

# HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## **MINUTES BOARD MEETING District Office October 24, 2016**

The following were in attendance:

### **Board of Education**

Joe DeFeo, Chairman	Holly Heniford	Sherrie Todd
David Cox	Janice Morreale	Ray Winters
Jeffrey Garland	Kathy Richardson	
Janet Graham	Pam Timms	

### **Horry County Schools' Staff**

Jeanna Allen	John Gardner	Mark Porter
Bobbi Antonucci	Kenny Generette	Lucas Richardson
Jim Berry	Sie Gilbert	Mary Beth Roach
Terra Bodkins	Bo Gorcesky	Heather Sheehan
Edward Boyd	Roger Gray	Rhonda Snowden
Daryl Brown	Ben Hardee	Margaret Sordian
Joe Burch	Teal Harding	Judy Stall
Jeff Carland	Charles Hucks, Jr.	Tammy Trulove
Carolyn Chestnut	H. T. Lee	Trevor Turner
Meagen Cox	Rick Maxey	Kelley Wilttrout
David Cupolo	Valerie McNeill	Mark Wolfe
James Davis	Lisa Melchione	Stephanie Yancey
Roger Dixon	Boone Myrick	

*As required by SC Law 30-4-80, local news media were informed of the date, time, place, and agenda of this meeting. Copies of the agenda were posted at the District Office and distributed to schools for posting.*

### **1. OPENING OCTOBER 24, 2016, AT 6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

#### **A. Invocation**

Ms. Timms offered the invocation.

#### **B. Presentation of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance**

The Socastee High School Air Force JROTC presented the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Candidates Running for the Horry County Board of Education**

Mr. DeFeo called for anyone from the audience who is running for the Horry County Board of Education to stand and introduce himself/herself. Mr. Ronald Bessant introduced himself as a candidate for Horry

County School Board District 9. Shanda Allen introduced herself as a candidate-elect for District 11, having won the seat in her District during the Primary election.

### **C. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. DeFeo noted that under Discussion, Item 4.C.2, Donation of Loris Education Center Building to the City of Loris, will not be up for discussion tonight and should be removed from the agenda.

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. Winters to approve the agenda with the revision as noted. The motion carried. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

### **D. Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2016, and September 26, 2016**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Ms. Timms and seconded by Ms. Morreale to approve the September 19, 2016, and September 26, 2016, Minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously and both sets of Minutes were approved. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

## **2. RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Socastee High School's Air Force JROTC** was recognized for having won the Distinguished Unit Award. This is 14<sup>th</sup> year that Socastee High School's Air Force JROTC has been named a Highly Distinguished Unit.

**B. Dr. Jim Berry, Conway High School**, was recognized for having received the Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award by the National Athletic Trainers Association.

**C. Boy Scout Troop 812** of Conway was recognized for being a part of the audience for tonight's meeting. They are working on their badge for Citizenship in the Nation and Communications.

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one signed up to speak nor came forward for Public Comments.

## **4. DISCUSSION**

### **A. Proposed Amendment to Board Governance OE-13**

The proposal to amend Board Governance OE-13 states that Board members will be notified of upcoming major construction projects with a budget of \$4 million or more, for the purpose of providing the Board with an opportunity to appoint a Board member to serve on the selection committees that may be involved in a procurement action related to said construction projects. Board members serving on the selection committees shall be selected by the Facilities Chairman from the membership of the Facilities Committee. If no one on the Facilities Committee is able to serve on the selection committees, the Facilities Chair may appoint a Board member who is not a member of the Facilities Committee to serve on that selection committee. Mr. Duff shared that recommendations have been made to tweak this wording. This provision may be inserted as a new 1.f under OE-13, and moving current items 1.f and 1.g down. In order to clarify a related provision, this would state major construction projects, other than new construction, with a budget of \$4 million or greater. Mr. Duff added that he has also been asked to draft a provision that deals with new construction. This is a provision for a more extensive committee in

the case of new construction. A possible location for this provision might be in Board Governance Policy GC-5. Mr. DeFeo shared that the proposed provision for new construction states that the Facilities Chair shall appoint five Board members to attend member review or selection committees concerning the consideration of such new construction projects. All members of the Facilities Committee may serve on that committee. If Board members who are not members of the Facilities Committee are needed to complete the five member board to serve on the selection committee, the Vice-Chair will be asked to serve, and as necessary, the Facilities Chair may appoint other Board members who are not members of the Facilities Committee to complete the membership of the selection committee. Mr. DeFeo shared there will be a final draft for consideration by a Committee of the Whole in two weeks, or soon thereafter. Mr. Duff stated he will revise the language and send it out to the Board and administration.

Ms. Graham asked what the intent or purpose, or what problem are we solving with this new language. Mr. Duff stated it is his understanding that this will allow direct Board participation in the process with major construction projects. Mr. DeFeo stated that a complaint he hears from the public is that the Board is too far away from some of the processes, adding that the Board is elected to do a job, and the Board ends up having to answer all the questions to the news media. This forces the Board to get involved so there is representation of the Board.

#### **B. Proposed Changes to Executive Session Pertaining to Contractual Matters**

Mr. DeFeo stated that this is a matter of trying to provide complete transparency, to not only selection committee executive sessions, but also when the Board is in executive session regarding capital contractual matters. Mr. DeFeo added that this will not include any personnel issues or student issues where the executive session would be recorded.

Mr. Winters stated that since he has served on the Board, there have been a couple of instances where, if the executive sessions had been recorded, and after the contract was awarded, to have been able to release the recording, it would have allowed, “a lot of clarification as to why the Board did what it did and it would have made a lot of sense to a lot of people.” Again, keeping in mind that the recording would remain sealed until a contract was awarded. Mr. Winters added that if there is no impediment to the recording of executive session and later releasing the recording, it would do a lot of service and provide transparency for the decisions the Board makes. Should there be proprietary information shared in the executive session, that would be redacted. At the appropriate time, the recording could be released to the media and the public at large to reflect the Board’s decision making processes and provide complete transparency.

Mr. Duff shared a draft of the proposed changes to this policy, which states to ensure that audio recordings are made of executive session discussions by selection committees and the Board in connection with facilities and other capital related matters, which distinguishes this provision from student appeals and personnel matters. This is limited to facilities and other capital related contractual type matters only. Mr. Duff further stated this shall include discussions by selection committees and the Board in connection with facilities and other capital related matters upon which the Board may act. Copies of such recordings, or at the District’s option, transcripts thereof, are to be made available to the public after official action is taken by the Board regarding the facilities or other capital related matters. All proprietary or other confidential information contained in or on such recordings or transcripts shall, as permitted by law, be deleted or redacted prior to release or disclosure. This provision may be placed in Board Governance OE-9, as a new Section 3. OE-9 deals with communicating with the public. Discussion was held regarding if the Board desires to place a dollar threshold on this provision or to

allow this to apply to all facilities and other capital related matters. Ms. Graham asked if recording the executive sessions would set a precedence and if there are other Districts who are recording executive sessions. Mr. Duff stated that he is not aware of other Districts who are handling executive sessions in this manner. Ms. Todd stated that if we are going to record certain executive sessions, it needs to be stated exactly what is to be recorded.

Mr. DeFeo stated that a final draft of this recommendation to Board Governance will be brought to a Committee of the Whole soon.

### **C. Facilities Committee Report**

Mr. DeFeo provided a report from the Facilities Committee meeting held earlier in the day, as Mr. DeFeo led the Facilities Committee meeting due to Mr. James' absence.

Conway Area School Facilities – Some of the Conway schools were built in the 1950's and there are many needs related to the facilities. A preliminary discussion was held about the possibility of new schools in the Conway area. Facilities staff/Joe Burch have been asked to come back with enrollment information.

Doug Shaw Stadium – Mr. DeFeo noted that this item was discussed in the Facilities Committee and he will also address the item listed under Discussion, 4.E, Doug Shaw Stadium Renovation – City of Myrtle Beach Letter, at this same time. The Facilities Committee, without taking an official vote, basically said to Facilities and to our staff, to negotiate with the City of Myrtle Beach based on the contract we have with them, and to come back with a recommendation. The letter from Wayne Gray shared that the City of Myrtle Beach is financing the entire project with a 20-year bond. If the District decides to do anything, we can participate in the bond without having to do any credit with them, but just have an agreement. Should the Board participate to the full amount, it would come to approximately \$160,000 a year for 20 years. Anything less than that would be participating in whatever degree the Board decides.

1) New Socastee Area Middle School – Change Order Requests – This is a request for additional funds for soil remediation / site stabilization work at the new middle school in the Socastee attendance area. Change Order #8 has an estimated cost of \$936,642.00 for aggregate piers / added general conditions and Change Order #11 has an estimated cost of \$1,597,965.15 for site work allowance overage for unsuitable soil remediation.

2) Donation of Loris Education Center Building to the City of Loris – This item was removed from the agenda during the approval of the agenda vote under Item 1.C above.

### **D. Recommendation for School Name and Colors for the New St. James Area Intermediate School**

Mr. Burch shared that this is a recommendation from the St. James Area New Intermediate School Ad-Hoc Naming Committee to name the new intermediate school, St. James Intermediate School, and to adopt the same colors as St. James High School. The Committee will make a recommendation for a mascot at a later date. This will be on the agenda under Business at the next Board meeting.

### **E. Doug Shaw Stadium Renovation**

This item was discussed during the discussion held under Item 4.C above.

### **F. Monitoring Reports**

1) OE-10 Instructional Program – Ms. Myrick shared highlights from the OE-10 Monitoring Report and offered to respond to any questions.

2) OE-13 Facilities Quarterly Report – Mr. Wolfe stated that a report was provided and offered to respond to any questions.

3) R-7 College and Career Readiness – Information was provided in the Board packet and Mr. Boyd highlighted information from the report.

4) R-8 Perception of Stakeholders – Mr. Boyd highlighted information from the report and offered to answer any questions.

**Recess** – Mr. DeFeo asked for a motion for the Board to take a five minute break.

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Timms for the Board to adjourn for a break. The motion carried and the Board recessed at 7:02 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Morreale to re-enter into open session. The motion carried and the Board returned to open session at 7:15 p.m.

#### **G. Three-year Projection for Facilities (Athletic and Academic) Based on FCI Scores**

Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Turner shared information from the three-year projection for facilities, athletic and academic, based on FCI scores. Mr. Turner shared information from the facilities report and answered specific questions on the athletic facilities. The plan for Facilities staff is to bring forth recommendations for the next three years at an upcoming Board meeting.

#### **H. South Carolina School Board's Association – Certification of Assembly Delegates**

As of this time, Ray Winters, Janice Morreale, Janet Graham, and Kathy Richardson plan to attend the South Carolina School Boards Association Delegate Assembly. Mr. DeFeo noted that the delegates will be split equally between those attending, and should there be any extra delegates after being split among those attending, any other votes shall go to the Board member with service seniority.

#### **Board Comments**

Ms. Graham thanked and commended her fellow Board members for coming to the aide of people in the Conway area by contributing portions of their Educational Funds to the schools in the Conway area.

Mr. DeFeo shared that during the Hurricane, our Superintendent had to serve as CEO. There is no time for Board meetings and discussions. Decisions have to be made without advance notice. Mr. DeFeo thanked Dr. Maxey for the excellent job he did in running the District and organizing everything. He also thanked the many others including, but not limited to, bus drivers, personnel who prepared 9,000 meals at the evacuation shelters, the people who opened and maintained the shelters and cleaned them afterwards. We need to thank the personnel who worked through this Hurricane and for the organization that the Superintendent provided. He kept the Board informed with thorough emails, causing the Board to feel very informed. Mr. DeFeo stated the transfer into evacuation status, shelter status, and as quickly as possible, back-to-school status was led by our Superintendent and thanked him for his efforts.

Ms. Timms thanked the Superintendent for his actions related to Hurricane Matthew, which went beyond her expectations of his responsibilities, noting that we also have a very dedicated staff. Thanks were given to Mark Wolfe and the Facilities staff.

Ms. Todd noted that when our schools are open as shelters, our principals and other staff have to come in to open the shelters and keep them running. Many of our staff had damage with their own homes, but continued to serve the people in Horry County. The Board thanks them for their service.

Ms. Graham shared that our when our students returned to school, they took up food and non-perishables for the communities that were in need, so we are doing things right in Horry County.

#### **I. Superintendent's Evaluation Format**

Mr. DeFeo stated that this discussion is occurring in public as part of the Board's full transparency to everything they do. The actual evaluation is a personnel matter, although the results will be public. In deciding how to provide a format in which this will be done needs to be discussed in public. The Board has looked at a format based on the Board's Governance and evaluating in each of those areas. Mr. DeFeo asked if anyone had thoughts, questions, or additions. The Board has the final say and can change the evaluation process. This process is just about the Superintendent's evaluation. Ms. Heniford stated that there are some guideline structures that she would like to be able to evaluate that she did not see included in the recommendation. Ms. Heniford will notify Mr. DeFeo and Dr. Maxey of her request.

#### **J. Superintendent's Report**

1) Hurricane Matthew Recovery Efforts – Dr. Maxey shared that we appreciate the praise of staff for their efforts before, during, and after Hurricane Matthew. Dr. Maxey stated, as he has many times before, that our greatest resource is our people. They do an excellent job, and when duty calls, they do an excellent job. At our next meeting, in lieu of our Board dinner, Dr. Maxey noted there will be a reception to acknowledge all the people who worked very hard during Hurricane Matthew. The Board is invited to participate in the reception. Dr. Maxey highlighted information and statistics related to the Hurricane. Mark Wolfe shared pictures and information on the damages to our facilities.

2) S.C. Law Regarding Student Make-up Days {Section 59-1-425 (B) and (C)} – Prior to May 7, 2015, school make-up days were approached very differently. It was not spelled out in the law and it was possible to get the Legislature to forgive days. Current State law has a very specific set of directions. Communication from the State Department of Education is for us to put the law into action for the current make-up days. Key components of the law state that all school days missed must be made up. A waiver may be granted by the local board of trustees to make-up three or fewer days, but only after the first three days missed have been made up. Schools operating on a 4 x 4 block schedule shall make every effort to make up the missed days during the semester they were missed. Horry County's high schools do operate on a 4 x 4 block schedule. The State Department of Education provided a graphic to help explain the requirements as relates to making up missed days. The first three days missed must be made up. Days 4, 5, and 6, with a majority vote, may be forgiven by the local board of trustees. Days 7, 8, and 9, our Board, by majority vote, may petition the State Board of Education to waive those days. Beyond day 9, it will have to go to the State Legislature.

Last Wednesday, the Executive Cabinet, being all of the Chief Officers and Dr. Maxey, along with the Superintendent's Principal Cabinet, met to discuss what we should do about the make-up days considering the law. The group came to the consensus that the make-up days should be: November 23

(the day before Thanksgiving and was formerly a day that schools and offices were closed), January 2 (was at the end of winter break, was a student holiday, and a 246-day employee workday), and January 13 (formerly a student holiday and a school workday). January 12 previously was a 2 ½ hour early dismissal day to allow high school teachers time to grade exams and record grades to be ready to begin school on Tuesday, as Monday is a student holiday. With the addition of January 13 as a school day, the 2 ½ hour early dismissal will be moved from Thursday, January 12, to Friday, January 13. We will be looking at what make-up needs to occur for employees.

## **5. BUSINESS**

### **A. Advisory Board Appointments**

**Board Action:** Ms. Todd made a recommendation to reappoint Rosalyn Perez to the Myrtle Beach Advisory Board for one additional year, and Christopher Butler as the Community Member for another one year term. The recommendation was seconded by Mr. Winters and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

### **B. New Socastee Area Middle School – Change Order Requests**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Timms to approve Change Order Request #8 with an estimated cost of \$936,642.00 for aggregate piers/added general conditions and Change Order #11 with an estimated cost of \$1,597,965.15 for site work allowance overage for unsuitable soil remediation. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

### **C. Consideration of Funding Approval for Improvements to 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Ocean Drive**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Heniford to approve and provide funding to the City of North Myrtle Beach for implementation of improvements to 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Ocean Drive. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

### **D. Appointment of Committee Members for New School Naming Committee**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Ms. Timms to appoint members of the School Naming Committee for the new Socastee area middle school. Those recommended include principals, members of the Advisory Board, a Student Advisory Council member, the parent of a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, and Community members Linda Pickett, Pam Butler, Derrick Spivey, and Steve Alger. Two Forestbrook Middle School students, Kenady Bell and Merritt Welch, are also being recommended. Two of the Community members are retired educators, a parent from Forestbrook Middle School, and another Community member from the Lakewood area. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morreale and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Ms. Morreale to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

### **A. Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law;**

- B. Education Fund Distribution – District 3;**
- C. Education Fund Distribution – District 4;**
- D. Education Fund Distribution – District 6;**
- E. Education Fund Distribution – District 7;**
- F. Education Fund Distribution – District 9; and**
- G. Education Fund Distribution – District 10**

The motion was seconded by Ms. Timms and the Consent Agenda items were approved as presented. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Ms. Timms and seconded by Mr. Cox to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

#### **BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

A summary of the responses follows.

Respectfully submitted,



Rhonda Snowden  
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and  
Horry County Schools' Board of Education

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ November 7, 2016



**Board Performance Indicators - 9 Responses**

**10/24/16**

*5= strongly agree, 4 = agree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 2 = disagree, 1 = strongly disagree*

*Date*

**Agenda**

Reports are clear, well prepared and provide adequate information for decision making.

**43 / 4.78**

The majority of agenda items focus on our core purpose.

**43 / 4.78**

**Meetings**

Our meetings are businesslike, results-oriented and we function like a team.

**44 / 4.89**

Our discussions are cordial and well balanced (not dominated by just a few members.)

**44 / 4.89**

**Community**

Board members make reasonable efforts to inform themselves about education through school visits, professional meetings and outside reading.

**43 / 4.78**

Board members meet reasonable expectations of involvement by participating in school and other public meetings as representatives of the Board.

**44 / 4.89**

Board members efficiently address issues and concerns brought to them by the public.

**44 / 4.89**

**Superintendent Relationship**

The Board seeks and values the input of the Superintendent as issues are discussed and decisions are made.

**44 / 4.89**

**Work / Policies**

Board decisions are based on thoughtful analysis of available information.

**43 / 4.78**

Board members balance the issues of their district with the needs of the entire school district.

**42 / 4.67**

The Board places emphasis on building consensus among members through open and honest communication.

**43 / 4.78**

**Comments:**

There were no comments.