

**Bridges Preparatory Board of Directors
Minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting, 9/19/2023.
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, Jessie, 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 5:38 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. n/a**
- D. MOTION made by Director Brown to enter an executive session, seconded by Director Fraser. 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 Gault to end executive session, seconded by Director Taggart, motion carried.**
- G. Adoption of Agenda**
 - a. MOTION made by Director Merrick to adopt agenda with an amendment of addition of**

item H to new business, seconded by Director Fraser. Motion passed.

H. PUBLIC MEETING

a. CEO REPORT (Mr. McCulloch)

- i. The first 6 weeks are off to a great start. The BPS family has embraced “The Power of One” through the interactions and connecting with the impact our roles have on our school community. Faculty members are focused on giving time, care, and attention that our BPS families, students, and community deserve.
- ii. On October 6th we will hold our first 2 huddles. Students of the month will be recognized for exhibiting the pillars of Integrity and Respect for the month of September. The October huddle message will focus on Courage and Community.
- iii. Several business partners have been supplying us with treats and donations. Those partners are Coastal Orthodontics of Beaufort, Turbeville Insurance Agency, and Shell Point Baptist Church.
- iv. Mrs. Gartlans class pushed their 6th grade math students with Greatest Common Factor and Least Common Multiple challenges.
- v. BPS’s AD held an NCAA information night for families with students in 7th-12th grades.
- vi. Grounded Running Beaufort hosted a Cross Country Team night with guest speakers and motivation prior to the start of the season.
- vii. Connor McCombs, Grace Smith, Kadin Karim, Riley Cowan, Sebastian Clavijo, and Wesland Sinor were recognized by the college board for earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher and outstanding performance on their PSAT/NMSQT and AP Exams. Congratulations to these students!
- viii. Thank you to the Beaufort and Town of Port Royal Fire Departments for visiting with our students and having lunch with them.
- ix. CEO McCulloch and Mr. Macy have been on the 100.7 radio station and 843TV highlighting BPS recently regarding our growth, expansion of programs, and what the future holds for the school and community.
- x. Current enrollment is 1357 students with 1 offer out. We have 559 on the waitlist. We have received 1097 applications.

b. PTO REPORT

- i. On August 29th PTO held their first public meeting for the year.
- ii. Next scheduled public meeting will be on December 13th.
- iii. The Shrimp and Grist Cook-Off will be at Shellring Ale Works on September 29th from 5-8 PM.
- iv. Hearth Spirit night will be on October 10th.
- v. Kona Ice will be on site on October 11th to celebrate end of quarter.
- vi. Costume Closet will be on October 11th from 3-4:30PM.

c. ATHLETICS REPORT

- i. 8th grader Elise Thompson finished 4th overall for Cross Country in the Beaufort County Championships.
- ii. Girls Golf held their first match at Colleton River Country Club.
- iii. Boys’ volleyball is currently 3-1 overall and 1-0 in the region.
- iv. Currently our Middle School girls’ volleyball team is 2-2. JV is 4-1 in regular season. JV finished 2nd in the Silver Division at the Georgia Southern tournament. Varsity girls are 12-2 and 10-0 in region play.
- v. The Tutor and Study Hall program has been established. Grade checks have begun and any athlete that have less than 70% in any class will be required to attend tutoring or study hall sessions twice a week until that grade rises above 70%. A 4.0 weighted GPA is the current Athletic Goal to be attained.

d. 10-Year Celebration Committee (Mr. McCulloch)

- i. N/A

e. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT (Tom Angelo)

- i. New building is going up. Concrete is complete. Metal studs will be going up shortly. Progress is starting to be seen.

f. TREASURER’S REPORT

- i. Director Fraser presented the August financials.
 - 1. MOTION made by Director Gault to approve the August financial reports, seconded by Director Merrick. Motion passed.
- g. Announcements / Good of the Order
 - i. N/A
- h. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - i. MOTION made by Director Fraser to approve the minutes from the 8/15/2023 board meeting minutes, seconded by Director Taggart, motion passes.
- i. NEW BUSINESS
 - i. Discretionary Account
 - 1. CEO McCulloch presented information on creating a discretionary account where the CEO, COO, and Director of Finance can write from the account.
 - a. MOTION made by Director Gault to setup a discretionary account with a balance of \$10,000 that can be replenished monthly. It will fall under the same budgetary and accounting policies and procedures. It cannot be used to compensate employees for their time, seconded by Director Fraser. Motion passed.
 - ii. Threshold Amount
 - 1. CEO McCulloch presented information for consideration of increasing the threshold amount for the CEO to be raised from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Discussion was had about the information.
 - a. MOTION made by Director Brown to increase the threshold amount to \$20,000, seconded by Director Merrick. Motion passed.
 - iii. Crisis Plan
 - 1. CEO McCulloch presented the updated Crisis Plan to the board in preparation for submission to the Public Charter School District.
 - a. No vote was needed as it was informational.
 - iv. Graduation Date
 - 1. CEO McCulloch presented information on suggested graduation date May 31st, 2023, at 7PM. The plan is to have graduation in the new gym.
 - v. Traffic Study Proposal
 - 1. CEO McCulloch presented information on the contract for the traffic study that is needed for future expansion.
 - a. MOTION made by Director Merrick to approve the submitted contract from BIHL, seconded by Director Taggart. Motion passed.
 - vi. Growth Funding
 - 1. CEO McCulloch presented information of alternative options for future funding to help with expansion.
 - a. This was an informational item, and a vote is not required.
 - vii. Short and 2+ year growth proposals
 - 1. CEO McCulloch presented information on adding 4 additional sections in middle school.
 - a. MOTION made by Director Taggart to approve the proposed 4 additional sections in Middle School, seconded by Director Fraser. Director Yearace abstained from vote. Motion passed.
 - 2. CEO McCulloch presented information on proposed Long-Term growth in a 2+ year time frame.
 - a. MOTION made by Director Gault to table this discussion until next Board Meeting, Director Taggart seconded. Motion Passed
 - viii. Election
 - 1. Director Merrick presented the list of qualified candidates to be submitted for the Board of Directors election.
 - a. MOTION made by Director Fraser to approve the submitted list of candidates,

seconded by Director Gault. Motion passed.

j. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. N/A

k. ADJOURNMENT

i. Next regular meeting confirmed for October 24th, 2023 @ 5:30 PM

ii. MOTION made by Director Brown to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Fraser, motion passed without dissent. Meeting officially adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Approved by the Board: _____

Board Secretary or Board Chairperson Signature: _____