

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – Board Meeting
District Office
February 5, 2014

The following persons were present:

Board Members:

Joe DeFeo
Harvey Eisner

Jeffrey Garland
Janet Graham
Karen McIlrath
Janice Morreale

Jimmy Washington

Superintendent:

Cindy Elsberry

District Office Staff:

Edward Boyd
Teal Britton
Matt Dean

John Gardner
Kenny Generette
Leann Hill

Rick Maxey
Lucas Richardson

Media:

Heather Gale, Horry Independent
Vicki Grooms, Sun News
Theo Hayes, WMBF

Opening

The meeting was called to order at 11:33 a.m. Mr. DeFeo offered the invocation.

Discussion

A. Short-Term Capital Plan Options

Mr. Dean presented the Board with the documents presented at the January 27th meeting. He also presented the information showing a 2 student increase for 2015-16 and 2016-17 in Grades 3-12 with projected costs.

He clarified for the Board that attendance line changes would not correct the capacity issues alone. Middle schools are a primary concern.

Dr. Elsberry noted that the documents presented on January 27th did not include the 2 student increase. This increase would result in a 10-11% capacity increase. This will have a dramatic effect on the overall capacity of the schools.

As Mr. Dean reviewed the data, there was discussion about special education students' impact on projection numbers. Mr. Dean noted that whereas special education numbers change significantly between schools, these numbers do not reflect capacity for special education classrooms.

There was further discussion regarding portables, their use and impact on capacity of schools.

Mr. James asked why some schools were missing from the list. M. Dean explained that only the schools over 100% capacity are listed. Burgess Elementary and Seaside Elementary were both designed for

building additions and although they were not at 100% capacity, the additions are shown to relieve overcrowding at Saint James Elementary.

Ms. Morreale questioned the use of portables at St. James Elementary, noting that they currently have 20 on campus. Mr. DeFeo asked why they have that many portables but do not show at 100%. Mr. Dean explained that portables are generally not used as general education classrooms, but rather exploratory classes.

Mr. DeFeo asked the consequences if nothing was done regarding capacity. Mr. Dean directed the Board to the first column of the document which indicated numbers without relief.

To clarify the conversation, Ms. McIlrath asked if the data solely addressed core curriculum. Mr. Dean answered that these plans address general education and that these address concerns of today but future plans will address changes in space requirements. Mr. DeFeo suggested reviewing how OBMS handles space concerns with regards to Gifted & Talented and honors classroom space needed.

Dr. Elsberry noted that an instructional audit will be performed to determine how space is used efficiently. Ms. McIlrath stated that the Board should be visionary in making plans for future schools by including features such as movable walls. Mr. Dean added that it is difficult to modify older floor plans but new designs have more flexibility. For example, the need for a traditional media center is going away.

Mr. Garland suggested that St. James Elementary may not be using space efficiently. Mr. James asked for clarification on the list of facilities; 4 look the same and 3 are swaps. Mr. Dean answered that while the projects are not the exact same in cost, the list was modified and some projects were exchanged for others.

Mr. DeFeo commented that he would like to see how utilization will change in 10 years. Mr. Eisner noted that utilizing portables in the future for Gifted & Talented could result in smaller classrooms for certain programs with movable walls for changing needs. It was agreed that more information was needed for the Steering Committee and the Board.

Mr. James suggested the Board identify the top 4 projects and get consensus on adding on to Midland, North Myrtle Beach Middle and replacement of Socastee Elementary and the Horry County Education Center. Mr. James asked that the staff look into these 4 projects. Ms. Morreale questioned the feasibility of paying for the other projects if commitments have already been made on the first 4 projects.

There was brief discussion on the ability to put an addition on to Aynor Middle which will add capacity for approximately 300 students. Mr. Garland noted that these renovations are only needed if capacity is going to change. Mr. Garland suggested adjusting the floor plans to add classrooms to "pod" design as opposed to another whole "pod."

Mr. Eisner asked the Board to look at the most pressing issues at this time, which are St. James Elementary and the need for middle schools.

Dr. Elsberry clarified that the staff would get information for the Board on 4 projects at the top of the list as well as middle school plans. Mr. DeFeo agreed that all projects would be presented together with emphasis on the top 4; Seaside Elementary, Aynor Middle, Burgess and St. James Elementary.

Motion made by K. McIlrath and seconded by N. James to take a 5 minute recess. All in favor, motion passed.

B. Financial Options for Funding the Short-Term Facility Plan – John Gardner

J. Gardner provided an overview of five options to fund the Short-Term Facility Plan.

Mr. DeFeo asked for projections past the 10 years presented. He also asked for the maximum we could borrow without a referendum and tax mill increase. Mr. Gardner directed the Board to Option 2 which

addressed this concept. Mr. Garland commented that if a 10 year projection is prepared, some items will need to be on the list that have been removed from the current list. Mr. DeFeo suggested adding 2 high schools to that list as well.

Mr. Dean informed the Board that an agenda item for the next BOE meeting was sustainment projects.

Mr. Eisner stated that he felt new construction and additions need to be addressed. We have reduced maintenance of facilities and we should not forget what makes HCS great is the quality of buildings we have.

Mr. DeFeo commented that an audit of programs would establish a pattern of what is working and what is not. Mr. Eisner agreed but noted that capacity is still a problem. The Board was in agreement that a middle school may need to be built for the Socastee and St. James attendance areas.

Mr. DeFeo excused himself from the meeting at 1:43 p.m. due to a prior commitment. Mr. Eisner was asked to facilitate the rest of the meeting by Mr. DeFeo.

There was brief discussion on how a tax increase would affect homeowners. Mr. Gardner explained that an increase of 2 mills would equal about \$12 on a home assessed at \$150,000. Ms. Graham noted that an increase would be more for businesses and rentals.

Mr. Garland cautioned the Board about using reserve funds for capital projects as it could affect the bond rating. Mr. Eisner commented on the importance of the frugality of the Board and stressed that the students and safety are the main focus.

Ms. Graham asked about projected growth over the next few years. Mr. Dean answered that growth was predicted by history, and there is always the possibility that the district could grow more than projected.

Adjournment

ACTION: At 1:51 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Leann Hill

Exec. Asst. to the Board and Superintendent

Approved: 2/24/14