

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Board Meeting & Board Retreat

District Office

August 11, 2014

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

Cindy Ambrose	John Gardner	Rick Maxey
Mary Anderson	Kenneth Generette	Lucas Richardson
Edward Boyd	Roger Gray	Heather Sheehan
Daryl Brown	Joe Grega	Judy Stall
John Cahill	Ben Hardee	Addie Swinney
Dena Chatfield	Teal Harding	Tammy Trulove
Carolyn Chestnut	Leann Hill	
Matt Dean	Traci Hogan	
Laura Farmer	Paula Lee	

1. Opening August 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. - Call to Order

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

A. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance (Activated at 00:00:00)

Pam Timms asked for a moment of silence in honor of Virginia Oyster, a teacher at Socastee Elementary that lost her battle with cancer. Ms. Timms also gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approval of Agenda (Activated at 00:02:15)

Moved by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Washington, the Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Chairman DeFeo recognized Ray Winters, School Board candidate for District 3, in the audience. He then asked candidates on the Board to introduce themselves: Jimmy Washington, District 3; Neil James, District 10; Pam Timms, District 6; Janet Graham, District 7.

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. Minutes - June 30, 2014; July 28, 2014 (Activated at 00:02:24)

Moved by Mr. Cox, Mr. Washington seconded the acceptance of the minutes of the June 30, 2014 meeting. Mr. James asked for additional information on Operational Expectations 11 and 13. Dr. Elsberry answered that the information will be provided later in the meeting. The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 30, 2014 meeting.

2. Public Comments (Activated at 00:04:26)

There were no registered public comments.

3. Discussion (Activated at 00:05:36)

A. Consider the Addition of Varsity Lacrosse as a SCHSL-Sanctioned Sport for the 2014-15 School Year at Carolina Forest High School, Myrtle Beach High School, and St. James High School - Daryl Brown (Activated at 00:05:36)

Daryl Brown presented the Board with a proposal to offer varsity lacrosse, at Carolina Forest High School; Myrtle Beach High School; and Saint James High School. Mr. Eisner asked the cost associated. Mr. Brown stated that \$52,000, yearly, would cover all schools. Mr. Eisner voiced his support. Mr. James asked if the funding could be covered in the existing budget or if there would need to be an addition to the budget. Mr. Gardner answered that the funds could be found in the existing budget. Mrs. McIlrath asked if this amount would cover all expenses such as transportation and gatekeepers. Mr. Brown noted that coach supplements will amount to more than transportation. Mrs. McIlrath asked where the initial \$61,000 would be found in the budget. Mr. Gardner answered that each line of the support services budget would be reviewed to generate the funds needed. Mr. James asked when a decision was needed from the Board to allow this to be feasible this school year. Mr. Brown noted that lacrosse is a spring sport, but the sooner the better. It was agreed that more discussion was needed on this request.

B. Update of District Policies - Kenny Generette (Activated at 00:13:12)

Mr. Generette reviewed policies for Board for the upcoming school year. Mr. Eisner complimented Mr. Generette on the work put into the updates. Mr. Generette noted that his assistant, Karen Johnson, should be commended.

C. High School Diploma Requests - Edward Boyd (Activated at 00:15:18)

Edward Boyd reviewed the process used by the staff to review each applicant to confirm they have met the requirements necessary. He noted that 58 applications had been received, 50 met the requirements established by the State. Mr. Washington asked how the information was disseminated to the public. Mr. Boyd answered that there were press releases and the HCS Website contained all necessary information. Mrs. Graham asked if the Facebook page had been utilized. Mr. Boyd said he would have to verify if Facebook was used. Mrs. McIlrath and Mr. DeFeo added that networking through churches would be helpful to distributing information. Mr. Boyd noted that he would do so through the Faith-Based Cabinet.

D. Discipline - OE 11 Follow-up

Dr. Elsberry delivered a follow-up to Operational Expectation 11 and 12 from the June 30th meeting. Mr. Poston asked for clarification on the acronyms used and noted that he would like to see some goals set to minimize repeat offenders. Mr. James questioned why some schools seem to have very little

discipline issues. Dr. Elsberry noted that as a data-driven district, the numbers are analyzed. She added that causal factors are legitimate questions that should be asked for future reports.

E. Annual Work Plan - September Retreat (Activated at 00:24:56)

Mr. James spoke to the Board regarding the upcoming fall retreat. He asked the Board to consider items they would like to see on the agenda.

F. Monitoring Report OE 2 - Emergency Superintendent Succession (Activated at 00:26:15)

Dr. Elsberry reviewed the Operational Expectations 2 for the Board, which states that Dr. Rick Maxey will succeed her in an emergency vacancy.

G. Superintendent's Report (Activated at 00:26:42)

Dr. Elsberry reviewed Project RED for the Board. The data shows that implementation of Personalized Digital Learning is key to having success. Mr. James expressed concern with the 92% discipline rate. Dr. Elsberry clarified that the data reflects a reduction, not an increase.

Dr. Elsberry then updated the PDL initiative. She then updated the Board on other back to school information such as meal price increase, North Myrtle Beach building conversions, a pilot program being offered that would provide cameras that monitor traffic response to an extended stop sign, and teacher vacancies. Dr. Elsberry explained the vacancies, noting that many late resignations were received. In the future HR will take steps to alleviate this problem by holding employees to their contract and setting a strict May 31st deadline for resignations. Mr. James noted that there may be circumstances that arise after the deadline that might justify release to which Dr. Elsberry agreed. Dr. Elsberry then updated the Board on Daisy Elementary, which had begun classes already. Currently there are 606 students, an increase of 29 students. She noted that there were traffic problems as there are more students being dropped off due to redistricting.

Mr. Eisner asked for clarification on the cameras for the buses and the cost associated. Dr. Elsberry answered that the cameras are not required by the State and the pilot program is being evaluated. Mr. Eisner added that it may become a requirement in the future and funding will be a concern.

Mr. Poston asked if Federal guidelines for school lunches caused an increase in cost to the student. Laura Farmer responded that yes, guidelines were changed in 2010 and it caused an increase based on a formula established by the FDA. Mr. Poston noted that it is concerning that these standards are burdening families with increases.

Dr. Elsberry then showed a video to the Board that details the device take-home insurance policy available to parents. Mrs. Morreale asked if the \$50 fee for the insurance would cover the device while at school noting that she had apprehension with sending it on the bus. She also asked how the schools will track the devices on a daily basis. Edward Boyd was called to respond. Mr. Boyd answered that the staff has been working with middle and high school principals to address the logistics of this plan. Mrs. Morreale then asked how it will be communicated to parents that they are responsible for any damage to the device. Mr. Boyd answered that a call and email will go out to every parent, and the information is on the website as well. Chairman DeFeo asked what research went into being self-insured. Mr. Boyd answered that most districts institute a fee of around \$50 - \$60, and one district that did not feel it was the worst mistake they had made and began charging the fee the next year.

Mr. Morreale asked the reasoning behind middle school students being allowed to take home their device. Mr. Boyd explained that much thought went into this decision and instituting one policy for middle and high school would be better than two separate policies. Chairman DeFeo added that while he understands the reasoning, he also understands the concerns of younger children taking the devices home. Mr. Eisner added that most children carry cell phones as young as 6 and sees no problem with middle school children having the device go home. Mr. Garland asked if the child breaks the device, would they be allowed to take the device home again. Mr. Boyd answered that yes, the child would be allowed to take the device home but after the first breakage the cost is the responsibility of the parent.

Mr. Poston mentioned concern with devices coming to the classroom charged and ready for the day. Mr. Boyd agreed that this is a concern and each child will be responsible to be prepared for class each day.

Mrs. Loftus voiced concern with situations out of the child's control such as a bully breaking someone's device. Mr. Boyd answered that it would be handled as any other incident and if the device was stolen, a police report would be filed.

Chairman DeFeo asked about parents that will have difficulty with the fee and voiced concern with the Board not having prior knowledge of this plan. Mr. Boyd answered that in every district they have worked with, there is a take home option. The student does not have to take the device home, no home assignments will be given that require the device. Also, there will be a payment plan where \$20 down and \$10 per month will allow the child to take the device home after the deposit is paid.

4. Executive Session for Receipt of Legal Advice, Negotiations Pertaining to the Sale of Property.

Moved by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Garland, the Board agreed to enter executive session at 7:10 pm.

5. Business (Activated at 01:00:57)

Moved by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Poston, the Board unanimously approved re-entering regular session at 8:12 pm.

A. Advisory Board Appointments (Activated at 01:01:00)

Ms. Timms moved to appoint Scott Thompson, Renee Mencken, Charles Chappelle and Jeannie Guest (as Community Member) to the Socastee Advisory Board. Seconded by Mr. Poston, unanimously approved.

Mrs. Graham moved to appoint Sheila McCullough, Ryan Foutz, and Alicia Harper to the Conway Advisory Board. Seconded by Mr. Garland, unanimously approved.

Mr. Cox moved to appoint Ezizze Davis Foxworth to the Loris Advisory Board. Seconded by Mr. James, unanimously approved.

B. Procurement/RFQ (Activated at 01:02:42)

Mr. Gardner presented the Board with the recommendation from the recent RFQ for MEP Design Consultant Contracts. Three firms responded to the RFQ. The recommendation is that all three be contracted. The firms are McKnight Smith Ward Griffin Engineers, Inc.; RMF Engineering, Inc.; Beaufort Engineering Services, Inc.

Mr. James noted that sustainment schedules will be periodically reviewed and priorities may shift. Mr. Eisner moved to accept the recommendation, seconded by Mr. James, the Board unanimously approved the motion to enter into contracts with McKnight Smith Ward Griffin Engineers, Inc.; RMF Engineering, Inc.; Beaufort Engineering Services, Inc.

6. Consent Agenda

Motioned by Mr. Washington, seconded by Mr. Poston, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda consisting of Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law; Operational Expectations 11 – Discipline; Operational Expectations 12 - Learning Environment/Treatment of Students; Operational Expectations 13 – Facilities; 2014-15 Annual Work Plan; and, Approval of Requests for High School Diplomas.

7. Adjournment

Motioned by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Garland, the Board unanimously approved adjournment at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Leann Hill
*Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and
Board of Education*

Approved: