

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

August 17, 2020
District Office
335 Four Mile Road
Conway, SC 29526

Board of Education

Ken Richardson	Neil James
John Poston	Ray Winters
Chris Hardwick	Shanda Allen
David Cox	Sherrie Todd
Janet Graham	Helen Smith
Janice Morreale	W. Russell Freeman

Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen, Mary J. Anderson, David Beaty, Lisa Bourcier, Joe Burch, Edi Cox, Daryl Brown, John Gardner, Kenny Generette, Leann Hill, Candace Lane, Rick Maxey, Boone Myrick, Heidi Oates, Mark Porter, Lucas Richardson, April Scott, Tammy Trulove

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.

1. **OPENING - August 17, 2020 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

a. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Hardwick**

Mr. Hardwick offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Tammy Trulove, Director of Health and Safety Services, spoke on the topic of masks and requirements as set forth by the CDC and SCDHEC. Ms. Trulove noted that as long as 6 feet of social distancing was maintained, Board members' masks could be removed. Ms. Trulove also noted that the Horry County School Board of Education was safely following all guidelines set forth.

b. Introduction of Board Members

Prior to the Human Resources Update, Mr. Richardson noted he had inadvertently skipped the Introduction of Board Members. At that time, Mr. Richardson asked the Board members to introduce themselves and indicate the areas they represent.

c. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Richardson

A motion was made to approve the August 17, 2020, agenda as presented.

Moved By: Mr. Winters

Seconded By: Mr. Hardwick

The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

d. Approval of Minutes - Mr. Richardson

1. August 4, 2020

A motion was made to approve the August 4, 2020, minutes as presented.

Moved By: Mr. Cox

Seconded By: Mr. James

The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

2. DISCUSSION

a. Facilities Committee Report - Mr. James

Mr. James begin his Facilities Committee presentation by sharing drone footage of the following items: tennis courts at Aynor High, Loris High, Socastee High, St. James High, Conway High, and Carolina Forest High. Additional drone footage was included of the construction progress on the new SOAR Academy. Drone footage was also shared of the modular installations at Ocean Bay Elementary, Carolina Forest Elementary, and River Oaks Elementary. Mr. James noted that Phase 1 for the tennis court resurfacing at Aynor High, Loris High, Socastee High, and St. James High is complete. Mr. James noted there were three schools that have the tennis courts rebuilt, and they are Conway High, scheduled for completion November 11, 2020; Carolina Forest High, scheduled for completion November 19, 2020; and Green Sea Floyds High, scheduled for completion on November 24, 2020. In Phase 1, three tracks are scheduled for resurfacing. Loris

High School is scheduled to be completed by the end of September. Carolina Forest and St. James are scheduled to begin after football season has concluded. Carolina Forest and St. James are scheduled to be completed in March.

Mr. James noted that land clearing and progress on the SOAR Academy was progressing and on schedule. Mr. James also noted that a ground-breaking ceremony will be scheduled at a later date.

Mr. James stated the conversion of Myrtle Beach Intermediate School to Horry County Adult Education is 90% complete. Mr. James noted that the Transportation Office 501 is now located in the old Records building next to Conway High School.

Mr. James stated that the Facilities Committee's meeting dates for the 2020-2021 school year will align with the second meeting of the Horry County Board of Education.

Phase 2 of the tennis and track renovations includes track replacements at Aynor, Green Sea Floyds, and North Myrtle Beach. Mr. James noted that building modification residual funds have been identified as the funding source along with a 10% contingency. The cost for those projects is \$3,309,280, being funded from the Building Modifications Residual Funds. We currently have \$4,075,578 in that fund. If the total project cost of \$3,309,280 is used for these projects, the remaining balance is \$766,298. This item will be brought before the Board at an upcoming meeting for discussion and voting to follow.

Mr. James noted several sustainment projects that Facilities has identified. Those projects include replacement of the boiler at Forestbrook Elementary, replacement of the cooling tower at Green Sea Floyds High, replacement of HVAC wall units at Adult Ed and Lakewood Elementary, and a fire alarm panel replace at Green Sea Floyds High. The Facilities Committee also discussed gym bleacher replacement during the 2020-2021 school year for Socastee High, during the 2021-2022 school year for Loris High, during the 2022-2023 school year for Green Sea Floyds High, and during the 2023-2024 school year for St. James Middle School.

b. Human Resources Update - Ms. Anderson

Ms. Anderson addressed the Board regarding the number of vacancies within Horry County Schools. As of August 13, 2020, HCS had 40 vacancies with 6 job postings that also closed on that date. Ms. Anderson stated those 6 postings were filled this week. Ms. Anderson also noted that while that number seemed high, it was not given our district's size. Ms. Anderson noted it was not unusual during the year to have 20 to 30 vacancies. Ms. Anderson stated that she also wanted to bring to the Board's attention the 164 resignations that occurred for June, July, and August in 2019 as compared to the 169 resignations that have

occurred for June, July, and up to August 13, 2020. Ms. Anderson noted a difference in 5 vacancies between 2019 and 2020 during the same time period.

Ms. Smith questioned the number of substitutes that would be available for this upcoming school year. Ms. Anderson responded that a survey had been sent to the substitutes with an overwhelming response of approximately 896 substitutes planning on returning to work.

c. K-12 HCS Virtual Program - Ms. Myrick

Ms. Myrick addressed the Board with an update on the K-12 HCS Virtual Program.

Current enrollment number are as follows:

Level	Number of Students
Elementary	5,900(31%)
Middle	3,778 (33%)
High	3,699 (27%)
Total	13,377 (30%)

Ms. Myrick indicated that preliminary numbers were much higher, but staff discovered that there were duplications of some student information when school administrators reached out to parents to confirm course enrollments.

Ms. Myrick then shared the grade level break down of virtual enrollment as follows:

Grade Level	Number of Students
K	766
1	978
2	941
3	1041
4	1050
5	1124
6	1251
7	1213
8	1314
9	1087
10	1095
11	867
12	650

Ms. Myrick then shared the following update on preparations for K-12 HCS Virtual as follows:

- Staff members have identified and confirmed students who will be served by K-12 HCS Virtual.
- Students have been coded to attend K-12 HCS Virtual in PowerSchool.
- Classes and sections per level are being identified for students who selected the full-time virtual option.
- Students will be assigned to the appropriate classes/courses.
- Teachers to serve the full-time virtual program will be identified and assigned to courses.

- K-12 HCS Virtual teachers will receive training in using the online curriculum, as well as the new online learning management platforms.
- Devices will be issued to students. Principals will share when devices will be issued. Ms. Myrick noted that HCS offers parents a \$25 fee (not required) that covers damage to devices. If a parent elects not to pay the fee, the parent will be responsible for any damage to the device.

Ms. Myrick noted that when HCS researched options for content providers across the country for successful implementation of online curriculum, HCS selected Florida Virtual, an accredited national online curriculum provider with more than 20 years of online curriculum development. The courses are built using the national standards of quality online learning. Ms. Myrick noted that HCS teachers will also be utilizing that curriculum as part of their instruction, but HCS will not be using the Florida Virtual School teachers. Throughout the year, HCS will provide ongoing training to teachers.

d. Superintendent's Report

1. New Teacher Academy

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Maxey reported that the annual New Teacher Academy was conducted virtually, utilizing both pre-recorded videos and live virtual sessions to allow for teachers to connect and collaborate. The HCS New Teacher Academy, which included 270 participants, had 96 first-year educators, 77 of whom possess 11+ years of experience. He also noted that 78 colleges were represented with 27 participants being Coastal Carolina University graduates. Dr. Maxey stated on days 3-4 of the academy, teachers will be at their newly assigned schools participating in professional development. Video footage of positive feedback was shared with the Board by several attendees.

2. August A-Team

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Maxey stated that the 2020-2021 A-Team meeting was scaled back to focus on principal leadership that consisted of virtual meetings by grade level. Dr. Maxey shared the following leadership session topics:

- Establishing Context: Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We're Going
- Leading Courageously and Empathetically During Challenging Times
- COVID-19: Impact on Children and Implications for Our Work
- Framework for Leadership

- Decision Making
- Effective Communication
- Principal Checklist for Re-Opening Plan
- Curriculum Updates
- Planning for LEAP Days

Due to the compressed time period available for preparing for the new school year, Dr. Maxey shared that principals spent focused time on interacting with their respective grade-level Executive Directors as they planned together for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

3. LEAP Days

Dr. Maxey shared a slide show of the following information regarding HCS LEAP Days:

- The South Carolina General Assembly approved funding for five additional days before the start of the 2020-2021 school year for students in grades K-8.
- These days have been identified as days to Learn, Evaluate, Analyze and Prepare (LEAP).

To identify students who were invited to participate, the following criteria was utilized:

- Students who experienced low engagement during the spring closure
- Students who demonstrated learning gaps
- Students in the process of evaluation for EL and special education
- Students who are homeless or migrant

LEAP Days Attendance is as follows:

Elementary Schools

- 5,758 Students invited
- 2,001 Confirmed for attendance

Middle Schools

- 2,686 Students invited
- 580 Confirmed for attendance

The HCS LEAP Days schedule was shared as follows:

LEAP Planning Days for Staff: August 18 and 19

- Safety training
- Instructional planning
- Assessment preparation
- Classroom set-up

LEAP Days for Students: August 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26

LEAP Days Hours of Operation:

- Elementary Schools: 8:30 - 1:30
- Middle Schools: 8:30-1:30

Transportation will be provided for all students.

Breakfast and lunch will be served.

HCS LEAP Days Activities are as follows:

- Establishing routines and procedures relating to Covid-19 (e.g., social distancing, wearing of masks, etc.)
- Revisiting prior content and skills
- Administering diagnostic assessments
- Analyzing data
- Engaging in social and emotional learning
- Reviewing Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

4. District Operations

Dr. Maxey shared information regarding District operations. As of August 17, 2020, all employees have returned to the District Office located on Four Mile Road. In an effort to minimize public contact, currently the District Office is not open to the public; however, Dr. Maxey shared that many things that parents need to do this time of year, such as the student registration process, can be done online. Dr. Maxey encouraged everyone to utilize all of the available online resources HCS provides to public.

Dr. Maxey then invited Ms. Allen to share a brief update on athletics. Ms. Allen noted that due to the potential impact of Hurricane Isaias, the original date to resume conditioning, which was August 3, 2020, was moved to August 5, 2020. Today, August 17, 2020, is the first official

practice for Girls Golf, Girls Tennis, and Swim. Ms. Allen noted that HCS is having difficulty finding pool rental options; therefore, there currently is not a location available to hold a swim meet. The official first date of practice for Cross Country, Volleyball, Cheer, and Football is August 24, 2020, and will remain in phase 1.5. These groups are meeting in pods of 16, with 15 athletes and 1 coach. Cheer and Football will remain in Phase 1.5 for the next two weeks but noting football can use helmets beginning today with September 8, 2020, scheduled for the first official day of practice. Ms. Allen noted that COVID-19 "Return to Play" guidelines are still in effect. Ms. Allen shared that middle school football and cheer will begin practice on September 8, 2020. She also shared that HCS was working to ensure all middle schools participated in 5 games. It should be noted that HCS will continue to monitor updates from the South Carolina High School League and will adjust accordingly.

Dr. Maxey shared information regarding masking following Ms. Allen's update. Dr. Maxey noted that on August 3, 2020, the State Department of Education issued a memorandum that detailed the expectations and requirements of using masks in SC schools. Dr. Maxey stated it shared the guidelines for masking on buses and inside facilities. Dr. Maxey shared that the memo stated that all staff and student will wear masks during the day. The memo stated that there are instances where exceptions can be made and that is detailed in the memo such as medical reasons and religious reasons. Dr. Maxey shared that for obvious reasons the mask cannot be used at lunchtime. Dr. Maxey also stated the SDE memo does allow for students to remove masks under the direction of a teacher or administrator.

Dr. Maxey stated that he is questioned regarding what school will look like on September 8, 2020, and he again reiterated that would be based on the disease activity report on August 31, 2020, provided by SCDHEC. Dr. Maxey noted that as of right now, 7 counties have moved to the medium spread level, and Horry County is one of those counties. Dr. Maxey remarked he hoped that the positive trend continued and noted that HCS will follow the results of the August 31, 2020, report and the direction provided by SCDHEC and their epidemiologist.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Daniel Boissonneault signed up to speak during the Public Comments portion of the meeting. Mr. Boissonneault did not come forward when called.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Discussion of Potential Property Purchases**
- b. Employee A Appeal Hearing**

c. Consideration of Employee B Appeal

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 6:58 P.M. During the Executive Session, the room was cleared with the exception of the Board members and appropriate parties regarding the Executive Session items.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Mr. Winters

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

5. BUSINESS

A motion was made to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:22 P.M. and reconvene the meeting. The Board Chair noted that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

a. Consideration of Employee A Appeal Hearing

A motion was made by Mr. Poston that the Board finds insufficient evidence to determine whether Employee A committed the infractions that led to his termination but Mr. Poston further moved that it is in the best interest of Employee A and the District that Employee A not be returned to employment within Horry County School District.

Moved By: Mr. Poston

Seconded By: Ms. Morreale

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

b. Consideration of Employee B Appeal

Mr. Cox stated that based upon consideration of Employee B's appeal and the Board's review of the documentation related to this matter, he would make a motion not to grant the employee's request for a hearing before the Board and to support the Superintendent's recommendation for termination.

Moved By: Mr. Cox

Seconded By: Ms. Morreale

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

c. Establish Board Meeting Schedule for Fiscal Year 2021 - Dr. Maxey

Dr. Maxey addressed the Board regarding establishing the Board Meeting Schedule for the Fiscal Year 2021. Dr. Maxey noted this was created in effort to develop the Annual Work Plan for the upcoming year.

Moved By: Ms. Smith
Seconded By: Mr. Hardwick

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

d. Advisory Board Appointments - Board Members

A motion was made by Ms. Morreale to appoint/reappoint the following Advisory members to the St. James Advisory Board:

Beth Ann Meschter - 2-Year Term - 1st Term Appointment

Matt Hall - 2-Year Term - 1st Term Appointment

Moved By: Ms. Morreale
Seconded By: Mr. Winters

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Mr. Freeman to appoint/reappoint the following Advisory members to the North Myrtle Beach Advisory Board:

Chrisi Russ - 2-Year Term - 4th Term Appointment

John Breeden - 2-Year Term - 3rd Term Appointment

Tiffany Knopp - 2-Year Term - 1st Term Appointment

Erica Meekins - 2-Year Term - 3rd Term Appointment

Moved By: Mr. Freeman
Seconded By: Ms. Todd

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Ms. Smith to appoint/reappoint the following Advisory members to the Socastee Area Advisory Board:

Roger Clyde - 2-Year Term - 3rd Term Appointment

Charles Chappelle - 2-Year Term - 4th Term Appointment

Michelle Gerald - 2-Year Term - 2nd Term Appointment

Meghan Stiles - 2-Year Term - 2nd Term Appointment

Kami Newman - 2-Year Term - 1st Term Appointment (Community Member)

Moved By: Ms. Smith
Seconded By: Mr. Poston

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Mr. James to appoint/reappoint the following Advisory members to the Green Sea Floyds Advisory Board:

Carl Lee - 2-Year Term - 1st Term Appointment

Chris Collins - 2-Year Term - 1st Term Appointment

Shannon Harrelson - 2-Year Term - 1st Term Appointment

Alanda Crawford - 2-Year Term - 1st Term Appointment (Community Member)

Moved By: Mr. James
Seconded By: Mr. Hardwick

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

A motion was made by Ms. Allen to appoint/reappoint the following Advisory Board members to the Aynor Advisory Board:

Doyle Nobles - 2-Year Term - 2nd Term Appointment (Community Member)

Catherine Johnson - 2-Year Term - 3rd Term Appointment

Charlene Kirby - 1-Year Term - 4th Term Appointment

Kelly Long - 2-Year Term - 3rd Term Appointment

Britt Shelley - 1-Year Term - 1-Year Term - 1st Term Appointment

Moved By: Ms. Allen
Seconded By: Mr. James

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law**
- b. Monitoring Report: GC-6 Annual Work Plan**
- c. Monitoring Report: OE-2 Emergency Superintendent Succession**
- d. Monitoring Report: OE-11 Discipline**
- e. Monitoring Report: OE-13 Facilities**

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Moved By: Mr. Winters
Seconded By: Mr. Hardwick

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 P.M.

Moved By: Mr. Hardwick
Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

UPCOMING MEETING(S):

- a. **Policy Committee Meeting, September 14, 2020, 4:30 PM, District Office**
- b. **Board Work Session, September 14, 2020, 6:00 PM, District Office**

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education

APPROVED: September 14, 2020