HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
M I N U T E S – Board Meeting
District Office
March 26, 2015

The following persons were present:

Board of Education

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

Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen	Melissa Gause	Beverly Pilkey
Kristin Altman	Kenny Generette	Robert Pisaniello
Cindy Ambrose	Buddy George	Jeremy Rich
Mary Anderson	Jeff Gibbins	Lucas Richardson
Edward Boyd	Sie Gilbert	Buffy Roberts
Daryl Brown	Teal Harding	Angela Rush
Dottie Brown	Becky Hinson	Rhonda Snowden
Paul Browning	Charles Hucks, Jr.	Addie Swinney
Dena Chatfield	Kelly Johnson	Shelley Todd
Carolyn Chestnut	James LaPier	John Washburn
Edi Cox	Mollie Laut	Mark Wolfe
John Gardner	HT Lee	Jim Wright
Ashley Gasperson	Rick Maxey	
Reggie Gasque	Dennis McCrary	

1. OPENING MARCH 26, 2015, AT 6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER

A. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Presentation of Colors
Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order. Mrs. Todd gave the invocation. Aynor High School Army JROTC presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approval of Agenda
A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Heniford to approve the agenda as published. 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 March 9, 2015, Minutes
A motion was made by Mr. Garland and seconded by Mrs. Graham to approve the March 9, 2015, Minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Recognitions

Certificates of recognition were presented by Daryl Brown and Teal Harding to the following individuals for having brought great pride to our County and to our District for their outstanding contributions:

1) South Carolina Athletic Administrators' Association Awards

   a. Chuck Jordan, Conway High School, named the AAAA Athletic Director of the Year

   b. Leroy "Boe" Rainbow, Myrtle Beach and Carolina Forest High Schools, SCAAA Hall of Fame

   c. Joe Quigley, North Myrtle Beach High School, received State Merit Award

   d. Doug Shaw, Sr., Myrtle Beach High School, SCAAA Hall of Fame, posthumously

2) Monty Carr, St. James High School, Mark Gerald Memorial Basketball Coach of the Year Award

3) SC High School League State Champions and First Runners-Up in Wrestling

   a. Aynor High School
      ~ Landon Lawson, AA State Champion in Wrestling, 126-pound weight class
      ~ TJ Fox, AA State Champion in Wrestling, 220-pound weight class
      ~ Daquan Smith, AA State First Runner-Up in Wrestling, 170-pound weight class

   b. North Myrtle Beach High School
      ~ Raeshan Diggs, AAA State First Runner-Up in Wrestling, 220-pound weight class

   c. Socastee High School
      ~ Justin Knipper, AAAA State Champion in Wrestling, 120-pound weight class

E. Public Comments

Ms. Patricia Milley addressed the Board regarding the reduction of recess time for students, lengthening the school day, taking away kindergarten play stations and putting in work stations, and taking away kindergarten naps. She is asking for the school day to be shortened, and for recesses to be added back in to the school day.

Ms. Julie Clardy submitted an online request to speak, but was not present for the meeting.

Mr. Scott Grainger addressed the Board regarding the District's position as relates to excusing absences for students when they are absent due to mental health appointments with private providers, and for the District to acknowledge to parents that it has the discretion to excuse mental health absences if it chooses to do so. A handout was provided.

Mr. Bobby Chandler addressed the Board stating that the District's form of governance, Coherent Governance, and the use of monitoring reports should be changed to traditional governance, with transparency, and viable public input. A handout was provided

2. DISCUSSION

A. Committee of the Whole

Mr. DeFeo stated that each of these items have been discussed by the Board at some time. Mr. DeFeo reminded everyone that a vote of the Committee of the Whole is not a final vote. This is a recommendation and the direction the Board might possibly go with a vote of the full Board in a regular business session. Mr. DeFeo reviewed each item individually, with Board members having the option of making a motion on one item at a time or on all the items collectively.

1) Board must approve changes to district policy.
2) Board must approve major changes in curriculum.
   Mrs. Graham requested a definition of "major". Mr. DeFeo stated that he thinks this is when we are spending funds to get new curriculum or new direction. Mr. DeFeo added that the wording is difficult because he does not want to get involved in what is happening in the classroom. He also stated we can ask for a clarification on that before making a final vote.
3) Board must be informed of major committees being set up by the district.
   Mr. DeFeo stated we will remove the word, "major", from this item.
4) Changes to principal application screening process.
   The Human Resources Committee has met a few times and have tweaked the outline of the principal interview process. When the group meets to screen applicants, the Board member for that cluster will be invited to be a part of the process. The support employee of the year will be a part of the interview team for their respective school. Also, a peer principal from outside the attendance area for which interviews are being held, which shall also not be from a neighboring attendance area, will serve on the interview team. Mrs. Graham asked that a copy of this information be provided to Board members.
5) Start an IT committee.
   Mrs. Graham asked what the thought process was specifically behind the IT committee. Mr. DeFeo shared that because most of our district has gone to personalized digital learning (PDL), an IT committee can gather more information and then make recommendations to the full board. This would not be limited to PDL; it is information technology.
6) When a board member cannot attend a committee meeting, that board member may assign his/her position on the committee to another board member for the meeting. Mr. DeFeo modified this to read that when a board member cannot attend a standing or ad hoc committee, that board member may assign his/her position on the committee to another board member for that meeting.
7) Committees may re-elect a new chairperson at any time by a simple motion within the committee and vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Morreale for the Committee of the Whole to recommend approving the above items. Mr. James stated that he supports these items in general and can vote affirmatively for these tonight; however, before the Board might finalize a decision, he would like a definition of, "major", in terms of addressing curriculum changes, and also the criteria for the principal selection process. Mr. DeFeo added that the principal screening process will need to be defined step-by-step. The motion carried.

B. Board Committee Reports

1) Finance

a. Extend Contract of Auditor

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

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

Approved:

___April 13, 2015_____