

**Bridges Preparatory Board of Directors  
Minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting, 3/14/2023.  
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, Caroline Lovell**

- 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. n/a
- D. MOTION made by Secretary Brown to enter an executive session, seconded by Treasurer 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 Guerrero to end executive session, seconded by Director Brown, motion carried.**
- G. Adoption of Agenda**
  - a. **MOTION made by Director Fraser to adopt agenda, seconded by Director Guerrero,**

motion carried.

**H. PUBLIC MEETING**

**a. CEO REPORT (Mr. McCulloch)**

- i. A BPS sophomore wrestler made it the state tournament.
- ii. Varsity boys' soccer team won the Whale Branch Warrior Classic tournament and remains undefeated.
- iii. Middle school girls' soccer is 2-0 after winning their first 2 games.
- iv. Middle school did a wonderful job creating a persuasive poster writing contest for Black History Month. This idea was student led and judging was from teachers and students.
- v. Mrs. Dontje's class did a wonderful job with their Black History research projects and presentations.
- vi. Kindergarten students visited the City of Beaufort and Town of Port Royal Fire Departments and learned about the equipment that the fire fighters use to help keep us safe.
- vii. Middle School Consumer Science students have been working with Mrs. Matthew's class using their kitchen, safety, and sanitation skills.
- viii. Middle school students enjoyed animal experiences with tenrec, blue-tonged skunk, and a spectacled owl.
- ix. On February 27<sup>th</sup> Eric Hayes was recognized as our support person of the year and Jenny Badgett was recognized as our teacher of the year. Jenny Badgett was the schools first teacher of the year when BPS started and is our teacher of the year in our 10<sup>th</sup> year.
- x. On March 10<sup>th</sup> we had the 8<sup>th</sup> grade career fair with over 25 presenters.
- xi. On March 9<sup>th</sup> CEO McCulloch and team traveled to Columbia to present the Charter renewal for BPS to the Public Charter School District. It culminated the highlights of grow and change that BPS has experienced over the last 10 years as well as the plans and goals for the next 10 years.
- xii. Current enrollment is 1259 with 1 offer out, we have 549 on our waitlist. We have received 746 new applications for next year.

**b. PTO REPORT**

- i. On 3-15 we will be meeting to plan the three upcoming events that include May Staff Appreciation week, Talent show, and a middle school dance.
- ii. Kona Ice will be on campus on 3-23 to celebrate end of the quarter.
- iii. Spirit night at Hearth will be on 3-28.

**c. ATHLETICS REPORT**

- i. AD spoke about Wrestling athlete that moved up in the state tournament.
- ii. Currently have middle school softball, soccer. This year we now have varsity soccer and JV baseball.
- iii. 1<sup>st</sup> athletic booster club meeting was held.

**d. CHARTER REVIEW (Mr. McCulloch)**

- i. BPS successfully renewed the Charter for another 10 years.

**e. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Tom Angelo)**

- i. Still waiting on USDA to approve the final appraisal. Once that is done, we will receive the letter from the bank.

**f. TREASURER'S REPORT**

- i. No Financial report for February currently.

**g. Announcements / Good of the Order**

- i. Letter from Young Leaders thanking BPS for allowing them to hold the Prom dress store at the school.
- ii. Director Angelo read an excerpt from the Shipley family regarding donations to go to BPS athletics.
- iii. Director Brown spoke about the Middle School Career Day.

**h. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- i. MOTION made by Director Yearce to approve the minutes from the 2/21/2023 minutes,

seconded by Director Fraser, motion passes.

**i. NEW BUSINESS**

**i. Commitment Letter for Gym Loan**

- a. MOTION made by Director Guerrero to approve the Commitment Letter for the Gym Loan. Seconded by Director Merrick. Motion passed.

**ii. Prom**

- a. Director Fraser spoke about concerns about Prom. Discussion was had about this. This was an informational item.

**iii. Board Committees**

- a. Discussion was had about forming committees for some specific areas.
- i. Motion made by Chairman Angelo to form an Athletics Committee with Chairman Angelo. Seconded by Director Yearce. Discussion was had. Motion passed.
    - 1. Director Merrick and Director Yearce volunteered to be on the committee.
  - ii. Facilities committee will consist of Director Angelo, Director Fraser, and Director Guerrero. This is an already formed committee and is not needed to be voted on.
  - iii. Finance committee will consist of Director Fraser, Director Guerrero
  - iv. Motion made by Director Merrick to form an Academics committee. Seconded by Director Guerrero. Motion passed.

**iv. Survey**

- a. Discussion was had about possible survey to families and/or employees about the Environment of the school. No motion came out of this.

**v. Athletics**

1. Discussions were held about uniforms quality and the current spend of budget.

**vi. Facebooks pages.**

1. Director Angelo brought to the Boards attention that the Bridges Prep Parent Facebook page using the school legacy logo. Director Angelo will be reaching out to request that they remove the logo.

**vii. 990 Tax Return**

1. The document was presented to the Board for information.

**j. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. 2023-24 Calendar Options**

- a. MOTION made by Director Fraser to remove the 2023-24 Calendar Options off the table. Director Merrick seconded. Motion passed.
- b. CEO McCulloch presented updated information based on responses about the communicated options for the 2023-23 calendar.
- i. MOTION made by Director Merrick for Option 3. Seconded by Director Brown. Discussion was had about Option 3. Director Merrick, Yerace, Brown said yea. Director Angelo, Guerrero, Fraser voted no. Motion failed.
  - ii. MOTION made by Director Fraser for Option 1. Seconded by Chairman Angelo. Discussion was had about Option 1. Director Angelo, Guerrero, and Fraser said yes. Director Brown, Merrick, and Yerace voted no. Motion failed.
  - iii. MOTION made by Director Angelo to table this until the next board meeting. Seconded by Director Yerace. Motion passed.

**k. ADJOURNMENT**

- i. Next regular meeting confirmed for April 18th, 2023 @ 5:30 PM
- ii. MOTION made by Director Merrick to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director

**Fraser, motion passed without dissent. Meeting officially adjourned at 9 PM.**

Approved by the Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Secretary or Board Chairperson Signature: \_\_\_\_\_