

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES
BOARD WORK SESSION/BOARD MEETING
District Office
February 8, 2016

The following persons were present:

Board of Education

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

Horry County Schools' Staff

Velna Allen	Traci Hogan	Angela Rush
Mary Anderson	Charles Hucks	Donna Satterley
Elissa Blosser	Angela Huggins	April Scott
Edward Boyd	Natalie Hunnell	Scott Scrivner
Daryl Brown	Robin Jones	Heather Sheehan
Dottie Brown	H.T. Lee	Rhonda Snowden
Dena Chatfield	Ruth Lilly	Jackie Stanley
Carolyn Chestnut	Rick Maxey	David Stoudenmire
Charles Conant	Valerie McNeill	Diane Thompson
Edi Cox	Boone Myrick	Vicki Underwood
John Gardner	Beverly Pilkey	John Washburn
Kenneth Generette	Mark Porter	Melissa Westbury
Roger Gray	Ben Prince	Kristin Wilson
Tanya Gray	Sandy Reyes	Mark Wolfe
Ben Hardee	Lucas Richardson	Jim Wright
Teal Harding	Buffy Roberts	

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 FEBRUARY 8, 2016, AT 6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER

A. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order. Mr. Winters gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. James to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

C. Approval of Minutes – January 25, 2016

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. James to approve the January 25, 2016, Minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

2. DISCUSSION

A. Human Resources Committee Report

Mr. Cox gave a report from the Human Resources Committee meeting held earlier in the day. The Committee discussed the need for an additional athletic trainer in the 3-A and 4-A schools. Funding options for this will be discussed with Mr. Gardner before bringing a recommendation to the full Board. The Committee also discussed at-will employees. Mr. Cox shared that the methodology for recommending at-will employees will change. The supervisor of any at-will employee being recommended must match the specific skill set and approvals must go through a three-tier approval process. Mr. Garland shared concerns regarding at-will employees and wanted to be sure we do not disallow at-will employees given the projected forthcoming teacher shortage. Mr. James asked that the three-tiered approach be shared at the next Board meeting.

B. General Fund Budget Development

Mr. Gardner shared that this is a preliminary overview of what we are planning for the 2016-17 budget. Information about revenue increases and anticipated upcoming costs was shared. The operational costs of the new schools is not included. Administration will be working with the Finance Committee to identify those costs, which will be shared with the Board at a later time. The State Superintendent has requested an additional \$150 per weighted pupil. For Horry County Schools, this will be an additional \$7.2 million. The State has not completed their budget process, therefore, this is not a certainty at this time. Our general fund revenue appears to be down, which is due in part because we have not received the January tax collection information from the County. Administration will keep updating the Board as we progress through this process.

Mr. Gardner shared information on funding sources and the budget requests being presented from Finance, as did other Chief Officers for their respective divisions, including Instruction, Instructional Support, Human Resources, and Support Services. Specifics of the requests were shown on the budget documents included with the Board agenda and provided to Board members. Following the discussion on signing bonuses, Mr. DeFeo requested we gather information on where we stand as a District in comparison to teacher salaries in other districts in South Carolina and to share that at the next Board meeting. It was noted by Mr. Brown that the correct figure on the furniture request should be \$203,000 rather than \$205,000. Ms. Heniford asked for a projection of the cost savings on fuel since the price of gas has dropped dramatically. Mr. Brown will work with Mr. Wright and Mr. Gardner to see if we can come up with an estimated savings and have that information available at the next Board meeting. During discussion of the request for funds for equipment, Mr. Cox asked if we have considered leasing versus purchasing. Mr. Wolfe shared that he has completed an analysis on leasing versus purchasing and will provide that information.

Mr. Gardner provided a Preliminary General Fund Recap. Ms. Heniford requested to see the trend over the last few years. Mr. James requested that the District prioritize the budget requests from most important to least important as we move forward in the budget process so the Board can have an idea of what the administration deems most important.

C. Monitoring Report: R-4 Social Studies

Ms. Myrick noted that the R-4 Social Studies Monitoring Report and data have been provided.

D. Monitoring Report: OE-4 Personnel Administration

Ms. Anderson noted that the OE-4 Personnel Administration Monitoring Report has been provided.

E. Superintendent's Report

1) EEDA College and Career Readiness Grant – Ms. Myrick shared that Conway Middle School has been awarded the Education Economic Development Grant to prepare college and career ready students, with an emphasis on STEM. This is in line with the work we are planning for the Conway cluster. The title of the grant for our District is SPARK, which stands for Stem Programs Accelerate Real World Knowledge. There is a three-year period for the grant and it is approximately \$320,000. The targeted group for the grant is students at risk in 6th and 7th grades. There is an emphasis on hands-on exploration and collaboration with students.

2) FIRST Palmetto Regional Robotics Competition – February 25 – 27, 2016, at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center – Dr. Maxey shared that this fits perfectly with STEM education. This is not just about robotics, it is about teamwork. Dr. Maxey encouraged those who could attend, to do so. We had a team that was successful last year from Carolina Forest High who went on to national competition.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Discussion of Contractual Arrangements Concerning Legal Services

B. Discussion of Potential Property Purchase

C. Discussion of the Employment of Personnel

A motion was made by Ms. Morreale and seconded by Mr. James to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of the items listed above. The motion carried and the Board moved into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING

4. BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Ms. Graham to enter into Special-Called meeting. The motion carried and the Board reconvened in open session at 8:07 p.m. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

A. Allocation of Funding for Pee Dee Elementary School Playground Surface Repair

This is a recommendation from the Facilities Committee to approve \$119,700 to restore the outdoor play areas to a safe and uniform surface condition. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

B. Blue Jacket Road

The Facilities Committee concurs with the recommendation of administration to repair Blue Jacket Road, which is owned by Horry County Schools and runs behind Aynor High School allowing access to the athletic fields. This project will include drainage improvements and repaving of the road. This would involve installation of drainage pipes, a new sidewalk, a retaining wall behind the sidewalk, fencing and a gate, and asphalt at a cost of \$408,100. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

C. Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Maxey made two personnel recommendations to the Board, to include the appointment of April Scott as the Executive Director of Middle Schools, and Mr. Mark Porter as a Director of Human Resources. Dr. Maxey also shared that Ms. Connie Huddle will be retiring at the end of this school year from Ocean Bay Middle School. This will leave us with three middle school vacancies, which will be posted soon. A motion was made by Mr. Poston to approve the recommendation to appoint April Scott as the Executive Director of Middle Schools and Mark Porter as a Director for Human Resources. The motion was seconded by Ms. Timms and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Ms. Timms to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:

- A. Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law
- B. Monitoring Report: OE-7 Asset Protection
- C. Monitoring Report: OE-13 Facilities
- D. Monitoring Report: R-3 Science
- E. Education Fund Distribution – District 6
- F. Education Fund Distribution – District 7

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

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Ms. Timms to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 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: February 22, 2016

Board Performance Indicators - 9 Responses

February 8, 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.

44 / 4.89

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

(8 responses)

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

39 / 4.88

Community

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

44 / 4.89

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

42 / 4.67

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

43 / 4.78

Superintendent Relationship

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

45 / 5.0

Work / Policies

Board decisions are based on thoughtful analysis of available information.

44 / 4.89

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

44 / 4.89

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

45 / 5.0

Comments:

There were no comments.