

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
Board Work Session and Special Called Meeting
District Office
April 13, 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	Reggie Gasque	Valerie McNeil
Cindy Ambrose	Melissa Gause	Boone Myrick
Mary Anderson	Kenny Generette	Debbie Rabon
Ramona Baskin	Stephanie Gore	Lucas Richardson
Edward Boyd	Roger Gray	Angela Rush
Daryl Brown	Ben Hardee	Melissa Rutenberg
Dottie Brown	Teal Harding	Beth Selander
Paul Browning	Elizabeth Hinkle	Heather Sheehan
Joe Burch	Traci Hogan	Rhonda Snowden
Shawn Campman	Robert Homer	David Stoudenmire
Dena Chatfield	Jessica Hucks	Connie Strickland
Carolyn Chestnut	Charles Hucks, Jr.	Addie Swinney
Charles Conant	Angela Huggins	Diane Thompson
Edi Cox	Kandi Jones	Tammy Trulove
Margo Cox	Robin Jones	Todd Underwood
Samantha Coy	James LaPier	Vicki Underwood
Kristin Dowling	HT Lee	Matthew Ward
Gaye Driggers	Tammy Martin	John Washburn
Nathan Ernest	Rick Maxey	Melissa Westbury
Martha Fout	Natasha McDonald	Kristin Wilson
John Gardner	Wendye McGuirt	Mark Wolfe

1. OPENING APRIL 13, 2015, AT 6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER

A. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

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

B. Approval of Agenda

Item 6-A-2. Professional Contracts for 2015-16 was removed from the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Timms. The motion carried unanimously.

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.

C. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Poston and seconded by Mr. James to approve the Minutes of the March 26, 2015, Board meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. RECOGNITIONS

A. Support Staff Employee of the Year

A reception was held at the District Office prior to the Board meeting to honor the Support Staff Employees of the Year for each of the schools/divisions. Of those selected to represent the individual schools/sites, five were selected as finalists. Dr. Addie Swinney introduced the five finalists for the Support Staff Employee of the Year, as follows: Margo Cox of the District Office; Ramona Baskin of Lakewood Elementary; Debbie Rabon of Pee Dee Elementary; Shawn Campman of Riverside Elementary; and Elizabeth Hinkle of Seaside Elementary. The Support Staff Employee of the Year was then announced. The employee named as the 2015-16 Support Staff Employee of the Year is Shawn Campman.

B. Carolina Forest High School's Robo Katz

Teal Harding and Velna Allen presented certificates to the members of the Carolina Forest High School Robo Katz team. The team was recently named a winner at the robotics competition and will be going on to the national level competition. The teachers, Nathan Ernest and Janet Hucks, were also recognized.

C. Terence Brister, Carolina Forest High School

Terence was one of five Entrepreneurs of the Year named by the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

D. Carolina Forest High School

Carolina Forest High recently won first place in the South Carolina Thespian Festival sponsored by the Palmetto Dramatic Association. All students of the troupe were recognized, as was their teacher, Teresa Cox. Many of the students received outstanding individual awards.

3. DISCUSSION

A. R-3: Science Monitoring Report

Cindy Ambrose provided information regarding the Science Monitoring Report, which was provided to the Board. Our District did not perform as well as we would like, and therefore, we know that we have to build structures inside our system to make the adjustments we need. Todd Underwood of Myrtle Beach High School spoke about the Strategies for Focus. Stephanie Gore of Green Sea Floyds Elementary also shared information with the Board on the changes and adjustments we have been making in our classrooms this year to have a greater impact on our scores. Mr. Poston shared that he would like to see the Board provide the digital tools where students will have programs that will impact science like USA Test Prep and Aleks Math have impacted math scores, as well as provide the lab experience for science and he asked that administration take a look at this and bring any ideas to the Board. Mr. James stated that he commonly hears the statement from teachers that we are constantly adding programs, but we rarely take any away. Do we look at those things that did not prove as effective as we had hoped and take those things away? Mrs. Ambrose said that we can take a look at some things that we can quit doing. She also heard District staff speak of a program that we put in place recently and they do not feel that it is paying dividends. She added that we will take a look at how we might remove or take away some of those things that are not having a positive impact.

B. OE-13: Facilities Quarterly Update

Mr. DeFeo asked if anyone had questions on the information that was provided. Mark Wolfe pointed out the needs for corrections on the presentation. The Conway High School track and Myrtle Beach Primary renovation projects, the “Board Approved Date” should be 2014, not 2015. On the Green Sea Floyds High School parking lot, the current status is shown as, “in construction.” That should read, “in design.”

C. OE-9: Communicating with the Public

Information was provided and there were no questions on the matter.

D. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Maxey shared that he is pleased that our District has put a program in place to acknowledge the contributions of our Support Staff. As a reminder, our Teacher of the Year program is scheduled for April 28, 2015, at the Myrtle Beach Marriott at Grande Dunes. The program begins at 6:00 p.m., but we ask that come at 5:15 p.m. to congratulate teachers of schools in your area.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. James to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a) Contractual Negotiations Regarding Property Transactions; and b) Discussion of Personnel Matters. The motion carried and the Board moved into Executive Session at 6:58 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Ms. Morreale to go into Business Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Loftus did not return to the meeting following the Executive Session.

A. Business

1. Financial Support for School Teams Participating in School-sanctioned National Competitions

Previously the Board approved setting aside \$100,000 in the budget to assist schools with national competition costs, and that the Board would agree to fund up to 50% of the costs for some of the national competitions. The Board asked administration to come up with a policy that would include the Board’s intent in a written document. The draft document, National Student Competitive Activity Request for Funds, was provided wherein there are 11 numbered items. Mr. James added an Item #12 that states: For teams where the registration fee is greater than \$10,000, these requests will be presented to the Board for special consideration. The Board may fund up to 50% of registration fees if approved. This would allow the Board the governance to address special situations. With the aforementioned, Mr. James made a motion to accept the draft and make it the District’s official policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garland and carried unanimously.

2. Professional Contracts for 2015-16

This item was removed from the agenda by a vote of the Board during the Approval of Agenda portion of the meeting.

3. Extend Contract of Auditor

This item is a recommendation from the Board Finance Committee, and therefore, does not require a motion and second. START HERE

Mr. Garland reported on items from the Finance Committee, which recommends that the contract for the current auditor be extended for one year. Next year an RFQ/RFP should be sent out for a new audit firm, as it is not sound financial practice to continue to use the same auditors long term.

b. Support for Lacrosse Program at Socastee High School

The Finance Committee recommends that support be provided for the Lacrosse Program at Socastee High School in the amount of \$10,500. This is not a retroactive refund for items the school may have provided through fund raising or the booster club. This is intended to help with the purchase of new equipment that has been used over the years and may be in poor condition.

The Finance Committee is asking that the above two items be placed on a future Board agenda for a vote of the full Board.

2. Human Resources

Ms. Morreale reported that at the last Human Resources Committee meeting, a couple of things discussed included the possible addition of attendance clerks or other support staff position at some of the schools based upon attendance numbers. The Committee is considering if another position should be allocated for schools with more than 1,000 students. The District is looking into this and discussing with principals.

Another item discussed was recruitment bonuses. Some Districts have started giving bonuses for critical needs positions. Although discussed, no action was taken or is being recommended at this time.

3. Facilities

a. LED Message Boards for High Schools and Academies

The Finance Committee discussed providing digital message boards at the high schools that do not currently have one. We have four high schools that do not have one, and the message board at Socastee High is in poor condition. The repair cost is nearly 50% of the purchase price of a new one. Therefore, the Finance Committee recommends replacing the sign at Socastee High School. The Committee also recommends adding digital message boards at the two Academies. The Finance Committee would like to have on a future Board agenda, the recommendation to add a digital message board at Aynor High School, St. James High School, Loris High School, Carolina Forest High School, Academy for Technology and Academics, and Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology, as well as a replacement digital board at Socastee High School.

b. Conway Middle/Laurel Street Improvements

The District has received a request from the City of Conway that we consider paving an area along Laurel Street next to Conway Middle School. There is a small section of road bed that is being used for parking by parents of students at Conway Middle School. The City of Conway has asked that we provide the funding to pave this area to keep the grounds in good repair and to provide a parking area for parents with after-school activities. This item will be presented to the full Board for consideration at a future meeting.

There was an additional item that the Finance Committee wished to apprise the Board. There is a sustainment project to replace multiple HVAC systems throughout the District. One of the schools identified for the 2015-16 school year is Aynor High School. Due to the complexity of this project in the design and implementation, it is recommended that the design phase be conducted this year, with the implementation to occur next year. With moving the implementation phase of the Aynor High School project to next year, it is recommended that the HVAC systems for South Conway Elementary and Lakewood Elementary Schools be moved to the current year. This item will be coming before the Board at a future meeting.

C. Make-up of Inclement Weather Day – February 24, 2015

Students and staff were out of school and work on February 24, 2015, due to inclement weather. The day missed was after the possible make-up days that were built into the 2014-15 calendar. We are asking for Board approval to allow the District to request an exemption through the General Assembly for the missed day due to the extreme weather. If the waiver is approved, this will apply for students, faculty, and staff. This item is also on the Business Agenda.

D. Superintendent's Report

Horry County Schools' Technology Fair

Dr. Maxey shared information about the Horry County Schools' Technology Fair that was held earlier this week at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. This is a wonderful program that we have established and that has grown over the years. Dr. Maxey asked Ashley Gasperson to report on some of the highlights of this year's successful event.

Ms. Gasperson thanked the District for allowing her to speak about the Technology Fair and shared that Mr. John Poston participated in this year's event as a judge. This was Mr. Poston's sixth year serving as a judge of the Technology Fair. He is a great asset to have involved with the program and his assistance is appreciated.

Ms. Gasperson added that changes were made this year to the Fair by changing some of the categories, and a Rubik's Cube challenge was added. As changes are made in the classroom, we want our Fair to reflect what students are being taught. We worked with Learning Services to make those modifications this year. We had more than 480 entries and more than 1,500 participants in the Fair, the Rubik's Cube Challenge, the FLL, and the FRC Robotics competitions that took place in all three hallways of the Convention Center, in conjunction with the Tech Expo from the Technology Council. Ms. Gasperson shared the summary of two projects just to give a snapshot of the types of projects and the level of technology that was seen at this year's event. We had more than 150 students competing in the Rubik's Cube challenge to see who could complete it the fastest. Rubik's Cube is a math puzzle and is used as a math tool to learn programming, which is the basis for technology. This was a partnership through Coastal Carolina University's math department. Most of the students completed the Cube in less than one minute, with the fastest time being 24 seconds.

Ms. Gasperson thanked the District for allowing the continuation of the Technology Fair. The Fair allows us to showcase our outstanding students and teachers in one location, at one time, and in one afternoon. Mark your calendars for next year, as this event is always the week before Spring Break. Ms. Gasperson will be back in April to present the three Best of Show entries – one each for elementary, middle, and the high school levels.

St. James High School

St. James High School was one of three high schools in the State competing for the title of Palmetto's Finest. St. James High School did not win the award. However, while visiting the school and waiting with the students, faculty, and staff as the announcement was made, Dr. Maxey shared that he had a really good feeling about those present because of their actions. The gym was packed. It was like a pep rally experience. As each of the winners were introduced at the different levels, those present broke out in applause. When the high school winner, Chapin High School was announced, everyone again broke out in applause. The response of the students, faculty, and staff speaks to their character and dignity, and is something to be proud of. Dr. Maxey appreciates the leadership that Mr. Pennell and his staff have provided, and he walked away feeling like St. James High School is Palmetto's Finest.

National School Boards' Association Conference

Dr. Maxey thanked the Board for the opportunity to participate in the National School Boards' Association Conference in Nashville over the weekend. The conference had sessions and presentations that are relevant and pertinent to the work we do in our schools. Dr. Maxey will be sharing this information with the staff so that we can capitalize upon what was learned.

Mr. DeFeo shared that he focused his attention on PDL sessions and gaining information on buses. Mr. Cox shared that he attended many of those same sessions, adding that it gives you a lot of perspective and things to think about outside of your own little box. Mrs. Graham shared that she attended a lot of the technology type sessions. The technology is really amazing and it was shown how it is used in regular America, but also how we can adapt that to our classrooms. She appreciates the opportunity to go and bring back information to our District.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF A PERSONNEL MATTER

A motion was made by Ms. Morreale and seconded by Mrs. Graham to move into executive session. The motion carried unanimously and the Board moved into executive session at 7:02 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. James to move back into open session. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting reconvened in open session.

4. BUSINESS

A. Personnel Contracts for 2015-16 School Year

Dr. Swinney shared that the District is seeking approval of the Board for the professional personnel contracts for the 2015-16 year as shared with Board members. A motion was made by David Cox and seconded by Ms. Timms to accept the Superintendent's recommendation of professional contracts for the 2015-16 school year. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Recommendation

Dr. Maxey recommends to the Board that Mr. Mark Wolfe be named Executive Director for Facilities. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Todd and carried unanimously.

C. Authorizing Expenditures for School Bus Replacement

John Gardner shared that a presentation was made at the last Board meeting wherein we were seeking ten additional buses out of the fund balance. The Board asked us to increase this number to 20, and also to research if alternate fuel options might be available for the buses. It will cost \$13,350 to retrofit the buses from diesel fuel to propane. Another challenge would be refueling those buses because we would have to have propane at our facilities. Based upon our preliminary study, we do not believe there is a cost benefit at this time. Therefore, the administration is seeking permission to proceed with placing the order for twenty buses, noting that there is a request for ten additional buses in the funding plan for 2015-16 budget. Should we learn of other measures that may make alternate fuel options cost effective in the future, we may proceed at that time with alternative fuel buses.

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Mrs. Graham to accept the recommendation of administration to proceed with utilization of Undesignated/Unassigned Fund Balance in the amount of \$1,680,000 to purchase 20 buses in the current fiscal year. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Make-up of Inclement Weather Day – February 24, 2015

District administration is seeking approval of the Board that we request an exemption for the make-up requirement for the missed day on February 24, 2015, due to extreme weather conditions, and that the request be sent through the General Assembly for their approval. A motion was made by Mr. James to endorse this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morreale and carried unanimously.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Morreale to approve the Consent Agenda items, to include: A. Monitoring Report – R 2 – Numeracy; B. Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law; C. Education Fund Distribution – District 1; D. Education Fund Distribution – District 3; E. Education Fund Distribution – District 6; and F. Education Fund Distribution – District 8. The motion carried unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mrs. Graham to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Approved:

April 27, 2015