

**HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES**  
**BOARD WORK SESSION/SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**  
**District Office**  
**October 12, 2015**

The following persons were present:

**Board of Education**

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

**Horry County Schools' Staff**

Velna Allen	John Gardner	Dennis McCrary
Mary Anderson	Kenneth Generette	Boone Myrick
Bobbi Antonucci	Kristen Goetzman	Beverly Pilkey
Edward Boyd	Roger Gray	Lucas Richardson
Daryl Brown	Ben Hardee	Angela Rush
Dottie Brown	Sharon Harris	Heather Sheehan
Joe Burch	Ara Heinz	Rhonda Snowden
Dena Chatfield	Charles Hucks, Jr.	Tammy Trulove
Carolyn Chestnut	James LaPier	Kristin Wilson
Janice Christy	H.T. Lee	Mark Wolfe
Edi Cox	Rick Maxey	

*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 12, 2015, AT 6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER**

**A. Invocation**

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Mrs. Graham asked for a moment of silence in honor of Mrs. Flossie Barr, who recently passed away. Mrs. Barr served the District for many years, as did her husband, and a daughter who is currently a teacher in the District. Mrs. Graham then gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. DeFeo stated there are two changes to the agenda. We will have Public Comments following the self-assessment results, and Item 2-D, Selection Committee Report, will be discussed and given under Business 4-C. There will also be additional items under the Superintendent's Report. A motion was made by Mr. James to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Heniford and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

**C. Approval of Minutes – September 28, 2015**

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Morreale to approve the September 28, 2015, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

Mr. James noted that only eight Board members responded to the self-assessment survey from the September 28, 2015, meeting. He encouraged all Board members to complete the surveys.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Rebecca Bitigar addressed the Board regarding a pay increase for degreed and certified substitute teachers.

**3. DISCUSSION**

**A. Current Capital Project Contingency Funds**

Mr. Gardner reported on the current contingency funds that we have in capital projects. There is approximately \$4.9 million available for the Board to use for future projects. The funds available is above and beyond what the Board recently approved for the Socastee High School track and roof repairs to the Facilities building.

**B. Current Funding for Short-term Capital Plan**

Mr. Gardner reported on funding for the short-term capital plan. This is an 11-year plan and was presented in October 2014. The projects listed are the final projects approved by the Board as of July 28, 2014. The current Board approved short-term capital facilities plan totals \$468,336,340. The funding, based on last year's numbers, which includes the sales tax after available debt service and the proceeds from two 8% bond sales, provides for a total funding plan of \$488,472,371.

**C. Funding Options for Short-term Capital Plan**

Mr. Brian Nurick of Compass Municipal Advisors reported to the Board on the previous sale of general obligation bonds to refinance, which resulted in a net savings of \$26 million. The document shared demonstrates in each fiscal year what revenues the District has available to pay for buildings, what the expenditures are, and what the difference between the two is on an annualized basis so the program can be funded today and we can plan for tomorrow. The report runs through 2024-25, which is the sunset of the sales tax. The Board, at some point, will have to address whether or not it wants to renew the sales tax. Mr. Nurick stated that the Board previously committed to reduce the millage by one-half, which would bring the millage to 14. The Board later reduced the millage to 10. Mr. Nurick noted that the Board may want to consider increasing the millage back to 14, which would still be in line with what was promised to the taxpayers which was a reduction of one-half of the millage.

Mr. Poston noted that the Board's decisions on millage decreases lie with this Board and go beyond discussions held this evening, adding that this Board thought long and hard about bringing the capital millage down for the benefit of the citizens of Horry County. Mr. Poston commended this Board for the action taken to get our capital millage down to 10 and hopes it will not be taken lightly to increase that back to 14 mills.

Mr. Garland pointed out that the report provided offers a balance on June 30, 2025, at \$73.7 million. This figure does not include expenses through 2024-25, which based upon prior estimations, would reduce the

balance to approximately \$48 million. Mr. Gardner added that the expenses are through the 11 years that the Board has approved.

#### **D. Selection Committee Report**

The removal of this item from the agenda was approved during the vote to approve the agenda.

#### **E. Monitoring Reports**

##### **1) R-7: College and Career Readiness**

Edward Boyd addressed this item, which basically deals with the ACT, SAT, and AP test scores. Mr. James shared that the entire District should be commended for all of the hard work of the teachers and staff to help our students achieve these results. These are fantastic results and something of which Horry County can be very proud.

##### **2) R-8: Perception of Stakeholders**

A report on stakeholder feedback given by the State in the spring of each year for teachers, staff, and students was provided.

##### **3) OE-10: Instructional Program**

Boone Myrick addressed this item.

##### **4) OE-13: Facilities – Quarterly Update**

An update was provided by Mark Wolfe on 18 capital project items. Mr. DeFeo asked that in the future the District consider doing things differently from the previous decision to award all awnings to one contractor, which has caused this to take four years to complete the awnings.

Mr. Poston, on behalf of the Board, thanked Mr. Wolfe and his staff for their work during the recent heavy rains and flooding to make repairs and take care of the facilities, noting the required extra hours and hard work.

#### **F. Superintendent's Report**

##### **1) Plans for Collecting Stakeholder Feedback Regarding Standardized Testing**

We recently discovered that the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee is doing a survey to determine how much testing is being done, the benefits of tests, and the frequency of testing. As a part of that study, we are asked to have our Horry County Schools' teachers provide feedback through a State survey. We think that this survey, which will be administered by the Education Oversight Committee, gets at the type of information discussed by this Board at the Retreat. We feel this will provide excellent feedback from our teachers without duplicating efforts, and will also give us results for the rest of the State. We would like to proceed that way to collect testing data. This will address not only State sponsored testing, but testing in general.

##### **2) National Blue Ribbon Schools Recognitions – Washington, D. C.**

Dr. Maxey shared that for the first time in history, Horry County Schools has three National Blue Ribbon School award winners in one year. The State had a total of five winners, and for Horry County to have three of those is outstanding. The three schools are Lakewood Elementary, Myrtle Beach Intermediate, and Forestbrook Middle Schools. The winners of this prestigious award will be

recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D. C. on November 9-10, 2015. Dr. Maxey asked that the Board consider rescheduling the November 9 Board meeting to November 16, which will allow him to attend the awards ceremony in support of our three schools. The Board acknowledged being in favor of the change, and therefore, it will be put on the October 26 Board agenda.

### **3) Make-up Days**

Dr. Maxey shared information regarding the days that were recently missed due to flooding. A new law was passed that requires all districts to include three make-up days within their calendar. When school days are missed, a district must make up the first three days missed. Horry County Schools' calendar that was published in February of 2015 designated our three make-up days as October 12, 2015, January 4, 2016, and February 15, 2016. The two days we missed due to flooding will be made up. Should the District miss more than one additional day, the Board has the authority to forgive up to three days, but only after we have used the three designated days.

### **4) Principal for a Day**

Our Principal for a Day event is scheduled for tomorrow. We have held this event for the past two years with a great degree of success getting people from the community and businesses to get into our schools, spend a day with our principals, and see how our schools operate from the view of a principal. On Wednesday morning, we will have a Principal for a Day breakfast. Board members are invited to attend the breakfast from 7:30 – 9:00. This will give an opportunity to hear some of the experiences from those who served as a Principal for a Day.

### **5) School Visits**

School visits this week have been scheduled for Thursday rather than Wednesday because Wednesday is the monthly principals' meeting.

### **6) Day of Boeing**

Boeing South Carolina is sending representatives to Horry County Schools to visit some of our campuses on October 20. The schools they are visiting are AAST, Conway High, ATA, and North Myrtle Beach Middle. They will have a chance to see some of our programs, visit classrooms, and talk with some of our students. At the conclusion of the day, there will be a reception hosted by Horry Georgetown Technical College. At 6:00 p.m., Boeing will give a presentation. It is great for Horry County Schools to have this opportunity with Boeing. There will be a luncheon at 11:15 on this day at ATA. If Board members wish to participate, notify Rhonda for the lunch count.

## **4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. DeFeo called for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of, A) Discussion of Proposed Purchase of Property, and B) Receipt of Legal Advice for Contract Negotiations Pursuant to the Selection Committee Report. A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. James to move into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously and the Board moved into executive session at 6:48 p.m. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Heniford to return to open session. The motion carried unanimously and the Board returned to open session at 8:12 p.m. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

## **SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING**

### **5. BUSINESS**

#### **A. Advisory Board Community Member Term Limit**

Ms. Timms made a motion that the term of service for a community member on the Advisory Boards shall be changed from one year to two years. The motion was seconded by Mr. Poston.

Mrs. Todd asked if this action would apply to community members appointed this year. Ms. Timms recommends this apply to those who were just appointed. Mr. Poston supports this change in term and it shall apply to current serving community representatives on the Advisory Board as well as future serving community representative on Advisory Boards.

Kenneth Generette offered that since other Advisory Board members may serve a one or two-year term, that the Board may want to word this motion that the community representative on the Advisory Boards may serve a one-year or a two-year term to simplify this process.

The motion was clarified to allow for the community representative on the Advisory Boards to serve a one-year or a two-year term. Mr. Poston supports the motion and clarification. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

#### **B. Board Performance Sheets**

A motion was made by Mr. James to make the Board Performance Indicators an inclusive part of the Board minutes from this date forward for each meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Heniford and carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

#### **C. Receive the Report of the Procurement Evaluation Selection Committee; and**

#### **D. Approve Notice of Selection for Contract Negotiations**

Mr. Ken Childs reported that the Evaluation Committee for RFP #1415-91 met July 27, 2015. They met again on September 8, 2015; September 15, 2015; September 24, 2015; and October 9, 2015.

Proposals were received from three competitors. Each competitor proposed on each of the five projects, and also offered combined proposals for groups of three and four of the middle school designs. The Evaluation Committee reviewed the submitted proposals. On October 9, 2015, the Evaluation Committee held interviews with each of the competitors.

Following these interviews, also on October 9, 2015, the Evaluation Committee members each completed score sheets. On October 12, 2015 (today), the Evaluation Committee held its final meeting to confirm scores and adopt the following rankings. All proposals were scored according to the criteria set forth in the RFP documents.

The rankings reached by this committee are as follows:

For each of the five projects, including Socastee Elementary School, Carolina Forest Middle School, Myrtle Beach Middle School, Socastee Middle School, and St. James Intermediate School, the rankings of the competitors are, #1 First Floor; #2 Thompson Turner; and #3 M.B. Kahn.

The Evaluation Committee recommends that the Board approve contract negotiations for each project in rank order. Because of the need to negotiate with any firm ultimately awarded the contract, the actual score differences between the competitors should not be made public until after an intended award is prepared following contract negotiations.

Mr. Childs requested the Board adopt this report.

Mr. James made a motion for the Board to adopt this report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Winters. The motion carried with a vote as follows: In favor – Cox, Garland, Graham, Heniford, James, Loftus, Morreale, Timms, Todd, and Winters; Opposed – Poston. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this time.

Mr. DeFeo thanked the Steering Committee for their work.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Ms. Heniford to approve the Consent Agenda item, Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. Poston to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

## **BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

A summary of the responses follows.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

**Board Human Resources Committee Meeting – October 26, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Board Meeting – October 26, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



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

**Approved:** October 26, 2015