

# **HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## ***MINUTES – Board Meeting***

### ***District Office***

***December 16, 2013***

The following persons were present:

**Board Members:**

David Cox  
Joe DeFeo  
Harvey Eisner

Jeffrey Garland  
Janet Graham  
Neil James  
Kay Loftus

Karen McIlrath  
Janice Morreale  
John Poston  
Jimmy Washington

**Superintendent:**

Cindy Elsberry

**District Office Staff:**

Velna Allen  
Cindy Ambrose  
Mary Anderson  
Dustin Bishop  
Ashley Blankenship  
Edward Boyd  
Teal Britton  
Daryl Brown  
Dottie Brown  
Joe Burch  
Carolyn Chestnut  
Edi Cox  
Matt Dean  
Judy Edwards  
Wanda Fulwood  
John Gardner  
Ashley Gasperson  
Kenny Generette

Buddy George  
Sie Gilbert  
Roger Gray  
Ben Hardee  
Charles Hucks  
Leann Hill  
Sean Junkins  
Mollie Laut  
H.T. Lee  
Cindy Magrath  
Tammy Martin  
Rick Maxey  
Paula Mullis  
Boone Myrick  
Tonya Pickett  
Beverly Pilkey  
Lucas Richardson  
Buffy Roberts

Barbara Schlidt  
Heather Sheehan  
Judy Shelley  
Jackie Stanley  
Addie Swinney  
Tammy Trulove  
John Washburn  
Danielle West  
Kelly Wilttrout  
Jim Wright  
Danny Wysong  
Stephanie Yancey

**Principals:**

Judy Beard  
Dwight Boykin  
Paul Browning  
Janice Christy  
Gaye Driggers  
Renea Fowler  
Melissa Graham

Dirk Gurley  
Ann Hall  
Angela Huggins  
Candace Lane  
James LaPier  
Janet Lawrence-Patten  
Norman McQueen

Andrea Parsons  
Vann Pennell  
April Scott  
Vicki Underwood  
John Washburn  
Robbie Watkins

**Media:**

Heather Gale, Horry Independent  
Vicki Grooms, Sun News

**1. Opening**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Neil James offered the invocation and the Socastee High School Air Force JROTC presented the flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

***ACTION: Mr. Washington moved that the agenda be approved with the following revision:***

- **Delete Consent Agenda Items #1 and #2.**

**The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morreale and was unanimously approved.**

**ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cox, second by Mrs. McIlrath, the Board unanimously approved minutes from the November 11, 2013 and November 25, 2013 meetings.**

## **2. Recognitions**

The following individuals/groups were recognized:

- Myrtle Beach High School – 2013 Academic Olympics Winner
- Myrtle Beach High School Seahawks – 2013 AAA State Football Champions
- Forestbrook Middle School – Mock Trial State Champions
- Ocean Bay Middle School – Runner Up, Mock Trial State Competition
- Socastee High School NJROTC – Eleventh year, Distinguished Honor Award

## **3. Public Comments**

- Pat Milley – Common Core
- Colleen Mills – Realignment of Ocean Bay Middle School and Black Water Middle School

## **4. Discussion**

- A. Monitoring Reports
  - Operational Expectations 6—Financial Administration
  - Operational Expectations 7—Asset Protection
- B. Draft Policy Regarding Epinephrine – Kenneth Generette and Tammy Trulove reported that a policy regarding this subject will be developed and presented to the Board for approval at a future meeting. It was stated that epi pens are expensive and expire after about 15 months. Epi pens are provided by the state—until this year, the district purchased them and with the help of a grant, provided them to students who do not have prescriptions.
- C. Carolina Forest Attendance Area
  - All Sixth Grade Students Realigned to Carolina Forest Elementary School/Ocean Bay Elementary School/River Oaks Elementary School
    - There was discussion regarding research of K-6 schools vs. K-5 schools. Additionally, certification for teachers of K-6 was discussed. Mrs. Cindy Ambrose explained that a teacher certified in elementary is certified to teach through grade 6; however, they could not deliver some of the content, such as pre-algebra. Gifted and talented teachers deliver GT, but in grade 6 they can only teach their content areas, unless the teacher is dually certified. She asked the board if they wanted similar opportunities for sixth grade students no matter where they attend. If so, the district would need to offer accelerated curriculum. The staff can do that and would need to work with Human Resources and there would be additional costs involved. Mr. Jim Wright addressed funding transportation and Dr. Elsberry explained the loss of income in school cafeterias regarding a la carte items when students went from a middle school to an elementary school. Mr. Washington asked if the district could be prepared to implement K-6 in Carolina Forest in two years. Dr. Elsberry stated that it would be difficult to implement it for 2014-15, but it could be done for 2015-2016. Mrs. Graham asked how free and reduced and minority populations would be affected. Chairman DeFeo stated that he did not believe there would be significant changes. There was additional discussion regarding demographics, possible additional costs for staffing, etc. Mr. Poston asked if this process, if implemented, would continue to fragment the cluster, as Black Water Middle School is being referred to as “that Conway school.”
- D. Carolina Forest/Conway Attendance Area
  - Rezoning All of South Conway Elementary School, Homewood Elementary School, and Pee Dee Elementary School to Whittemore Park Middle School/Conway High School and All of Conway Elementary School and Kingston Elementary School to Conway Middle School/Conway High School; and Rezoning Some Students from Conway Middle School

to Whittemore Park Middle School. This rezoning includes moving all of Hwy. 701 South to the Conway Attendance Area from the Carolina Forest Attendance Area.

- Mr. Poston asked if the rezoning of Homewood Elementary School would result in a change in the middle school that students would attend. Mr. Burch stated that there would be no changes to Homewood Elementary students. Mr. Poston stated that Black Water Middle School would be changed to about 600 students with the above changes, and there would be better utilization of Whittemore Park Middle School; however, that would mean that Black Water will be tremendously under-utilized.
  - Realignment of Sixth Grade at Ocean Bay Middle School to Carolina Forest Elementary School, Ocean Bay Elementary School, and River Oaks Elementary School along with Rezoning Gardner Lacy Road (excluding Waterford Plantation), Myrtle Ridge Drive, and Underdeveloped Areas to Palmetto Bays Elementary School and Black Water Middle School, and Rezoning Hwy. 701 South to Whittemore Park Middle School and Conway High School.
  - Option 1—Original Staff Recommendation: Rezoning West of Hwy. 501 up to Hwy. 31 to Black Water Middle School; Carolina Forest Blvd. up to and including Walkers Woods & Sawgrass to Black Water Middle School; and Myrtle Beach National and Waterford to Black Water Middle School.
- E. Budget Assumptions and Parameters – John Gardner presented the report. Dr. Maxey stated that the original recommendation made in September 2011 led to implementation of the district-wide optimization plan, and formation of the district-wide and site-based committees. Mr. Poston expressed concern that there will be two middle schools with capacity issues. Mrs. Graham stated that she had heard from Conway citizens that they want to be a community again. Mr. Gardner stated that the district is expected to grow next year. Mr. DeFeo asked if the decision not to increase class size was a permanent decision. Mr. Gardner stated that we would like to see conditional orders to not increase class size. Mr. DeFeo stated that Mooresville, NC's school district went from 18 to 30 in classes in their schools—they were not part of a PDA, and the system not only survived, but is one of the top in the state. He stated that he was good with delaying PDL for a year, as we should not self-consume ourselves with one initiative. Mr. James asked about the calendar regarding the proviso dealing with the ITA—will board members have adequate time to gather and utilize the information? Mr. Gardner responded that he is scheduled to speak regarding budget at each upcoming BOE meeting and then on February 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a budget workshop. Mrs. McIlrath expressed concern about teachers implementing PDA the same year as common core. Mr. James asked about the schedule for the budget. According to Mr. Gardner, the administration hopes to have the first report ready by May 19, and it will need three readings—May 19, June 16, and June 30. Mr. DeFeo stated that for a government agency, if we had 2% of the salary portion and other areas, that's \$6.6 million every year and is why our fund is growing. He stated that he has a problem with this when our building program is struggling. He asked for someone to report on the possibility of swapping four mills back to capital. Dr. Elsberry stated that administration wants to talk in the next discussion item about another way to fund PDL.
- F. Allocation Formulae – Dr. Elsberry suggested that instead of raising the class size to fund PDL as instructed by the Board in June, to consider using unexpended funds budgeted for staff positions that remain vacant. Our rate of vacancies was approximately 2% or \$2.6M in 2013-14. PDL for the first year took \$2.2 million from general fund on top of capital expenses. Mr. Poston stated if the K-6 model is implemented for fall of 2014, he is afraid that if the budget numbers are not right we may lose some money, possibly delaying a year to get it on the budget cycle. Mr. DeFeo agreed. Mr. James stated that when the Board approved the PDL program in June, the motion said that when we proceed, we will add to the formula two students per class and will revisit each year. The board asked the staff to seek funding sources and he thinks that is what the superintendent has done. He suggested that the board utilize the vacancies funding. Mr. Gardner stated that he will bring back to the board a proposal removing the increase in class size for the middle school level.
- G. Superintendent's Report
- Advanced Placement Data – A written report was provided.
  - School and District Report Cards – A written report was provided.

- Personalized Digital Learning
  - Charles Hucks and Ashley Gasperson provided a report on the distribution of iPads to middle schools. It was stated that for this year, students will not be allowed to take the tablets home, and there is already a policy, discipline plan, and procedures for when property is stolen or damaged.
- National Honor Society Committee Report – A written report was provided. Additionally, Mrs. Velna Allen stated that the new guidelines will begin with rising ninth graders. Schools where the GPA requirement is being lowered are asked to wait until next year to make the change. In schools where the GPA requirement is being raised, current students will only have to meet the current GPA requirement.

## **5. Executive Session**

***Action: At 9:11 p.m., upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Garland, the Board reconvened in Executive Session for the discussion of a personnel matter.***

***Action: At 9:29 p.m. the meeting reconvened.***

## **6. Business**

- Consideration of Personnel Recommendation  
***Action: Upon motion by Mrs. Graham, second by Mr. Garland, the Board gave unanimous approval to appoint Dr. Angela Huggins as Principal of Pee Dee Elementary School. (Note: Mrs. Loftus had left the meeting during Executive Session, so the vote was 10:0.)***
- Procurement Code Revision  
***Action: Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mrs. McIlrath, the Board approved the recommended procurement code revision. (9:0:1 Mr. Poston recused himself.)***
- Attendance Line Changes
  - Rezoning of Daisy Elementary School, Kingston Elementary School, and Loris Elementary School
  - Establishment of Three PK-5 Attendance Zones in the North Myrtle Beach Area***Action: Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Eisner, the motion was unanimously approved (10:0).***
- Consideration of Approval of Notice of Selection for Contract Negotiation  
***Action: Upon motion by Mr. Eisner, second by Mrs. Morreale, the board approved issuing a Notice of Selection of Contract Negotiations with the highest ranked firm – SHW Group, LLC. The motion was approved 9-0-1, with John Poston recusing himself from the vote.***
- Appointment of Legislative Committee  
***Action: Mr. Eisner moved that the following board members serve on the Legislative Committee: Jeffrey Garland, Janet Graham, Janice Morreale, and Jimmy Washington. The motion was seconded by Mr. Washington and was unanimously approved.***

## **7. Consent Agenda**

- Consideration of Proposal for Robotics Support
- Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law  
***Action: Upon motion by Mrs. Morreale, second by Mr. Washington, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda items listed above.***

## **8. Adjournment**

***ACTION: At 9:55 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. McIlrath, second by Mr. Washington, the meeting was adjourned.***

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**Wanda J. Fulwood**  
**Exec. Asst. to the Board and Superintendent**

**Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ 1/13/2014 \_\_\_\_\_**