

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – Board Meeting
District Office
January 12, 2015

The following persons were present:

Board of Education

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

Horry County Schools Staff

Cindy Ambrose	Reggie Gasque	Boone Myrick
Mary Anderson	Melissa Gause	James Nininger
Andrew Ball	Sie Gilbert	Bert Owen
Holly Barnes	Angela Gore	Nita Owens
Dwight Boykin	Kristie Hamilton	Jennifer Parker
Daryl Brown	Marti Hancock	Andrea Parsons
Dottie Brown	Robert Homer	Ben Prince
Joshua Brown	Charles Hucks	Mary Beth Roach
Joe Burch	Angela Huggins	Angela Rush
David Cupolo	Sabrina Huggins	Barbara Schlidt
Anna Carroll	Natalie Hunnell	Rebecca Schroyer
Dena Chatfield	Felicia James	Beth Selander
Carolyn Chestnut	Glenna Johnson	Heather Sheehan
Mary P. Clark	Kelly Johnson	Angie Smith
Annie Collins	Ruthenia Johnson	David Stoudenmire
Beth Compton	Kandi Jones	Addie Swinney
Charles Conant	Robin Jones	Diane Thompson
Edi Cox	Christine Lane	Meg Torrens
Jeanie Dailey	James LaPier	Tammy Trulove
Maquitta Davis	Mollie Laut	Lora Tyler
Krissy Dowling	H.T. Lee	Melissa Westbury
Michelle Dunsford	Ruth Lily	Lindy Williams
Morgan Emsley	Tammy Martin	Kristin Wilson
Laura Farmer	Felisa McDavid	Mark Wolfe
Martha Fout	Aimee McElveen	Samantha Wood
John Gardner	Dawn McKinney	Stephanie Yancy
Diane Gaskins		

Opening January 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. - Call to Order

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Cox was asked to give the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Cox asked for a moment of silence for Miles and Christopher Waddell of Loris.

Administration of the Oath of Office

Mr. DeFeo invited the families of Board members being sworn in to join in the ceremony. Holly Heniford, Sherrie Todd, Ray Winters, Pam Timms, Janet Graham and Neil James took the Oath of Office.

Introduction of Board Members

Chairman DeFeo introduced and welcomed the newly-seated members.

Election of Vice-Chair

Chairman DeFeo called for Vice-Chairman nominations. Mr. James stated that it has been his privilege to serve as Vice-Chairman and he believes it is time for someone else to serve in this capacity. Mr. Poston nominated Mr. Cox which was seconded by Mr. James. There being no other nominations, the Board voted by paper ballot. The votes were tallied and Mr. Cox was elected to the position of Vice-Chairman.

Establishment of 2015 Board Meeting Dates

Chairman DeFeo noted that the meeting scheduled for March 23, 2015 needed to be rescheduled. Mr. James asked about the budget development status anticipated around that time. Mr. Garner answered that personnel contracts were the important item to be considered at that meeting. After brief discussion, Mr. James moved to reschedule the meeting to March 30th. Seconded by Mr. Cox, the Board unanimously approved the date change to March 30, 2015.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman DeFeo noted that an Education Fund Distribution for District 3 had been added to the consent agenda. Mr. James moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Timms and approved 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.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. James, the minutes of the December 15, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Discussion

New Board Member Orientation

Chairman DeFeo reminded the new members of the upcoming South Carolina School Boards Association State Conference which will include an orientation session for new members.

Dr. Maxey asked for direction regarding new Board member orientation. Chairman DeFeo suggested that orientation sessions be scheduled one hour prior to the next two or three Board meetings. The sessions should be dedicated to providing an overview of facilities, the budget and board governance.

Mrs. Morreale brought to the attention of the Chairman that the March 30th date approved by the Board falls during Spring Break. After brief discussion, it was decided that more information would be presented at the next meeting and a decision would be made at that time.

Update on Technology/PDL

Instruction at Middle Schools and High Schools

Cindy Ambrose gave a brief overview of the Personalized Digital Learning (PDL) initiative. Mrs. Ambrose introduced Carleigh Stroud, a 7th grade student from Green Sea Floyds. Miss Stroud shared her experiences with the Board and spoke of the many benefits of PDL. Lindy Williams, Instructional Coach at Green Sea Floyds High, spoke about the ability to diversify instruction with the PDL initiative. Mrs. Ambrose then highlighted areas of the initiative such as digital content, assessment and grade-level content.

Hardware at Middle Schools and High Schools

Edward Boyd addressed the Board regarding the implementation of the Personalized Digital Learning initiative. Mr. Boyd gave a summary of the hardware and technology piece of the initiative, including device distribution, repairs and insurance. Mr. Boyd mentioned that staff is preparing for phase three – devices at the elementary level.

Chairman DeFeo asked for data regarding effectiveness of the devices on test scores. Mrs. Ambrose answered that there are data teams that continually monitor student progress. Noting that there are bright spots in the data, and sometimes trouble spots. She added that this tool should lead to rapid gains. Ms. Wendy Williams, instructional coach at Green Sea Floyds High School, added that she has seen MAP scores increase by 2 – 5 points for all grade levels. She added that the digital content allows teachers to target students at their ability level.

Chairman DeFeo asked for a report prior to the beginning of next year regarding the impact of devices. Mrs. Ambrose stated that due to new South Carolina assessments, there are a lot of variables to consider. She added that recently a student attributed Aleks Math to her 150 point SAT gain.

Mr. James asked Mr. Boyd to provide data at the next meeting that the investment in PDL is providing results and improvement.

Mr. Poston asked about science and social studies digital content and if programs are being reviewed to reach beyond the four core subjects, especially at the high school level. Mrs. Ambrose answered that middle school has utilized an interactive science program and the teachers have built their own social studies program in iTunes U. She added that although several programs are being used currently, high

school digital content has been more challenging as there is not as much science and social studies available at that level.

Ms. Morreale asked about insurance fees and if there would be a change in the cost next year. Mr. Boyd answered that there has been discussion, but there is no recommendation at this time. He anticipates bringing a recommendation to the Board within a month in preparation for the online registration date.

Mrs. Morreale also asked if schools have enough spare devices to lend students when a device is out for repair. Charles Hucks answered that the biggest concern is at the high schools. To address this, a large number of techs from Dell have been here completing every repair. A Dell tech will be assigned to each high school to expedite repairs on-site through the end of the school year.

Mrs. Morreale then asked if the practice of devices being taken home will continue and if digital content can be accessed from a home computer. Miss Stroud said that she liked to have her device at home so she can review notes and study. Mrs. Ambrose answered that many students find having the device at home useful and any computer can be used if there is a login on the app. For many students, that is the only device at home.

Ms. Morreale asked if the desktop computers were being replaced in the classrooms. Mr. Hucks answered that they are being eliminated by attrition in the middle and high school, except specialized classes that require a desktop. Ms. Morreale noted the importance of having a desktop available and compatible should a student need one if their device is being repaired. Ms. Ambrose added that vendors are constantly reviewed to ensure they are compatible with our needs and goals.

Mr. Hucks was asked if the technology staff would need to increase. He responded that it has not been discussed since initial PDL conversations; however, there may be a need for temporary employees until all phases are fully implemented. He added that creating accounts for students will begin when online registration begins to alleviate problems at the start of school.

Chairman DeFeo complemented the PDL initiative, having seen its application in the classroom. He reiterated that need for the Board to see data regarding effectiveness.

PDL for Elementary Schools (3-5)

Chairman DeFeo asked Mr. Hucks to remind the Board of the original blended learning plan intended for elementary level which included work stations in the classroom. Chairman DeFeo voiced concern with insufficient staffing in technology and funding of the initiative. Mr. Hucks explained that the initial plan to have collaboration stations in each classroom was modified to allow a device for each student. Edi Cox added that this allows the learning to be extended past the school day.

Chairman DeFeo requested the staff analyze the continuation of PDL and the implementation of blended learning at the elementary level and present recommendations at a future meeting.

Mr. Poston asked if digital content has been reviewed for the elementary level. Ms. Cox explained that all vendors are being reviewed for content. She noted that if the Board continues with the PDL at the elementary level, it is important to being involving schools in the selection process for content and devices. Mr. Poston raised concern over the letting the technology drive the content selected.

Chairman DeFeo suggested that the selection process should factor in devices already in place to ensure a smooth transition.

Mr. James asked what timeline the Board needs to adhere to for the smooth start of school. Mr. Hucks answered that many necessary upgrades have already taken place to implement phase three. Noting all other factors, such as teacher deployment, late February or early March is the deadline if devices are to be distributed early in the fall semester. Ms. Cox added that learning services has already started the planning aspect of phase three which is adaptable to the direction the Board decides to go.

Monitoring Report - Operational Expectations 13 Facilities - Quarterly Update

Mark Wolfe reviewed for the Board the facilities quarterly update. Mr. Poston suggested that the status of a project and a description of funds allocated be included.

Budget Development Status

John Gardner informed the new members that an increase of 1,200 students is anticipated for next year. He also noted that personnel allocations will be distributed to principals within a few days. A budget workshop has been scheduled for February 9th.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Maxey acknowledged that the South Carolina School Boards Association designates January as Board Appreciation Month and commended the members for their dedication to Horry County Schools. Dr. Maxey then recognized the School Improvement Council representing the Myrtle Beach Elementary Schools for being named to the South Carolina Honor Roll for their work in the school community. He then offered congratulations to St. James High School for being named a Palmetto's Finest finalist.

Executive Session

Moved by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Board unanimously voted to enter executive session.

Business

Moved by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Timms, the unanimously voted to re-enter regular session.

Personnel Recommendation

Mr. James moved that Daryl Brown be named Interim Chief Support Services Officer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and approved unanimously. Mr. James noted that a Deputy Superintendent will not be named at this time.

Consideration of Negotiated Fees for Architects' Design Services

Mr. Poston noted that he recused himself from item 5B.

Mr. Wolfe reviewed for the Board the fees presented to the Board. Mr. James moved to approve the negotiated fees as presented. Ms. Timms seconded the motion. Mr. James asked if the fees and

percentage are standard or unique to HCS. Mr. Wolfe explained that they are unique as each firm submits fees which are then negotiated down. He believes these fees are close to previously submitted fees on other projects. The motion to approve the negotiated fees passed unanimously.

Board Committee Appointments

Chairman DeFeo appointed the new members to the following committees:

Facilities: Holly Heniford and Sherrie Todd
Human Resources: Ray Winters

Chairman DeFeo also noted that any committee may change the chairman by a vote of the committee.

Mr. James invited all members to attend the next Facilities Committee meeting scheduled for January 15th at 4:00 pm.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Mr. James, seconded by Mrs. Loftus, the consent agenda (personnel recommendations; Education Fund Distributions for District 9, 4, 10, 3 and the Chairman; Operational Expectations 6 and 7) was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Poston, seconded by Mr. Cox, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.