HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

M I N U T E S
BOARD WORK SESSION/BOARD MEETING
District Office
December 14, 2015

The following persons were present:

Board of Education

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

Horry County Schools' Staff

Jennifer Ainsworth	Teal Harding	Ben Prince
Velna Allen	Sharon Harris	Lucas Richardson
Mary Anderson	Becky Hinson	Angela Rush
Bobbi Antonucci	Traci Hogan	Scott Scrivner
Elissa Blosser	Natalie Hunnell	Heather Sheehan
Edward Boyd	Jill Jeter	Judy Shelley
Daryl Brown	Robin Jones	Rhonda Snowden
Dottie Brown	H.T. Lee	Judy Stall
Joe Burch	Ruth Lilly	David Stoudenmire
Carolyn Chestnut	Ebony Livingston	Diane Thompson
Meagen Cox	Cindy Magrath	Tammy Trulove
Martha Fout	Rick Maxey	John Washburn
Kenny Generette	Paula Mullis	Kristen Wilson
Bo Gorcesky	Boone Myrick	Mark Wolfe
Roger Gray	Jamie Nininger	Stephanie Yancey
Ben Hardee	Beverly Pilkey	

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 DECEMBER 14, 2015, AT 6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER

A. Invocation

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order. Mr. Poston gave the invocation.

B. Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance

Myrtle Beach High School Navy JROTC presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. DeFeo stated that Items E and F under Discussion are being removed. A motion was made by Mrs. Graham to approve the agenda with the stated change. The motion was seconded by Mr. James and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

D. Approval of Minutes – November 23, 2015
A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Mrs. Graham to approve the November 23, 2015, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously, The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Patricia Milley addressed the Board regarding the importance of teaching the whole child.

B. Michael was called. He had signed up online to address the Board prior to the Board meeting. He did not come forward when called.

C. Beckie Johnson was called. She had signed up online prior to the Board meeting to address the Board. She did not come forward when called.

D. Bobby Chandler addressed the Board regarding class size.

3. DISCUSSION

A. Reports of the Joint Human Resources/Finance Committees on November 30, 2015, and Finance Committee on December 9, 2015
1) 2016-2017 Personnel Allocation Formula

Mr. Garland, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, reported from the Joint Human Resources/Finance Committees meeting held on November 30, 2015. Mr. Garland stated that it is the recommendation of the Joint Committee to increase class size at the middle and high school levels by one student over the next two years. He stated that they also discussed the budget assumptions and parameters and Title I Carryover Funds. Mr. Garland added that this is for discussion only at this time, with no action to be taken.

Mr. Garland further shared that at the December 9, 2015, Finance Committee meeting, administration offered some cost savings from transfers on how personnel are allocated with taking it out of General Fund and putting it into Title I, and from a grant received this year. Based upon this information, it is the recommendation of the Finance Committee not to increase class size.

Mr. Poston thanked Ms. Milley and Mr. Chandler for bringing things that are relevant to our meeting tonight. He added that he firmly believes our discussion should be about how we can reduce class size and wishes the Board would put a commitment behind protecting student/teacher ratios in Horry County Schools, adding that this is the single most important factor for the success of our students, not just academically, but in each of the four areas Ms. Milley addressed in her presentation (spiritually, socially, mentally, and physically).

Mr. DeFeo stated that after further discussions, he supports not increasing class size. He feels we should end the discussion of increasing class size with a connection to PDL. Either we are going to do PDL or we are not, but it should not be tied to class size.

Ms. Heniford, Mr. Winters, and Mrs. Todd voiced their support not to increase class size.

Mr. James shared that the notion to increase class size came about as a compromise for proceeding with the PDL initiative. He believes we all recognize the benefits of the PDL and he thinks that program stands on its own, but we still have this existing motion that keeps coming up. Mr. James asked what prudent steps the Board could take to rescind that agreement and to state that we will or will not add the PDLs to additional classes next year, and we will no longer have the two attached.

Mr. DeFeo added that he thinks the motion should include that we will not increase class size and also will remove the former addition of two in each class, so that this will be finalized. Should an increase in class size be brought up in the future, it would not be tied to PDL.

Because the recommendations come from the Board Committees, motions are not needed. Mr. DeFeo asked Mr. Generette to word the motions accordingly, and to also include the new motion as discussed above.

2) Short-term Capital Plan Bond Resolutions
   a. General Obligation Bond Issue Resolution

   b. Special Obligation Bond Issue Resolution

Mr. Garland reported that the District will need to utilize our 8% bonding capacity to borrow funds to pay for the schools approved to be built. Frannie Heizer was present and shared information on the General Obligation Bond Issue Resolution and the Special Obligation Bond Issue Resolution.

Mr. Garland stated that it is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the Resolutions as presented. Mr. Poston added that there was no hesitation from the Finance Committee to recommend the approval of the Resolutions, but chose not to bring this for action at this meeting due to the volume of information. This will allow Board members additional time to review this matter. This will be a business item on the next Board agenda.

B. Monitoring Report: R-2 Numeracy

Boone Myrick referenced the R-2 Numeracy monitoring report. Mr. Poston noted the downward turn, particularly with EOC tests, and asked if we had insight as to why this may have occurred. Ms. Myrick shared that we have continued to monitor and follow-up, but will look into this further to ascertain if we can determine why the scores dropped for 2014-15.

Mr. Poston asked if information might be provided in future reporting for the upper level mathematics for AP math at the high school level. This would give a sample on upper-level mathematics, as well as a report on SAT math.

Mr. James noted that when looking at the ACE Aspire math for grades 3 – 8, there are as much as four times as many students at the middle school level who are in the category of needing support. Mr. James asked if we have resources and delivery systems that will help to meet these needs. Ms. Myrick shared that we are encouraged by the work that was done this past summer by our staff to modify the consensus maps and common assessments, so they can track and provide support. This coming summer, we will do the same thing again, analyze the results, and make modifications as necessary. We know that Everyday Math at the elementary level has benefitted our students. We have ALEKS math that we hope will improve student skills in math and make a difference.

C. Myrtle Beach Family Learning Center
Mark Wolfe shared that Myrtle Beach Family Learning Center needs to be demolished in order to build the new Myrtle Beach middle school. Great effort has gone into locating suitable space for the current tenants, to include looking for available space within our schools, as well as commercial space in the area. The results are that although there is a lot of space available for lease, they would have to be upfitted to meet the needs we have. Upfitting is a very lengthy process. Mr. Wolfe stated that we believe the most cost-effective and productive way to house tenants of that building will be to do a modular building purchase, and not a lease. Once the modular buildings are no longer needed by the tenants of Myrtle Beach Family Learning Center, the modular buildings can be used in other places, and will be up to code. Not being up to code is the issue we have now with some of our current District portables. Information on cost was provided. The recommendation is to support only those needs of the adult education program located in that facility, which is what Horry County Schools is responsible for. The estimated low range is just over $1 million to $1.3 million.

Mr. James shared that this information has been presented to the Facilities Committee and is a two-fold recommendation. One is that we would only provide space for those programs that are supported by Horry County Schools, and secondly, that we provide from our undesignated reserves the approximately $1 million needed to purchase these modular buildings. The initial purchase for classrooms is approximately $750,000. The additional $250,000 is for expenses related to set-up, canopies, walkways, IT, fire alarms, security systems, etc., that has to be added to bring them to code. The long-term benefit of purchasing is that these buildings can be reused at other locations. Unfortunately, this does not address the needs of all tenants and programs currently in that facility, but feel we cannot afford to provide space for those programs not supported by Horry County Schools.

Ms. Heniford added that the staff made a great effort to find affordable places for the programs and services that are not a part of what we do. They are commended for their efforts.

D. Facilities Department Equipment Budget
Mark Wolfe shared that in the current funding for Horry County Schools, we have an equipment fund that includes six different areas, such as furnishings, equipment for the maintenance department, playgrounds, etc. The particular item on the agenda for tonight has been pulled out because it is a crucial need. Due to student growth in the District, there is a great need for additional furniture. Mr. James shared that due to growth, in order to meet the needs with desks and furnishings, we have overspent the allocated amount by $63,423 this year. To get through the remainder of this year, an additional $145,000 is needed for repairs, desks, furnishings, etc. The recommendation is to grant Facilities an additional $208,423 for the equipment budget. This was presented to the Facilities Committee and is coming as a recommendation to the Board. Mr. James stated that Mr. Gardner had shared that we have $4.8 million left over from previous capital projects. From that, we are recommending $1 million for the Myrtle Beach Family Learning Center, as well as this request.

E. Hiring of Project Management Services for the New Schools
This item was removed from the agenda by a vote of the Board during the approval of the agenda vote.

F. Status of Conway-area Facilities
This item was removed from the agenda by a vote of the Board during the approval of the agenda vote.

G. Superintendent's Report
1) Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
Dr. Maxey shared that a bi-partisan effort occurred last week and was signed into law by the President, which essentially eliminates No Child Left Behind. This approach places the controls at the state and district levels for the most part.

2) Status of State Assessments
Data Recognition Corporation has been awarded the contract by the State to create the new assessment for grades 3 – 8 that will focus on reading and math. The State will continue using the previously used science and social studies assessments. For high school, the ACT was used this past year as the exam for college readiness. Another ACT product, WorkKeys, was used to assess career readiness. WorkKeys is still in place, however, the procurement process for the new high school instrument has not yet been identified. Administration wants to assure the Board that Horry County Schools is continuing to teach students to the standards.

3) Palmetto's Finest Visits
Two of our high schools, St. James High and Carolina Forest High, have received Palmetto's Finest visits and are continuing in that process. We wish them well and hope they advance.

Lastly, Dr. Maxey shared that he recently participated in a recognition ceremony for a young man who is a graduate of Socastee High School. His name is Hunter Renfrow. His dad, Tim Renfrow, is the athletic director for Socastee High, and his mother is a teacher at the school. Hunter has the distinction of being the first Socastee football player to have his jersey retired. We are proud of Mr. Renfrow and wish great things for him in the future.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Mrs. Graham to move into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously and the Board moved into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. to discuss, A. Contractual Arrangements Concerning Legal Services; B. Discussion of Proposed Purchase(s) of Property; C. Discussion of the Employment of Personnel; and D. Discussion of Contract Negotiations for Architectural Services for Midland Elementary and North Myrtle Beach Middle School Additions. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Ms. Timms to return from Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously and the Board returned to open session at 8:37 p.m. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

5. BUSINESS

A. Contractual Arrangements Concerning Legal Services
Mr. DeFeo stated no action would be taken on this item tonight.

B. Potential Purchase(s) of Property
A motion was made by Ms. Timms to authorize the purchase of 23.60 acres of property located in the SayeBrook West Development from JACO Property Investors, LLC, for the amount of $75,000 per acre, to include a one-time Common Area Maintenance payment of $160,987.00, for a total of $1,930,987.00, as

the site for the purpose of constructing and operating a new middle school in the Socastee attendance area. The motion was seconded by Ms. Heniford and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

C. Facilities Department Equipment Budget
A recommendation was made by Mr. James on behalf of the Facilities Committee to approve $208,423 expense for the additional furnishings. This recommendation comes as a motion and second because it comes from a committee. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

D. Myrtle Beach Family Learning Center
A recommendation was made by Mr. James on behalf of the Facilities Committee that the District proceed with allocating a little over $1 million for the procurement of portable classrooms to house the District supported facilities there as the school is being built. This recommendation comes as a motion and second since it comes from a committee. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

E. Consideration and Approval of Negotiated Agreement for Architectural Services for Midland Elementary School and North Myrtle Beach Middle School Additions
Mr. Garland made a motion to approve issuing a notice of selection for contract negotiations with the two highest ranked firms: Pike, McFarland, Hall & Associates, Inc., and D3G Architects, LLC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Heniford. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

F. Personnel Recommendation
Dr. Maxey requested the Board consider approving the appointment of H. T. Lee as the Executive Director of Student Affairs effective July 1, 2016. Ms. Timms made a motion to approve the recommendation as stated. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Graham and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Mrs. Graham to approve the Consent Agenda items which include:

Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law
Monitoring Report: OE-8 Communicating with the Board
Monitoring Report: R-1 Literacy
Education Fund Distributions for Districts 1, 2, 3, and 9
Act 155 Diploma Requests

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 Ms. Heniford and seconded by Mrs. Loftus to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:42 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,

Rhonda Snowden

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

Approved: January 25, 2016

Board Performance Indicators - 11 Responses

12/14/2015
Date

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

Agenda

Reports are clear, well prepared and provide adequate information for decision making.	**48 / 4.37**
The majority of agenda items focus on our core purpose.	**49 / 4.46**

Meetings

Our meetings are businesslike, results-oriented and we function like a team.	**49.5 / 4.50**
Our discussions are cordial and well balanced (not dominated by just a few members.)	**45 / 4.09**

Community

Board members make reasonable efforts to inform themselves about education through school visits, professional meetings and outside reading.	**42 / 3.82**
Board members meet reasonable expectations of involvement by participating in school and other public meetings as representatives of the Board.	**40 / 3.64**
Board members efficiently address issues and concerns brought to them by the public.	**47 / 4.28**

Superintendent Relationship

The Board seeks and values the input of the Superintendent as issues are discussed and decisions are made.	**51 / 4.64**

Work / Policies

Board decisions are based on thoughtful analysis of available information.	**46.5 / 4.23**
Board members balance the issues of their district with the needs of the entire school district.	**49 / 4.46**
The Board places emphasis on building consensus among members through open and honest communication.	**45 / 4.09**

Comments:

There were no comments.