HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

M I N U T E S

BOARD MEETING

October 19, 2020
District Office
335 Four Mile Road
Conway, SC 29526

Board of Education

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

Horry County Schools Staff

Melanie Alston, Mary J Anderson, David Beaty, Lisa Bourcier, Daryl Brown, Joe Burch, Kathleen Cogland, Kaitlin Flannery, Kevin Flannery, Leann Hill, Cameron Lentz, Rick Maxey, Boone Myrick, Heidi Oates, Lucas Richardson, Erik Schrader, Cori Canada Shuford, 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. <u>OPENING - OCTOBER 19, 2020 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER</u>

Board Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

a. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Todd offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Introduction of Board Members

Mr. Richardson asked Board members to introduce themselves and the areas in which they represent.

c. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Richardson

A motion was made to approve the October 19, 2020 agenda. No vote was taken.

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

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

Board Action: NA

A second motion was made to amend the agenda to include item 2.e., 3. 2020 Class AAAAA Boys' Swimming State Champion, Harrison Clinton, and item 2.e., 4. 2020 HCS Teacher of the Year, Elizabeth Hendrick.

Moved By: Mr. Poston
Seconded By: Mr. Winters

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

d. Approval of Minutes - Mr. Richardson

1. October 5, 2020

A motion was made to approve the October 5, 2020, minutes as presented.

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

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

2. DISCUSSION

a. Finance Committee Report - Mr. Hardwick

The Finance Committee met earlier today to discuss the preliminary June 30, 2020, General Fund-Fund Balance, Education Capital Improvement Sales and Use Tax Update, Quarterly Financial Statement for the Period Ending September 30, 2020, Status of Athletic Programs, and a CARES Update. Mr. Hardwick remarked that the HCS Fund Balance increased by close to $20,000,000. Mr. Hardwick noted that in keeping with the Minimum Fund Balance of 15% at $64,037,234, HCS has an excess of $38,597,819. Mr. Hardwick stated the Penny Sales Tax projections previously provided by Mr. Brian Nurick, Compass Municipal Advisors, and as a result of the pandemic, the Facilities Committee was informed by Mr. Gardner that projections were 15% less. It should be noted that HCS is in excess of what was projected by about $2,000,000. Mr. Hardwick stated a mill from last year was worth $1.6 million and has increased to $1.7

million for this year. Mr. Hardwick remarked that Food Services and sporting event receipts are working with a deficit. Mr. Hardwick noted these items may be brought before the Board at a later time to work on minimizing those deficits.

b. Monitoring Report: OE-6 Quarterly Financial Report - Mr. Gardner

Monitoring Report: OE-6 was presented for the period ending September 30, 2020.

c. Consider Ratification of Policy Committee Revisions to Board Governance - Mr. Winters

Mr. Winters addressed the Board regarding consideration of ratification of Policy Committee Revision to Board Governance By-Laws. The changes are strictly in the Business Meeting section regarding the realignment of the Business Meeting topic to reflect the actual way the Board operates and in the Open Forum section providing clarification as to whom can speak and when they must register. Any further changes were clerical in nature to correct typos, etc.

d. HCS Re-Opening Plan: Utilizing HCS Case Dashboard as a Local Datapoint for Determining Instructional Model - Dr. Maxey

Dr. Maxey addressed the Board regarding revisiting the HCS Re-Opening Plan and utilizing the HCS Case Dashboard as a Local Datapoint for Determining Instructional Model. Dr. Maxey noted at its August 4, 2020, Board Meeting, the Horry County Board of Education unanimously approved the “2020-21 HCS Re-Opening Plan” as presented by Dr. Maxey and staff. Upon Board approval, the “2020-21 HCS Re-Opening Plan” was submitted to the South Carolina Department of Education. In a letter dated August 10, 2020, South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman notified Dr. Maxey that the South Carolina Department of Education approved the “2020-21 HCS Re-Opening Plan.”

To determine the type of instructional model that would be used in Horry County Schools, the “2020 HCS Re-Opening Plan” specified that the District would rely upon the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) weekly Disease Activity by County report. More specifically, if the disease activity level is reported as low, the instructional model will be face-to-face, five days per week; medium, the instructional model will be hybrid; or high, the instructional model will be distance education.

As noted on page 2 of the “2020-21 HCS Re-Opening Plan,” the fluid nature of the pandemic means that adjustments to the District’s Re-Opening Plan may need to occur should more information become available: *“Our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus continue to evolve, and our protocols and plans will be updated as appropriate and as more information becomes available*.”

DHEC on its “Schools & Childcare Centers (COVID-19)” web page states the following:

“CDC recommends that all decisions about implementing school-based strategies should be made locally, in collaboration with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community. DHEC is providing this county-level data about disease transmission to support decision-making at the local level. It is not meant to be a stand-alone document.”

Horry County Schools has developed a COVID-19 case dashboard, which was introduced by Dr. Maxey during the October 5, 2020, Board meeting. This dashboard, which provides additional local data for the District to use in making school operational decisions, reports COVID-19 positive test results for staff and students which HCS nurses have confirmed with DHEC.

Numbers reported in the Horry County Schools COVID-19 Case Dashboard indicate totals for both current and cumulative positive staff and student COVID-19 cases, as reported by HCS nurses and as confirmed by DHEC for each school site. During the school week, Horry County Schools compiles and updates the disease activity data on the dashboard twice daily for each school, at 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

While the data provided by the dashboard is extremely valuable, multiple factors may impact a decision to return a school to full-time distance education, factors such as the impact of quarantines on staffing, the availability of substitute employees, and/or a significant number of positive test results within a given school. However, the value of the dashboard as a local datapoint is that decisions to move instruction to full-time distance education can then be limited to the school(s)/classroom(s) that are significantly impacted by the aforementioned factors and thus prevent a system-wide transition of the entire District to distance education.

During the discussion portion of this topic, Dr. Maxey called forward Velna Allen, Chief Officer of Student Services, and Tammy Trulove, Director of Health and Safety Services, to share vital information pertaining to the HCS Dashboard with focus on the following three items: Attendance Coding, HCS Dashboard, and Contact Tracing. Ms. Allen and Ms. Trulove presented a very comprehensive slideshow reviewing each item individually and in great depth. Following Ms. Allen's and Ms. Trulove's presentation, Mr. Brown provided an update on Personal Protective Equipment (Plexiglass) Workspace Shields. Mr. Brown shared the following:

- HCS has contracted construction of 22,000 Plexiglas protective shields through SCDE
- Numerous styles being designed for various desk and table shapes

- Per DHEC guidelines, shields will extend one foot beyond desk and at least one foot above the student's head
- anticipated cost of $3.8M is covered by SCDE

Mr. Brown also shared the remaining Plexiglass requirements:

- The SCDE is providing sufficient funds to accommodate approximately 32,500 HCS students.
- Without further assistance, approximately $350K is required to procure resources locally to provide protection for an additional 12,500 students:
- Fasteners
- Frames
- Plexiglass Sheets
- Professional Labor

Following the presentation and discussion, Dr. Maxey shared his recommendations to the Board:

1) the utilization of the HCS Case Dashboard as an additional local datapoint for determining the instructional model to be used by individual District brick-and-mortar schools,

2) the use of any local datapoints which may be developed or become available in the future,

3) the implementation of the hybrid instructional model for all District brick-and-mortar schools, effective October 19, 2020, until the District is able to return all brick-and-mortar schools safely to five-day, face-to-face instruction,

4) the provision of a minimum of five calendar days' notice to parents before a change in instructional model unless an emergency at an individual brick-and-mortar school warrants an immediate change of that individual brick-and-mortar school's schedule, and

5) re-affirm the premise, as previously stated in the "2020-21 HCS Re-Opening Plan," that our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus continue to evolve, and our protocols and plans will be updated as appropriate and as more information becomes available.

Dr. Maxey's recommendations will be brought before the Board during the Business portion of this meeting for a vote.

e. Superintendent's Report

During the approval of the agenda earlier in the meeting, a motion was made to amend the agenda and include item 2.e., 3. 2020 Class AAAAA Boys' Swimming State Champion, Harrison Clinton; and item 2.e., 4. 2020 HCS Teacher of the Year, Elizabeth Hendrick. These topics will be included in the discussion of this topic.

1. National Principals' Month

Dr. Maxey shared his appreciation for the hard work and continued dedication of the Principal leadership within HCS. Dr. Maxey noted that a video highlighting 2020 National Principals' Month has been posted on HCS social media platforms.

2. South Carolina Nurses Foundation - 2020 Palmetto Gold Award Winner: Michelle Anderson, Kingston Elementary School

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Michelle Anderson, school nurse at Kingston Elementary, for being named a 2020 Palmetto Gold Award Winner by the South Carolina Nurses Foundation, Inc. A hundred nurses are selected each year for this prestigious honor which recognizes Registered Nurses in our state who exemplify excellence in nursing practice and commitment to the nursing profession.

3. Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Carolina Forest High School's Harrison Clinton for claiming two state titles (100 Yard Breaststroke and 100 Yard Butterfly) in Class AAAAA boys' swimming during the 2020-21 State Swim Championships.

Harrison is a back-to-back State Champion on the 100 Yard Fly and now holds the new state record for the 100 Yard Fly with a time of 49.41. Clinton is also a student at the AAST.

4. Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Elizabeth Hendrick who was named Horry County Schools' Teacher of the Year for the 2020-21 school year.

Elizabeth Hendrick, an ESOL teacher at Pee Dee Elementary, began her teaching career at HCS in 2012. Elizabeth Hendrick will now move on to the next round as the District's nominee for the state's Teacher of Year program which will be announced in 2021.

3. <u>PUBLIC COMMENTS</u>

The following community members requested to speak and did not come forward when called: Monica Piazza, Jay Roussev, Rosemarie Mroczkowski, and Shamika Marche.

The following community members requested to speak and came forward when called: Erik Shrader, Ronald Denley, Cori Canada, Brandon Floyd, Phillip Plew, Rylee Denley, and Charleigh Denley.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Discussion of Potential Property Purchase

b. Discussion of Negotiations Related to Proposed Contractual Arrangement

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 8:28PM. It should be noted Mr. Poston recused himself from item 4. b.

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

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

5. BUSINESS

A motion was made to move into the Business portion of the meeting at 8:45PM.

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

a. Consider Locally-Approved Course Numbers - Ms. Myrick

Ms. Myrick requested that the Board approve course numbers for locally-developed courses for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

b. Budget for Socastee High School/Stadium Parking Lot Lights - Mr. Brown/Mr. Burch

Mr. Burch requested the Board approve increasing the budget of the Socastee High School lighting improvements from $120,000 to $180,000 by transferring $60,000 from the Socastee High School ditch piping project.

Funding Sources:
$120,000 Previously Allocated Building Modification Funds
$60,000 Budget Transfer from Ditch Piping Project

Moved By: Ms. Smith
Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried

c. Budget for St. James High School Replacement for Make-Up Air Units (MAU) - Mr. Brown/Mr. Burch

Mr. Burch requested the Board approve increasing the funding source for design and replacement of seven rooftop make up air units (MAU) at St. James High School.

Funding Sources:
$600,000 Previously Allocated Sustainment Funds
$800,000 Sustainment Residual Funds
$525,000 Current Sustainment Funds

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

d. HCS Re-Opening Plan: Utilizing HCS Case Dashboard as a Local Datapoint for Determining Instructional Model - Dr. Maxey

Dr. Maxey is seeking Board approval for the following:

1) the utilization of the HCS Case Dashboard as an additional local datapoint for determining the instructional model to be used by individual District brick-and-mortar schools,

2) the use of any local datapoints which may be developed or become available in the future,

3) the implementation of the hybrid instructional model for all District brick-and-mortar schools, effective October 19, 2020, until the District is able to return all brick-and-mortar schools safely to five-day, face-to-face instruction,

4) the provision of a minimum of five calendar days' notice to parents before a change in instructional model unless an emergency at an individual brick-and-mortar school warrants an immediate change of that individual brick-and-mortar school's schedule, and

5) re-affirm the premise, as previously stated in the "2020-21 HCS Re-Opening Plan," that our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus continue to evolve, and our protocols and plans will be updated as appropriate and as more information becomes available.

Moved By: Mr. Poston
Seconded By: Mr. James

For (10): Mr. Hardwick, Mr. Poston, Mr. Winters, Ms. Graham, Mr. Cox, Ms. Morreale, Mr. James, Ms. Todd, Ms. Smith, and Chairman Richardson.

Against (1): Mr. Freeman

Board Action: Carried (10 to 1)

6. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Personnel Recommendations As Required by Law

b. Monitoring Report: R-8 Perceptions of Stakeholders

c. Monitoring Report: OE-10 Instructional Program

d. Monitoring Report: OE-13 Facilities Quarterly Report

e. Education Allocation Fund: District 8

f. Education Fund Allocation: District 9

g. Approval of Home School Applications

A motion was made to approve the Agenda items 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

7. ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING MEETING(S):

Board Work Session/Special-Called Meeting, November 2, 2020, 6:00 PM, District Office, Board Room

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:05PM.

Moved By: Mr. James
Seconded By: Mr. Freeman

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education

APPROVED: November 2, 2020