

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – Board Meeting
District Office
March 9, 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

Jeanna Allen	Ben Hardee	Beverly Pilkey
Velna Allen	Becky Hinson	Buffy Roberts
Mary Anderson	Robert Homer	Angela Rush
Robin Bolling	Charles Hucks	Judy Shelley
Dottie Brown	Jessica Hucks	Rhonda Snowden
Daryl Brown	James LaPier	David Stoudenmire
Joe Burch	Mollie Laut	Vicki Underwood
Carolyn Chestnut	H. T. Lee	Johanna Ward
Judy Edwards	Cindy Magrath	John Washburn
Laura Farmer	Tammy Martin	Lindy Williams
Penny Foye	Rick Maxey	Kristin Wilson
John Gardner	Paula Mullis	Kelley Wiltout
Reggie Gasque	Jennifer Mundy	Beverly Pilkey
Kenny Generette	Boone Myrick	
Grace Gifford	Andrea Parsons	

1. OPENING MARCH 9, 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. Mr. Cox gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Ms. Morreale 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 February 23, 2015, Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. James to approve the February 23, 2015, Minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. DISCUSSION

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Maxey shared that he had observed the first robotics competition at the Beach. This was a great opportunity for our students to participate in all aspects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and is in the format of part pep rally and part competition. It is really characterized by excited young people, who are happy about what they have done with their project. This was the largest regional competition with 66 teams participating. All of our high schools and the two academies were represented. As the competition moved to the semi-finals, Conway High, Academy for Arts, Science and Technology, and Academy for Technology and Academics were involved. We also had Carolina Forest High as a participant in the winning alliance with schools from Laurens, South Carolina, and Knoxville, Tennessee. We are very proud of the efforts of our young people to participate in the first robotics competition and to the Carolina Forest team, the RoboKatz, who will be advancing to the national competition.

Dr. Maxey also acknowledged Mrs. Penny Foye, principal of Homewood Elementary School, for her recent recognition by a special motion of the State of South Carolina House of Representatives as a distinguished educator and for her lifetime of dedicated service to the young students of South Carolina. Mrs. Foye was recognized during the Black History Diversity Celebration held at her school.

B. Math Monitoring Report

Cindy Ambrose provided information regarding the math monitoring report. She shared sample assessment items from the ACT Aspire, which will be used for grades 3 – 8. Mrs. Ambrose also shared information from the Power Goals on the PASS Assessment. We as a District take all of the data, look at where we are, and where we are headed. We continuously look at the cycles of learning. Lindy Williams, Instructional Coach for the middle school at Green Sea Floyds High School and Jennifer Mundy, teacher at North Myrtle Beach High School, shared some of their strategies for helping students to be successful in math. Blended learning and digital content have had a great impact on their classrooms and have impacted student growth and success at their schools. Mrs. Ambrose added that we are constantly monitoring our work and reviewing what we can do to improve.

C. Request to Purchase Additional Buses

John Gardner presented information regarding a request to purchase ten additional buses at a cost of \$840,000. In February 2014, Dr. Maxey presented a proposed bus replacement cycle to the Board. The 2014-15 budget included the replacement of eight regular buses and two activity buses. In May of 2014, the Board authorized the utilization of the undesignated/unassigned fund balance to purchase ten buses. This, along with the ten buses included in the 2014-15 budget, allowed the District to purchase 20 buses in the current year. The District is now seeking authorization to place orders for ten buses in the current year, as our most recent projections indicate that we will have a surplus of \$5.2 million. The delivery lead time is typically 120-150 days for the buses, and therefore, the actual delivery of the buses will be this summer. The 2015-16 proposed budget includes funding for ten buses. Upon approval, the District will be able to update the fleet by a total of 20 buses in 2015-16. Mr. James reviewed the current fund balance and based upon the status, suggested we consider purchasing 20 additional buses at this time if this is a good, one-time utilization of undesignated funds. Daryl Brown shared that the District has 24 of the older regular route buses in circulation now. As we buy new buses, we buy eight buses for bus routes, and we buy two activity buses. If this plan of purchasing twenty additional buses is approved, we would purchase sixteen regular route buses. That taken from the 24 older buses currently in use, would leave us with eight route

buses in excess of 20 years old. With the recommendation of the purchase of ten buses in the 2015-16 budget, we would purchase eight regular route buses, thereby having updated all of the regular route buses. Thereafter, we would begin working our way through updating the athletic buses, of which we have 59. We bought four last year, and we would purchase four more this year. That cycle would work through 2021. As of 2021, we would have all of our buses under 15 years of age. Mr. Poston suggested that we consider purchasing vehicles that are highly efficient, use alternative fuels, and/or hybrid vehicles, with the possibility of reducing operational costs of our fleet. Mr. DeFeo mentioned a program where stations would be put in for natural or propane gas and, according to the information shared, the buses are so energy efficient, that over the lifetime of the buses, the savings would pay for the buses. He asked that we look in to these things so that we do not miss an opportunity if this would be beneficial.

D. Budget Update

Mr. Gardner provided an update on the current budget status. An additional \$100 has been added to the base student cost. However, they are taking away the lottery funding for grades K-8.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR CONSIDERATION OF LAND PURCHASES AND RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Mr. Cox to move into executive session. The Board moved into executive session at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. James made a motion to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garland and the Board moved back into open session at 8:25 p.m.

Ms. Morreale did not return to the meeting following executive session.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. Heniford and seconded by Mr. James to approve the consent agenda items, to include: A. Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law; B. Education Fund Distribution – District 2; and C. Literacy Monitoring Report. The motion carried unanimously.

5. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Poston and was seconded by Mr. Garland to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Approved:

March 26, 2015