

**Bridges Preparatory Board of Directors
Minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting 10/24/2023.
Held at Bridges Preparatory Main Campus,
555 Robert Smalls Parkway, Beaufort SC 29906**

Board Member Attendance

	Name	Office	Present	Absent	Arrived Late	Departed Early
1	Tom Angelo	Board Chair	x			
2	Bryan Merrick	Vice Chair	x			
3	Jorge Guerrero	Director	x			
4	Michelle Fraser	Treasurer		x		
5	Jon Brown	Secretary	X			
6	Beth Taggart	Director	x			
7	David Gault	Director	x			
8	Dawn Yerace	Director	x			
9	Casey Chucta	Director		x		

Staff Members in Attendance: Gary McCulloch, Jesse, Caroline

- A. CALL TO ORDER, ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**
 - a. Upon determining the presence of a quorum, Chairman Angelo called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.**
- B. PUBLIC MEETING**
 - a. MISSION STATEMENT**
 - a. The Bridges Preparatory Mission Statement was recited aloud by Chairman Angelo.**
 - b. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - c. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**
 - a. Chairman Angelo stated that the media was notified of the meeting, including the listing on the BPS website and at all campus locations. It was done within the 24-hour requirement.**
- C. PUBLIC COMMENT**
 - a. Christopher Pratt made public comment regarding current policy. He also presented concerns about traffic. Mr. Pratt submitted his written public comment to Secretary Brown.**
- D. MOTION made by Director Guerrero to enter an executive session, seconded by Director Merrick. Motion carried.**
- E. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 - a.** Section 30-4-70(a)(1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body.
 - b.** Section 30-4-70(a)(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.
- F. MOTION made by Director Merrick to end executive session, seconded by Director Taggart, motion carried.**

G. Adoption of Agenda

- a. **MOTION made by Director Taggart to adopt agenda with a correction of Tabled Item, seconded by Director Merrick. Motion passed.**

H. PUBLIC MEETING

a. CEO REPORT (Mr. McCulloch)

- i. Faculty and students have returned from their fall break and are energized to start the 2nd quarter.
- ii. Since last board meeting BPS has hosted 5 members from the Public Charter School district on 9/20, who were impressed by BPS's consistency in rigor, student, feedback, and student leadership in the classrooms. They were impressed with our recruitment and retention innovations and ideas. CEO McCulloch was asked to speak at the leadership conference to support other charter schools.
- iii. On 9/26 and 9/27 BPS staff and board members attended the KIDS FIRST Conference where ideas were discussed. CEO McCulloch thanked Director Merrick and Director Guererro for attending the conference.
- iv. On 9/29 BPS PTO hosted the Shrimp and Grits event. It was a well-attended event by the BPS family.
- v. On October 4th and 11th BPS hosted County Treasurer Maria Walls. On these dates she engaged our students about the importance of understanding our taxes, where they go, and electing strong representatives to represent you. She used games with the kids to teach how taxes work. She will conclude her 3-week series with the 5th grade tomorrow.
- vi. On 9/28 CEO McCulloch enjoyed time reading to Mrs. Badgett's 1st grade students.
- vii. On 10/6 BPS returned to having school huddles. Students of the month were recognized for exhibiting the pillars of Integrity and respect for the month of September. The October huddle message focused on the pillars of Courage and Community.
- viii. On October 11th groups of 9th graders traveled to various local colleges, technical schools, and career locations.
- ix. Currently 188 of BPS's allotted 200 tickets for the Ghost Pirate Night on November 18th.
- x. Next week Boosterthon starts.
- xi. BPS received top honors of Lowcountry's Best School in the area.
- xii. Current enrollment is 1356 students with 1 offer out. There are 551 applicants on our waitlist. BPS has received 1113 applicants.

b. PTO REPORT

- i. The Shrimp and Grits was successful this year at Shellring Ale Works. GMI and Travis Walker were the winners this year.
- ii. On October 10th Hearth Firewood Pizza hosted the first spirit night.
- iii. On October 11th Kona Ice came on campus to celebrate the end of first quarter. Teachers also received a pumpkin muffin as a token of appreciation.

c. ATHLETICS REPORT

i. Middle School Athletics

1. Girls Volleyball record is 14-2. They were invited to the SCHSL Region 8 Regional Tournament and were champions of the tournament.
2. Girl Cross Country have placed 4th, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd, and 2nd in the 5 events.
3. Boys Cross Country have won all 5 events they competed in so far this year. They also won the middle school championship.

ii. High School Athletics

1. The girls golf team competed in one event at Colleton River in Bluffton. This program is continuing to grow.
2. Boys Volleyball record is 6-3 and finished 1st in region as well as qualified for the playoffs. They defeated last years defending champions in the playoffs.
3. Girls Cross Country placed 6th in Beaufort County Championships, 21st in James Island Invitational. Currently ranked 7th in the State in 1A.

4. Boys Cross Country placed 8th in Beaufort County Championships and 29th out of 37 teams at the James Island Invitational. Currently ranked 11th in the State in 1A
 5. JV Girls Volleyball record is 10-2
 6. Varsity Girls Volleyball record is 21-6-1 and clinched the Region Championship as well as ranked 5th in the State. They earned a 1st seed in the SCHSL state playoffs and won the first-round match in straight sets last week. They are currently playing Carvers Bay at home.
- d. 10-Year Celebration Committee (Mr. McCulloch)
 - i. N/A
 - e. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Tom Angelo)
 - i. Progress on new building. Structural steel is up, and a lot of the block is up. Tentative April 1st for completion.
 - ii. Election is open right now.
 - f. TREASURER'S REPORT
 - i. Director Merrick presented the September financials.
 1. MOTION made by Director Guerrero to approve the September financial reports, seconded by Director Taggart. Motion passed.
 - g. Announcements / Good of the Order
 - i. Director Merrick asked CEO McCulloch about the current cafeteria service and how it is going.
 - h. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - i. MOTION made by Director Merrick to approve the minutes from the 9/19/2023 board meeting minutes, seconded by Director Yearace, motion passes.
 - i. NEW BUSINESS
 - i. Audit
 1. Ken Martin presented the current findings for our annual financial audit.
 - a. MOTION made by Director Guerrero to approve the presented audit, seconded by Director Brown. Motion passed.
 - ii. RFP Mechanical
 1. CEO McCulloch presented information on the recommended Mechanical Contract.
 - a. MOTION made by Director Gault to increase the threshold amount to \$20,000, seconded by Director Taggart. Motion passed.
 - iii. Furniture – New Build
 1. CEO McCulloch presented the quote for furniture for the new gym. This does not include weight room equipment.
 - a. MOTION made by Director Brown to accept the proposed quote, seconded by Director Merrick. Motion passed.
 - iv. Funding Options – New Build
 1. CEO McCulloch presented information options for alternative funding options to continue our continued building due to growth.
 - a. MOTION made by Director Gault to go with STIFEL for the company to use as an Underwriter/Placement Agent Relating to Potential Municipal Securities Transaction. Seconded by Director Guerrero. Motion passed.
 - v. Additional Speech Services
 1. CEO McCulloch presented information on the contract for the updated Speech Therapy services.
 - a. MOTION made by Director Guerrero to approve the submitted contract from Now We're Talking Therapy Services, seconded by Director Taggart. Motion passed.
 - vi. SC Report Card Results
 1. CEO McCulloch presented information on the released SC Report Card regarding BPS.

He also presented the planned services to help improve in areas where scores were not in a Good or Excellent range.

a. This was an informational item, and a vote is not required.

j. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 2+ year Growth Proposals

a. MOTION made by Director Gault to move the proposal to discussion, seconded by Director Guerrero. Motion passed.

b. Discussion was had about the proposed 2-year growth proposals.

c. MOTION made by Director Gault to table the 2+ year Growth Proposals with the understanding that the CEO will go to market using option two for numbers to use. Seconded by Director Taggart. Motion passed.

k. ADJOURNMENT

i. Next regular meeting confirmed for November 14th, 2023 @ 5:30 PM

ii. MOTION made by Director Guerrero to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Angelo, motion passed without dissent. Meeting officially adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Approved by the Board: _____

Board Secretary or Board Chairperson Signature: _____