

The Board reconvened from executive session at 10:03 p.m. Ms. Lynne Ford made a motion for the board to retire from executive session and enter open session. Ms. Patti Hammel seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

The Administration recommended approval of the personnel list as presented. Ms. Lynne Ford made a motion to approve the personnel list as presented. Ms. Patti Hammel seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Ms. Sandra Johnson made a motion that the Board approve the recommendation of Superintendent Keith Price that Mr. Earnest Houston III be recommended as the Principal of Rosemary Middle School effective July 1, 2024. Mr. Keith Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

Ms. Sandra Johnson made a motion that the Board direct administration to conduct an appraisal of the approximate four-acre parcel of real property that lies at the corner of the intersection of Highway 41 (County Line Rd) and Highway 521 Business (W Main St) and to the southwest of Crestwood Dr. (the road leading to Rosemary Middle and Andrews High) so that the District may consider the viability of selling that parcel of land to a potential interested buyer. Mr. Keith Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0).

### Adjournment

Ms. Lynne Ford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Patti Hammel seconded the motion. The motion carried (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Transcribed by Amanda Fort

Read and approved,

Kathy Anderson, Secretary  
Georgetown County Board of Education