HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
M I N U T E S – Board Meeting
District Office
December 15, 2014

The following persons were present:

Board of Education

Joe DeFeo, Chairman	Janet Graham	Janice Morreale
David Cox	Neil James	John Poston
Harvey Eisner	Kay Loftus	Pam Timms
Jeffrey Garland	Karen McIlrath	Jimmy Washington

Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen	Kenny Generette	Mark Porter
Gretchen Almeida	Roger Gray	Ben Prince
Mary Anderson	Ben Hardee	Angela Rush
Bobbi Antonucci	Traci Hogan	April Scott
Holly Barnes	Robert Homer	Teresa Slate
Daryl Brown	Charles Hucks	Angie Smith
Dottie Brown	Jill Jeter	Susan Carter Spain
Joe Burch	Kelly Johnson	Judy Stall
Grace Burleson	Sean Junkins	Addie Swinney
Dena Chatfield	Mollie Laut	Janet Todd
Carolyn Chestnut	H.T. Lee	Olga Toggas
Annie Collins	Ruth Lilly	Vicki Underwood
Samantha Coy	Rick Maxey	Kristin Wilson
Matt Dean	Chuck Middlebrook	Kelly Wilson
Dennis Devorick	Boone Myrick	Kelley Wiltrout
Laura Farmer	Tonya Pickett	Mark Wolfe
Kim Floyd	Beverly Pilkey	
John Gardner	Chris Plowman-Render	

Opening December 15, 2014

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Cox gave the invocation and the North Myrtle Beach Navy JROTC presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognitions

Chairman DeFeo presented Mr. Washington and Mrs. McIlrath with a gift from the Board in recognition of their service.

Chairman DeFeo then asked the newly elected Board members to introduce themselves. Holly Heniford of District 1, Sherrie Todd of District 2, and Ray Winters of District 3 were present.

Teal Harding recognized Forestbrook Middle School for winning the Middle School Mock Trial State Competition, noting that this was their 5th State Championship. Mrs. Harding also noted that Ocean Bay Middle came in third place at the competition and would be competing against Forestbrook in the Battle of the Carolinas which includes the top four teams from South Carolina and the top four teams from North Carolina.

Mark Wolfe introduced Mr. Bachman Smith, IV, current chairman of the South Carolina USGBC who recognized River Oaks Elementary for achieving the "Certified" rating from the US Green Building Council (USGBC) "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" (LEED).

Mark Wolfe introduced Mr. Michael Leinwand, Planning Director for the City of Conway who recognized Early College High School and Scholars Academy, recipients of the "C. P. Quattlebaum Design Award for Outstanding New Construction of a Non-Residential Building"

Mark Wolfe introduced Mr. Chuck Saylors, Past President and Southeast Region Vice President of CEFPI. Mr. Saylors recognized Scholars Academy, recipient of the "Excellence in School Building and Design - Honor Award" by the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI), SC Chapter.

Pam Lane of Santee Cooper recognized Horry County Schools for participating in the Reduce the Use Business Program. Ms. Lane presented the Board with a check representing the rebates received for incorporating energy-saving features and equipment in our recent construction including lighting, HVAC systems, efficient building envelopes, and more.

Discussion

Facilities Committee Update

Mr. James updated the Board on the two recent Facilities Committee meetings held since the last Board meeting. He noted that the committee had discussed the sports tourism memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City of Myrtle Beach. Daryl Brown was asked to review the MOU with the Board. Mr. Brown summarized the agreement and it was noted that representatives from Horry County, North Myrtle Beach and the Ripkin experience had been involved when drafting the MOU. Mr. James thanked Mr. Brown for all his work on the project.

Human Resources Committee Update - Janice Morreale

Mrs. Morreale updated the Board on the joint Human Resources-Finance meeting held earlier in the month. She asked Mr. Gardner to address the Board on the allocation formula. Mr. Gardner noted that the Committee recommends no changes to the elementary school level allocation formula. The Committee recommends that we do not increase class size in middle school and the only change to high school allocation would be that assistant principals and guidance counselors are allocated based on Budgeted Enrollment on Campus (BEOC). Mr. Gardner further explained that several areas were made more consistent, such as the elimination of secretary III position, which was a carry-over from previous years. Mr. Gardner stated that other small changes include adding a media specialist at Early College High School, elimination of an instructional aide at Scholars Academy and majors at each academy will be evaluated to be sure there is enough interest.

Mr. James asked if the day porter and custodian changes indicated for elementary and middle schools were a result of the reorganization. Mr. Gardner answered yes. Mr. James also asked how many assistant principal positions would be created based on the new formula. Mr. Gardner answered that there is no need to add any at this time; growth and base school numbers will determine need in the future.

Budget Assumptions and Parameters

Mr. Gardner reviewed the budget assumption and parameters including a projected increase of 1229 students for the coming year; anticipated increase in basic costs such as utilities and insurance; plan to give employees a step increase based on years of experience; a cost of living increase if mandated by the State; and plan to use Title I and other special funds to provide additional opportunities to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

Mr. James asked if the recent Supreme Court ruling addressing funding across the State will impact Horry County. Mr. Gardner answered that we will have to watch closely to see the impact on our district as the legislature addresses this ruling; the State's need for significant additional funds to meet this requirement may necessitate taking small steps towards a resolution.

Finance Committee Update

Mr. Poston thanked the Human Resources Committee for participating in a joint meeting to discuss important items such as the allocation formula. Mr. Poston asked Daryl Brown to update the Board on the joint committee discussion regarding financial support for lacrosse.

Mr. Brown explained that the Board had previously approved $2,500 for three high schools to start a lacrosse program. The Committee requests an additional $18,500 for each of those schools to meet the financial needs of starting a lacrosse program. It was noted that this item is on the agenda as a business item.

Mr. Poston informed the Board that the Committee recommends moving the January 5th budget retreat to February 9th.

SCSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference Report

Mr. Garland provided the Board with an overview of the Legislative Advocacy Conference. He noted that finances were the main focus of the conference. Other topics discussed included providing buses for students no matter how close they live to the school, and Act 388 which could result in a loss of funds for Horry County.

Monitoring Reports - Operational Expectations 7 - Asset Protection and Operational Expectations 6 - Financial Administration Quarterly Report

The Board had no questions regarding the monitoring reports as presented.

Chairman DeFeo stated that Horry County Schools is the number one school district county by county in the state of South Carolina, and we have to attribute that to the six years of service Dr. Elsberry has given to this district.

Mr. James commented that he had the opportunity to work with Dr. Elsberry in a number of situations; first as parent, then as a member of the Loris Advisory Board, and now as a Board member. Mr. James noted that Dr. Elsberry was always a true professional, dedicated to her job and profession, compassionate and committed to the children and a guardian for the education profession. He added that she will be missed and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

Mr. Washington thanked Dr. Elsberry for the assistance she provided when he joined the Board. He spoke of school visits with Dr. Elsberry and how she would point out so much to him. He commended her and thanked her for her service to children of Horry County.

Mr. Garland thanked Dr. Elsberry for her service and noted that Horry County Schools would forever be grateful for her service.

Chairman DeFeo thanked Dr. Elsberry on behalf of the District and led a standing ovation.

Executive Session for Consideration of Land Purchases and Personnel Matters

Moved by Mrs. Morreale, seconded by Mr. James, the Board unanimously approved entering executive session.

Business

Moved by Mrs. Morreale, seconded by Ms. Timms, the Board unanimously approved re-entering regular session.

The Board took no action on the Consideration of Land Purchase (Property A) and Consideration of Land Purchase (Property B).

Consider Personnel Action

Dr. Elsberry made a recommendation that the principal at Conway Middle School be reassigned to another position within the District, the location of which will be determined after January 1, 2015. Mr. James moved to accept the recommendation, Ms. Graham seconded and all voted in favor.

Mr. James moved to authorize Dr. Maxey to receive a monthly salary supplement of $3,200 as well as a monthly automotive allowance of $850 for in-district travel while he serves as District Interim Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Washington and unanimously approved.

Allocation Formulas

The allocation formula as presented during discussion was moved by Mr. James. (As it was a recommendation from a Committee, a second is not required.) Mr. James asked about the addition of two students per class to fund PDL as discussed previously. Mr. Poston stated that there is no financial need at this time to increase class sizes. All voted in favor to approve the allocation formula. Chairman DeFeo noted that the allocation formula will need to be revisited every year.

Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with City of Myrtle Beach Regarding Use of Facilities

Mr. James noted that a quorum was not present at the Facilities meeting to substantiate a Committee recommendation of this item. Mr. James moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented earlier. Mr. Cox seconded the motion. There was brief discussion clarifying the protection this MOU provides to groups and private entities as well as the District. The Board unanimously voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding.

Consider Conversion of Daisy Elementary School Calendar to 2015-16 District Calendar

Dr. Elsberry gave a brief history of the full-year calendar that Daisy Elementary has followed for about 18 years. During that time there has been increased misalignment from the District calendar causing minor logistical problems. She noted that there had been meetings with the Loris Advisory Board, Daisy Elementary School Improvement Council and two different meetings with faculty and staff. Dr. Elsberry made the recommendation that Daisy Elementary follow the District calendar starting with the 2015-16 school year.

Mr. Poston asked if this item had previously been a discussion item as is the policy of the Board. Dr. Elsberry answered that it has been discussed from time to time, but has not been a recent discussion item. Chairman DeFeo added that he believed it was discussed in the past. It was noted that business items must be discussed at a previous meeting before they can be voted on. Mr. Cox commented that

this has been long-overdue and much needed. Dr. Elsberry added that in early meetings with the Loris community, it was requested that such change be announced before the end of the calendar year.

All members voted in favor of the motion that Daisy Elementary follow the District calendar starting with the 2015-16 school year.

Conway Advisory Board Appointment

Ms. Graham moved to appoint Bernita Sweeney Platt to the Conway Area Advisory Board. Seconded by Mr. Garland, all voted in favor.

Sustainment & Renovations Project List

Prior to the start of this item, John Poston recused himself from discussion and vote of this item.

Mark Wolfe reviewed the Sustainment & Renovations Project List as presented to the Board. Mrs. Morreale moved to accept the report and approve funding of the sustainment and renovations list, seconded by Mr. James, all voted in favor with Mr. Poston recused. Chairman DeFeo clarified that this does not impact the current budget.

Consider Approval to Enter Negotiations with Architect Firms

Prior to the start of this item, John Poston recused himself from discussion and vote of this item.

Matt Dean informed the Board that a solicitation for architectural design services for building modifications was created and twelve architectural firms have responded. The twelve firms were short-listed to five firms on November 25, 2014 by the Superintendent's appointed evaluation committee.

The evaluation committee evaluated and ranked each firm independently. The evaluation committee's rankings are as follows:

1. UWPD Architecture, Inc.
2. Quackenbush Architects & Planners, Inc.
3. SGA Architecture, LLC
4. Pike – McFarland – Hall Associates, Inc.
5. Pegram Associates, Inc.

As allowed in the solicitation documents, a contract can be awarded to up to five (5) highest ranked responsive and responsible Offerors based on qualifications. The evaluation committee is recommending the five (5) highest ranked firms, as shown above, to start the next phase of the award process - Notice of Selection for Contract Negotiations.

Mr. James moved to approve the recommended action. Seconded by Ms. Timms, all voted in favor with Mr. Poston recused.

Lacrosse Funding

Mr. Poston stated that the Finance Committee recommends an increase of the non-recurring startup money by an additional $18,500 per school for Myrtle Beach High, St. James High, and Carolina Forest High Schools to assist in the implementation of South Carolina High School League-sanctioned, varsity boys and girl lacrosse.

Ms. Timms asked why Socastee High School was excluded from this funding. Mr. Poston answered that it was discussed but the Committee felt that Socastee High School did not require start-up funding. Ms. Morreale added, with Mr. Brown's concurrence, that the Socastee High School team started as a club team. It was noted that when the team was started it was without funding and how difficult it would be to make funding retroactive for this and other projects. There was brief discussion on supplements and funding of other sports. Motion for non-recurring startup funding of $18,500 per school for Myrtle Beach High, St. James High, and Carolina Forest High Schools to assist in the implementation of South Carolina High School League-sanctioned, varsity boys and girl lacrosse passed, with Ms. Timms opposing.

Mr. Poston noted that the Finance Committee recommends that the budget retreat scheduled for January 5th be rescheduled to February 9th. All voted in favor.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Mr. James and seconded by Mr. Washington, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which included: Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law, Education Fund Distribution for District 11, Education Fund Distribution for District 6, Home Schooling Request, and Approval of Requests for High School Diplomas.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. James and seconded by Mr. Poston, the Board unanimously approved adjournment at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Leann Hill
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education

Approved: