

# HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## ***MINUTES BOARD MEETING District Office March 21, 2016***

The following persons were present:

### **Board of Education**

Joe DeFeo, Chairman	Neil James	Sherrie Todd
Jeffrey Garland	Janice Morreale	Ray Winters
Janet Graham	John Poston	
Holly Heniford	Pam Timms	

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

Velna Allen	Ben Hardee	Jamie Nininger
Jeanna Allen	Teal Harding	Bert Owen
Mary Anderson	Leon Hayes	Vann Pennell
Tracy Bellamy	Robert Homer	Beverly Pilkey
Natasha Best	Charles Hucks, Jr.	Sandy Reyes
Elissa Blosser	Connie Huddle	Lucas Richardson
Daryl Brown	Jill Jeter	Angela Rush
Dottie Brown	Kelly Johnson	Shauna Schubiger
John Cahill	James LaPier	April Scott
Anna Carroll	HT Lee	Scott Scrivner
Dena Chatfield	Cindy Magrath	Judy Shelley
Carolyn Chestnut	Brett Mahaffey	Rhonda Snowden
David Cupolo	Jerrin Martus	Judy Stall
Deron Dolfi	Rick Maxey	David Stoudenmire
Kristin Dowling	Barbara McGinnis	Joey Trail
Laura Farmer	Valerie McNeill	Tammy Trulove
John Gardner	Tammy Moreland	Kelly Vargo
Reggie Gasque	Paula Mullis	John Washburn
Kenny Generette	Boone Myrick	Mark Wolfe

*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 MARCH 21, 2016, AT 6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### **A. Invocation**

Mr. Winters offered the invocation.

#### **B. Presentation of Colors/Pledge of Allegiance – CHS Navy JROTC**

Conway High Schools' Navy JROTC was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Winters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. DeFeo shared that discussion of filling the vacant Board seat would not be discussed tonight. The Board seems to be in favor of holding off until the deadline to file to run has passed. Should there only be a candidate or candidates for one party, we would wait until the appropriate primary election to determine the choice of the voters. Should a candidate or candidates from both parties file, then we will proceed with the process as outlined by Board policy to select a replacement for the vacant Board seat.

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Ms. Timms and seconded by Mr. James to approve the Agenda. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

**D. Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2016**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Mr. Winters and seconded by Ms. Heniford to approve the March 7, 2016, Board Minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously and the Minutes were approved. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

**2. RECOGNITIONS**

**A. Palmetto's Finest Winner: St. James High School**

St. James High School was recognized for having been named a 2016 Palmetto's Finest School, after having been named as a finalist in 2015.

**B. Vann Pennell – St. James High School – 2016 Region VII-AAA Principal of the Year**

Mr. Pennell was recognized for having been named the Region VII-AAA Principal of the Year for 2016 by the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association.

**C. AAA State Champion – 145 lbs. Division: Mr. Michael Mewhorter**

Michael Mewhorter, St. James High School student, was recognized for winning the State AAA Championship for wrestling in the 145 pound weight class.

**D. State Athletic Director of the Year: Mr. John Cahill**

John Cahill was recognized for having been named the State Athletic Director of the Year for 2016 by the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association.

**E. Top Five Finalist for the State Teacher of the Year: Mr. Joey Trail**

Joey Trail, a teacher at Forestbrook Middle School, has been named as a top five finalist for the State Teacher of the Year. The winner will be announced on April 20 in Columbia.

**F. First LEGO League State Champions: Ocean Bay Middle School Roborays**

Ocean Bay Middle School's Roborays LEGO Robotics Team was recognized for taking the championship award at the First LEGO League State Championship. They will now advance to the national championship, the First World LEGO League Festival, which is an international competition to be held on April 27-30 in St. Louis.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one signed up or came forward to speak during public comments.

### **4. DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Facilities Committee Report – Mr. James**

Mr. James shared information from the Facilities Committee meeting held earlier today. The Committee received a report from Robbie Ferris of First Floor on the status of our schools. Mr. James added that the Facilities Committee hopes to make a recommendation to the full Board at their next meeting on April 18 that the District proceed with hiring personnel to oversee project management. Mr. James stated that information would be provided to the Board in advance to allow discussion of this item during the Board meeting. In addition, the Facilities Committee asked District staff to look at the Conway area projects. That information was provided to the Facilities Committee and included an update on projects that were deemed to be of importance based on safety and health. There are plans to replace the air conditioning system at South Conway Elementary. This should be completed in the first quarter of next year. We are working on the air conditioning for Whittemore Park Middle, which should be completed in the summer of 2016. Staff is also looking into replacing the air conditioning system or whether to do a full heating and air system replacement for the gym at Conway High School. A recommendation will be made at a future meeting on what is best for Conway High School. There are also many other needs across our District at a cost of about \$260 million. We do not have all of those funds readily available, so we are prioritizing our needs. The staff has also been asked to begin looking at our next building phase. Our current construction plan gets us through the 2017-18 school year. Horry County is continuing to grow rapidly and we need to start addressing future needs. In that identification of future needs, we will be looking at the aging infrastructure and capacity needs, and try to come up with a plan that the whole Board and County can endorse as our next phase of building projects.

#### **B. Update – Status of New Socastee Middle School Site – Mr. Brown**

Mr. Brown shared that progress continues to be made on the purchase of property for the new Socastee area middle school. The seller is finishing work on the design of the road expansion, which is required before Horry County will approve the property plat for recording. As soon as the plat is approved for recording, we should be able to close on the property very soon thereafter.

#### **C. Budget Update – Mr. Gardner**

Mr. Gardner provided an update on the status of the budget situation for the coming year. We have been notified that teachers are to receive a 2% cost of living increase. The cost for this COLA is approximately \$4 million. The State has said they will cover one-half of that cost.

#### **D. Consideration of Notice of Intent to Award Contracts for Additions/Renovations via Integrated Project Delivery for Midland Elementary, North Myrtle Beach Middle, and North Myrtle Beach High Schools – Mr. Wolfe**

Mark Wolfe shared that the District is requesting the Board to authorize District staff to issue a Notice of Intent to Award, and upon successful conclusion of the standard 16-day protest period, enter into contracts with the designated general contractors for pre-construction and construction services for additions/renovations via Integrated Project Delivery for Midland Elementary, North Myrtle Beach Middle, and North Myrtle Beach High Schools. Pre-construction fees are: NMBHS – HG Reynolds Construction - \$45,000 (Aiken, SC); MES – FBI Construction - \$78,000 (Conway, SC); and NMBMS –

Contracts Construction - \$38,000 (Ballentine, SC). Construction fees will be determined for Board approval after pre-construction and design work has been completed.

**E. Instructional Materials Adoption Recommendations for 2016 – 2017 – Ms. Myrick**

Ms. Myrick stated that information has been provided in the Board packets on adoption of instructional materials that have been recommended by the committees.

**F. Funding Support for Socastee High School, DECA Competitive Events Program, April 23-27, 2016, in Nashville, Tennessee**

Dr. Maxey addressed the request that the Board consider approving additional funds to assist with the travel costs involved for fourteen students who took first place in the State DECA Leadership Competitions. These students will be competing in the national competition on April 23-27, 2016, in Nashville, Tennessee. The total projected cost is \$20,985.90. According to District policy, "National Level Student Competition Travel Funding," the District administration can award \$3,000 for the competition. Due to the total request being over \$10,000, it is being requested that the Board consider awarding additional funds to assist in covering the expenses the school will incur with this competition. Mr. DeFeo shared that Ms. Loftus' Education Fund monies have not been designated and he would like for the Board to consider granting those funds in Ms. Loftus' honor towards the expenses of this trip. Mr. DeFeo would also like to contribute his fund for District 4 towards this expense. Mr. DeFeo stated this will be voted on at our next meeting, and the Education Fund is usually under the Consent Agenda.

**G. Review of Board Committee Assignments – Mr. DeFeo**

Mr. DeFeo offered information to clarify which Board members had been appointed to serve on the various Board Committees. Mr. Garland serves on the Finance Committee. Mrs. Todd is on the Technology Committee as a second committee. Mr. Winters is on the Human Resources Committee as a second committee. The Board Secretary will share the updated Committee assignments with Board members in a Boardgram. Mr. DeFeo shared that Board members may serve on more than one committee. Should a Board member wish to serve on a particular Committee, please notify Mr. DeFeo.

**H. Superintendent's Report**

**1) Lead Higher**

Lead Higher is a national collaborative of the Equal Opportunity Schools, College Board, and IB. Dr. Maxey was contacted in November, and based upon our student performance on AP scores, they wanted to offer us an invitation to apply for a matching grant to work with our District to provide professional development and strategies to get a larger scale involvement and participation of historically underrepresented groups in advanced placement programs. The cost to the District will be \$24,900. We will not need to request funding approval from the Board, as we have funding that we can earmark for this purpose. Administration met recently with the superintendent in residence to ask questions about Lead Higher and how our students could benefit. They completed an analysis and that information was shared with our principals. Carolina Forest High has indicated an interest in participating to hopefully increase the number of historically underrepresented groups in advanced placement programs at their school. Having one school with an interest will give us an opportunity to pilot the program and determine how successful it is and we can determine the return on investment. If the program is successful and would be appropriate to replicate, we can bring that before the Board.

**2) AdvancED Accreditation Exit Report: May 4, 2016, 3:30 PM**

The AdvancED Accreditation Exit Report will take place on May 4, 2016, at 3:30 p.m. This is a called Board meeting. AdvancED expects Board members to be present for this meeting.

## **5. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Ms. Heniford and seconded by Mr. James to move into Executive Session for discussion of the following items. The motion carried and the Board moved into Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

### **A. Discussion of the Employment of Personnel**

### **B. Discussion of Contractual Arrangements Concerning Auditing Services**

### **C. Discussion of Contractual Arrangements Concerning Legal Services**

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Ms. Heniford to return to open session. The motion carried and the Board reconvened in open session. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

## **6. BUSINESS**

### **A. Personnel Recommendations – Dr. Maxey**

Administration recommends appointment of the following three principals for the 2016-17 school year: Forestbrook Middle School – Beverly Holt-Pilkey; North Myrtle Beach Middle School – James LaPier; and Ocean Bay Middle School – Barbara McGinnis. The principals were introduced and congratulated.

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Ms. Todd to approve the principal recommendations as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

### **B. Approval of Employment Contracts for 2016-17 – Ms. Anderson**

Ms. Anderson shared that it is the time of year when we submit our contracts for approval by the Board. State statute requires that contracts be given to our professional employees by April 15.

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Ms. Timms and seconded by Mr. Winters to approve the employment contracts for 2016-17 as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

### **C. Participation in Child Development Education Program (CDEP) – Mr. Garland**

Mr. Garland shared that it is the recommendation of the Finance Committee that our District not apply to participate in the State's CDEP program nor accept CDEP funding for the 2016-17 school year.

**Board Action:** The recommendation from the Finance Committee serves as the motion and second. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

**D. Consideration of Additional Funding for Facilities Equipment Budget – Mr. Brown**

Mr. Brown shared that this request has been discussed in both the Finance Committee and Facilities Committee meetings. The administration recommends that additional funding be provided for Building Services, Fleet Vehicles, and Maintenance Equipment portions of the Equipment Fund in the total amount of \$581,000. The funding source will be the residual fund from the Phase III/IV Building Program. This action is coming as a recommendation from the Facilities and Finance Committees.

**Board Action:** The recommendation of the Finance and Facilities Committees serves as the motion and second. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

**E. Waccamaw Elementary School Mascot – Mr. Poston**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Mr. Poston to approve the change in the mascot to the Wildcats and the change in the school colors to red, black, and white at Waccamaw Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Ms. Timms and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

**F. Grant Superintendent Authority to Approve Employment Contracts – Mr. DeFeo**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Mr. Garland that we conditionally accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the contracts of two (2) Continuing Contract employees not be renewed for the 2016-17 school year, subject to the Board's duty to review the matter on the merits in a hearing pursuant to South Carolina law. The motion was seconded by Mr. James and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Mr. Garland that we accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the contracts of three (3) Induction Contract employees not be renewed for the 2016-17 school year, pursuant to Section 59-26-40 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. The motion was seconded by Mr. Winters and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

**G. Consideration of Notice of Intent to Award Contracts for Additions/Renovations via Integrated Project Delivery for Midland Elementary, North Myrtle Beach Middle, and North Myrtle Beach High Schools**

**Board Action:** A motion was made by Mr. James to authorize District staff to issue a Notice of Intent to Award as set forth on the proposed agenda action form. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garland and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law
- B. Monitoring Report: OE-1 Global Operational Expectations
- C. Monitoring Report: R-5 Other Academic Disciplines
- D. Education Fund Distribution – District 7

E. Education Fund Distribution – District 11

The motion carried unanimously 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 Mr. Winters and seconded by Ms. Morreale to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:42 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhonda Snowden". The script is cursive and fluid.

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

Approved: April 18, 2016

## Board Performance Indicators - 9 Responses

**March 21, 2016**

*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.

**41 / 4.56**

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.

**43 / 4.78**

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.

**41 / 4.56**

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

**40 / 4.44**

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

**40 / 4.44**

### Superintendent Relationship

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

**42 / 4.67**

### Work / Policies

Board decisions are based on thoughtful analysis of available information.

**41 / 4.56**

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

**40 / 4.44**

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

**41 / 4.56**

### Comments:

There were no comments.