

**Horry County Board of Education
Minutes
March 17, 2014
Work Session; District Office**

The following persons were present:

Board Members:

Joe DeFeo, Chairman
David Cox
Harvey Eisner
Janet Graham

Neil James
Karen McIlrath
Janice Morreale
John Poston

Pam Timms
Jimmy Washington

Superintendent:

Cindy Elsberry

District Office Staff:

Velna Allen
Cindy Ambrose
Edward Boyd
Teal Britton
Daryl Brown
Dottie Brown
Jackie Bryant
Joe Burch
Carolyn Chestnut
Edi Cox

Matt Dean
Judy Edwards
Laura Farmer
John Gardner
Kenny Generette
Roger Gray
Ben Hardee
Leann Hill
Traci Hogan
Charles Hucks

Mollie Laut
HT Lee
Tammy Martin
Cindy McGrath
Rick Maxey
Paula Mullins
Boone Myrick
Beverly Pilkey
Lucas Richardson
Angela Rush

Heather Sheehan
Judy Shelley
Judy Stall
Addie Swinney
Laura Tyler
Christine Wilson
Kelly Wiltout
Mark Wolfe

Principals:

Johnny Calder
Gaye Driggers
James LaPier
June Moorhead

Mark Porter
April Scott
Diane Thompson
John Washburn

Ben Prince
David Stoudenmire
Vicki Underwood
Robbie Watkins

Media:

Heather Gale, Horry Independent Vicki Grooms, Sun News

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Poston, second by Mr. James, the Board unanimously approved the 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.

Approval of Minutes

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Ms. Timms, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the February 17, 2014 and February 24, 2014 meetings.

Public Comments

Pat Milley addressed the Board regarding life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Ms. Milley expressed concern and encouraged the Board to consider modifying the schedule for elementary school children.

Recognitions

Teal Britton introduced the following recognitions:

- Socastee Elementary School; Diane Thompson, Principal - Nominated for a National Blue Ribbon Award.
- SC FIRST Lego Robotics Competition:
 - Ocean Bay Elementary: Bay Lightning; 2nd Place Project Award
 - Forestbrook Elementary: 1st Place for Gracious Professionalism
 - River Oaks Elementary: Diane Smith recipient of the Adult Coach/Mentor Award
- Isabella Hixenbaugh - SC Youth Volunteer for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award

Discussion

Monitoring Reports: Results 2; Numeracy

Cindy Ambrose gave a review of the Numeracy statistics as distributed to the Board and shared strategies being emphasized to ensure continuous improvement. Mrs. Ambrose then introduced Marie Holden, an instructional coach from Aynor Middle School, who provided an overview of VMath.

Ms. McIlrath asked when children in intervention are filtered back into the math program. Mrs. Ambrose explained that there are several assessment tools that are used to determine a child's placement. Teams of teachers work together to ensure a child is getting the support needed.

Dr. Elsberry added that she has received great feedback regarding the pre-teaching/re-teaching strategy. This is proving to be a highly effective tool where the student is exposed to a concept prior to the lesson.

Mr. Poston commended the staff for the great achievements Horry County Schools has made in mathematics. He emphasized the future of robotics and STEM and the importance of math.

Ms. Ambrose thanked Mr. Poston for the recognition and acknowledged the Board for their comments and questions which help to evaluate programs and progress.

Budget Development Status

John Gardner updated the Board on the budget process, both with Horry County Schools and the State. He noted that the State budget has passed the House and is heading to the Senate Finance Committee.

After a review of the figures, Mr. James asked if the concept of a bonus program had been analyzed. Mr. Gardner answered that the program would create tax implications to the employee and questions about the impact to retirement still need to be addressed. Dr. Elsberry added that research on the topic has been completed which allows us to look at the next steps in the analysis process.

Mr. Cox inquired about the proposed restructuring of the mid-day bus driver program. Dr. Maxey answered that the proposal calls for a 7 hour day for mid-day bus drivers. This would mean a reduction in hours for about 90 drivers but would not change their benefits. Mr. Cox expressed his concern for the drivers and the important work they do. Ms. Timms echoed Mr. Cox's concerns and added that she has heard from several principals that are opposed to this plan. It was suggested that the decision of which driver's hours are reduced rest with the principals.

Dr. Elsberry encouraged the Board to bring suggestions to the staff. She noted that these figures are projections. She added that the topic has been discussed in several Principal Cabinet Meetings. While there are some indispensable mid-day drivers, there is a large number that do not have tasks to fill their day. She agreed with Mr. Cox and Ms. Timms that transporting the children is valuable work.

There was brief discussion regarding a proposed salary survey. Mr. DeFeo suggested the formation of a committee to establish parameters for the study.

Ms. McIlrath inquired about the steps taken to achieve a balanced budget. Mr. James noted that the Board should keep in mind the introduction of new initiatives which creates the need for new funding options.

NMB Elementary Schools Naming Recommendations

Mr. Burch reviewed the information provided to the Board regarding the North Myrtle Beach Naming Committee. He noted that numerous names were considered for the new elementary schools in the North Myrtle Beach cluster. The Committee has recommended the following names for the three schools:

North Myrtle Beach Primary – **Ocean Drive Elementary School**
North Myrtle Beach Elementary – **Riverside Elementary School**
North Myrtle Beach Intermediate – **Waterway Elementary School**

He noted that each name, derived from the history and location of the school, was unanimously endorsed by the Naming Committee.

Mr. Poston questioned if mascots and school colors would be approved as a separate item in the future. Mr. Burch answered that yes, those would be a separate discussion item. He noted that there is discussion in the attendance area regarding unifying the area with a single mascot and color scheme.

Conceptual Design Steering Committee Update

Mr. Wolfe gave a brief overview of the Conceptual Design Committee to date. He noted that Barbara Schlidt (Coordinator of Library Media Programs and Grant Writing) has been asked to join the committee. The next meeting will be held on March 24th with school tours scheduled for April.

Sustainment Projects Update

Dr. Maxey updated the Board on sustainment projects noting that the HVAC equipment at Green Sea Floyds Elementary School and repair of the track at Socastee High School have been added to the list. Dr. Elsberry commented that there have been several requests for paint, but we will not be able to honor those due to budget restrictions.

Short-Term Facility Plan

Mr. DeFeo asked Mr. Dean how quickly the North Myrtle Beach Middle School addition can be completed. Mr. Dean answered that the conceptual design process is already underway.

Mr. DeFeo then presented a plan drafted by Mr. Garland who was unable to attend the meeting. The plan proposes several options regarding projects, funding options and time frames.

Ms. McIlrath commended Mr. Garland on the work he put into the plan. She expressed concern with the time frame of certain projects like relieving overcrowding at Ocean Bay Middle School.

Mr. DeFeo inquired about the option to spread projects out over a 10 year plan and if this would allow the District to borrow more money. Mr. Gardner explained that while yes, more money could be borrowed, the cost would be more over time.

Mr. DeFeo asked Mr. Gardner to prepare information for the next meeting detailing how much could be borrowed without raising taxes.

Ms. McIlrath inquired about the change in some of the revenue numbers. Mr. Gardner explained that property tax projections had been revised due to less than anticipated collections.

Mr. James asked if Mr. Garland's proposal contemplated projected student growth. Mr. Gardner asked for more direction from the Board regarding which payment option should be pursued. This would enable the staff to provide more detailed financial options. Dr. Elsberry added that Mr. Garland's proposal suggests that a Carolina Forest/Socastee shared middle school would occur in phase 2. Delaying this project will not solve the problems student growth present.

Mr. Eisner expressed concern over the plan's extended time frame which shows projects as far out as 2022-23. Ms. Timms agreed with Mr. Eisner while commending Mr. Garland for the hard work he put into this plan. She also expressed concern over revisiting a list of projects she felt had already been addressed several months ago.

Mr. DeFeo requested other options be prepared including pay-as-you-go, bond, and raising taxes. He would also like to see a 5 year plan as well.

Proposed 2014-15 BOE Meeting Dates

Dr. Elsberry presented the proposed Board of Education meeting dates for the 2014-15 year. She noted that there were no retreat dates on this list but those would be held in the fall and spring. Mr. James requested this be on the next agenda for approval.

Superintendent's Report - Reading Intervention

Heather Sheehan presented a brief overview of the reading intervention program. She noted that the District is in the process of creating a longitudinal tracking system.

Dr. Elsberry pointed out that students in intervention are showing more growth than those in regular programs. Ms. McIlrath suggested classrooms could benefit from the techniques used in intervention.

Mr. Poston requested the intervention information be presented at the same time as the literacy data.

Executive Session - for the Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding Bridgewater Academy Contract, Discussion of Negotiations Incident to the Proposed Purchase of Property, and Discussion of a Personnel Matter

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. Morreale, second by Ms. Timms, the Board unanimously approved beginning Executive Session at 7:55pm.

Dr. Elsberry asked for a moment to commend the Board for the recent National School Board Association Magna Award Honorable Mention for STEM. She noted that only 5 schools nationwide received this distinction. The program receiving the award at the convention in April is "Opening Doors to the Future: STEM at the Academy of Arts, Science and Technology."

Meeting went into Recess followed by Executive Session.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Ms. Morreale, the Board unanimously approved re-entering Regular Session.

Business

Consideration of Revision of 2013-14 School Year Calendar

Dr. Elsberry explained to the Board that the Governor had signed the Bill allowing school boards to waive up to 5 days missed due to inclement weather. Dr. Elsberry recommended that the remaining five days missed in the Aynor and Green Sea Floyds schools due to recent inclement weather and the remaining four days missed in all other attendance areas be waived for students.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Eisner, second by Ms. Morreale, the Board unanimously approved the Recommended Revision of the 2013-14 School Year Calendar for Students.

Mr. James inquired about the staff's missed days. Dr. Elsberry explained that the staff would be required to make the work days up, giving us some good opportunities for needed staff development. She also explained that the principals would be using creative ways to recoup the lost instructional time.

Consent Agenda

- Monitoring Report: Operational Expectations 4; Personnel Administration
- Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law - Addie Swinney
- Home Schooling Request - Kenny Generette

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Ms. McIlrath, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

Mr. DeFeo acknowledged Mr. Marc Morris, the new Carolina Forest High School Teacher and Head Football Coach.

ACTION: Upon motion by Ms. Timms, second by Mr. Eisner, the Board unanimously approved adjournment at 8:40 p.m.

Leann Hill

Exec. Asst. to the Board and Superintendent

Approved: