

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – Board Meeting
District Office
September 8, 2014

The following persons were present:

Board of Education

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

Horry County Schools Staff

Jenna Allen	Nancy Hay	Lucas Richardson
Velna Allen	Leann Hill	Buffy Roberts
Cindy Ambrose	Traci Hogan	Angela Rush
Mary Anderson	Charles Hucks	Melissa Schamel
Bobbi Antonucci	Tammy Lynn Humphreys	Heather Sheehan
Edward Boyd	Robin Jones	David Stoudenmire
Dottie Brown	Mollie Laut	Addie Swinney
Dena Chatfield	H.T. Lee	Rhonda Thompson
Carolyn Chestnut	Rick Maxey	Tammy Trulove
Edi Cox	Boone Myrick	Javier Vega
Laura Farmer	Kyle O'Shea	Yvonne Ward
John Gardner	Beverly Pilkey	Kristin Wilson
Roger Gray	Ann Pond	Mark Wolfe
Tanya Gray	Ben Prince	
Ben Hardee	Ann Reinisch	

Opening September 8, 2014 - Call to Order

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

John Poston gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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.

Chairman DeFeo noted that South Carolina School Board Association (SCSBA) Delegates will be added as the first item on the agenda. Moved by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Washington, the Board unanimously approved the revised agenda.

Chairman DeFeo reviewed the SCSBA Delegate process noting that selections must be submitted by November 14th. The members were asked to contact Chairman DeFeo if interested in being a delegate. The meeting will be December 6th and 7th in Hilton Head.

The Chairman then recognized Ray Winters, Board of Education candidate, in the audience. The current members seeking re-election then introduced themselves: Jimmy Washington (Dist. 3), Neil James (Dist. 10), and Pam Timms (Dist. 6).

Approval of Minutes (August 25, 2014)

Moved by Mr. Poston, seconded by Mr. James, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 25, 2014 meeting.

Public Comments

No public comments made.

Discussion

Reassessment

Mr. Gardner explained the process and purpose of reassessment. He informed the Board that based on information obtained from the County, the District would need to roll forward millage to keep revenues at the same level as the previous fiscal year as a result of the calculation. He informed the Board that growth in property not previously taxed was exempt from the calculation. He also expressed concerns that there will be appeals and requests for residential exemptions once the reassessment notices go out later this month. He explained that tax notices go out in October and recommended an increase to the General Fund millage by 2.9 mills for 2014-15, based on data from the County Office. The data from the County Office did not indicate any change in Debt Service Millage; therefore Mr. Gardner did not recommend an increase in the current Debt Service Millage.

Mr. Poston asked if this will be revenue neutral; Mr. Gardner said that yes, based on the facts currently known, it is.

Mr. DeFeo asked if residential was balanced due to the number of houses built. Mr. Gardner answered that yes, growth has helped to keep it balanced. However, he expects that there will be an increase in the residential exemptions after the tax notices go out. Mr. James asked if the bulk of the growth was non-residential and therefore, that is where the tax increase will be absorbed. Mr. Gardner answered yes.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Elsberry spoke about New Tech High at Myrtle Beach High School. She noted that New Tech students graduate from high school at a rate 14% higher than the national average, enroll in college at a rate 9% higher than the national average, stay in college at a rate of 83% and grow 77% more in high order thinking skills. Dr. Elsberry said that these impressive figures validate the efforts at Myrtle Beach High. With the PDL devices, many more classes can achieve these positive results.

Dr. Elsberry then introduced Melissa Schamel to report to the Board on the growth of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Ms. Schamel showed the Board a chart depicting a 400% growth in ESOL over recent years. She explained to the Board the need for qualified teachers to handle the influx of ESOL students and keep student/teacher ratios realistic. Ms. Schamel added that there is an advisory board, consisting of 12 members, to address the needs of the ESOL program.

Mr. Poston commented that he has many people speak to him regarding this topic. He noted that there are many needs and that funding can be a challenge. He added that the Board needs to address this as a budgetary item as well. Mr. Eisner agreed and added that finding qualified teachers is paramount.

Business

Conceptual Design Approval

Dr. Maxey and Mr. Wolfe gave the Board a brief overview of the presentation from the last meeting for the Conceptual Design. Mr. Poston asked about the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for architects. Mr. Wolfe explained the process which includes a recommendation being presented to the Board for approval prior to the contract being awarded.

Chairman DeFeo asked about the timeframe to obtain architects. Mr. Wolfe responded that selections would be made in 60-90 days. Chairman DeFeo expressed concern that the process move quickly as the need for these projects is great. Mr. Poston stated that while he agrees that the process needs to move as quickly as possible, it is also important to be as thorough as possible in selecting qualified architects to ensure quality in the finished project but that the process would be completed as soon as possible.

Mrs. Morreale asked if the site work could be completed while the architect RFP is underway. Mr. Wolfe answered yes, plans have already been established to accomplish this.

Motion to Approve Conceptual Design as presented; moved by Neil James, seconded by Harvey Eisner. All in favor, motion passes.

Advisory Boards

Mrs. McIlrath motioned to re-appoint Roselyn Perez to the Myrtle Beach Advisory Board. Mr. Washington seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

Mr. James motioned to appoint Carla Major to the Green Sea Floyds Advisory Board. Mr. Cox seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Garland moved to approve the consent agenda (Personnel Recommendations and Requests for High School Diplomas). Mr. Cox seconded, all voted in favor.

Executive Session for Discussion of Personnel Matter and Negotiations Pertaining to the Purchase of Property

Moved by Mr. James and seconded by Mr. Garland, the Board voted to enter executive session at 6:57 pm.

Adjournment

7. Adjournment (Activated at 00:46:33)

Moved by Ms. Timms, seconded by Mrs. Morreale, the Board unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:45pm.

Leann Hill
Executive Asst. to the Board and Superintendent

Approved: