

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

**June 8, 2020
Virtual Meeting
335 4 Mile Road
Conway, SC 29526**

Board of Education

Ken Richardson
John Poston
Chris Hardwick
David Cox
Janet Graham
Janice Morreale

Neil James
Ray Winters
Shanda Allen
Sherrie Todd
Helen Smith
W Russell Freeman

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 - JUNE 8, 2020 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER

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

a. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Cox

Mr. Cox offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Richardson

A motion was made to approve the June 8, 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

c. Approval of Minutes - Mr. Richardson

1. June 1, 2020

A motion was made to approve the June 1, 2020, minutes as presented.

Moved By: Mr. Winters

Seconded By: Mr. Freeman

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

2. CONVENE PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made to convene a public hearing.

Moved By: Mr. Hardwick

Seconded By: Ms. Allen

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

3. PUBLIC HEARING ON 2020-2021 SUPERINTENDENT'S COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET

a. Public Comments on 2020-2021 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget

Brad Bowick submitted the following comments: "It is my understanding that all step increases have been frozen due to budget shortfalls as a consequence of the Coronavirus. Once again, teachers and staff are the ones to suffer; yet, I believe there were two new positions created at the district office. Please explain the fairness and reasoning behind such decisions. Additionally, why are cuts, forced retirements, etc., always applied to the lower level employees and not the district office? Horry County Schools is a district that is extremely top-heavy and has been so for over two decades. Do I expect a reasonable explanation from the powers that be? No. If anything, it will be the usual PR and lip-service spewed forth to the general public and first-responders at the school level."

Tonya Fulk submitted the following comments: "As President of the St. James Band Booster Club, we are excited to see that band uniforms and travel expenses are included as part of the budget package. We appreciate the school boards support of the Band programs in the district and hope that the board votes to keep the proposed inclusion of Band Uniforms and Travel expenses in the budget. Thank you so very much. Respectfully, Tonya Fulk."

Susan Bentley submitted the following comments: "As a mother of 5th year band student I want to thank the board for keeping travel expenses and uniform expenses in mind for programs in Horry county. Marching band is a vital part of these students' lives. It would mean the world to these students to have uniforms that properly represent their schools. Please make sure to keep these kids who

are so dedicated in your mind when making your decision on funding for new uniforms for all the Horry county schools band programs. Thank you.”

Brandon Bentley submitted the following comments: “Thank you for keeping travel expenses low and thank you for supporting the bands of Horry County. As a parent of a 5th year band student it would make the bands across the county feel as if they have accomplished something if they did have new uniforms that they could be proud of. Instead of using uniforms that is from another band that has been used in the past.”

Kelly Clark submitted the following comments: “Thank you for doing everything that you can to keep travel expenses low for our students. Please allow the money to be allocated for new band uniforms in which they desperately need.”

Rita Dippolito submitted the following comments: “As a proud HCS employee and parent of a high school student/band member, I am pleased to see that band uniforms are included in the 2020-21 Budget. Thank you for your support of these hard-working students who strive to represent our district well on county, regional, state, and national levels.”

4. ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING AND CONVENE SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING

A motion was made to adjourn the Public Hearing and re-convene a Special-Called Meeting.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Mr. Winters

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

5. DISCUSSION

a. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Maxey reported several items to the Board. He noted that HCS closed out a historic year successfully, culminating with the high school graduation ceremonies that recognized 2,863 students. Dr. Maxey noted that the graduates had several options with 653 seniors opting for an individual ceremony, 217 seniors opting for a small group ceremony, while 459 seniors chose not to participate in a ceremony. The majority of seniors, 1,534 students, chose the whole-group option. Dr. Maxey complimented the high school principals and their staff members for accommodating students and offering them a number of options.

Next, he addressed the District’s transitioning into the summer by phasing in re-opening with hopes of gradually returning to a sense of normalcy. Dr. Maxey noted that in implementing a phased-in re-opening, HCS will continue to follow the current guidelines set forth by the Governor's office, SC DHEC, and CDC.

Dr. Maxey reported that Jerome Singleton, Commissioner of the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL), recently held a Facebook Live session regarding a phased-in approach to re-opening S.C. high school athletics. Dr. Maxey remarked that HCS would follow all guidelines set forth by the SCHSL to keep our student athletes and coaching staff safe and healthy. Dr. Maxey then asked Ms. Allen to share steps HCS has taken toward re-opening athletics in the county. Ms. Allen noted that District staff members have been working with coaches, athletic directors, and athletic trainers to review the guidelines set forth by SC DHEC and the CDC. Ms. Allen also noted a proposal was being created including safety guidelines, use of facilities, cleaning of facilities, and screening of athletes and coaches. Ms. Allen indicated that supplies have been ordered with a hopeful “return-to-play” date of June 22, 2020. Ms. Allen concluded that a copy of this proposal will be shared once it is finalized.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session at 6:19 PM.

a. Consider Employee Appeal

Moved By: Mr. Hardwick

Seconded By: Mr. James

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

7. BUSINESS

A motion was made to convene Executive Session at 7:21PM.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

A motion was then made to move into the Business portion of the meeting.

Moved By: Mr. Cox

Seconded By: Mr. Freeman

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

It should be noted Ms. Smith and Ms. Allen did not enter a vote on these two items due to technical difficulties logging back on.

a. Consider Employee Appeal - Mr. Richardson

A motion was made to grant the employee's request to a hearing before the HCS Board. It should be noted that Ms. Smith did not enter a vote on this item due to technical difficulties logging on.

Moved By: Mr. Hardwick

Seconded By: Mr. Poston

For (6): Mr. Freeman, Mr. Winters, Mr. Cox, Ms. Morreale, Mr. Poston, Mr. Hardwick

Against (4): Mr. James, Ms. Allen, Ms. Todd, Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried

b. Consider Personnel Recommendation - Dr. Maxey

Dr. Maxey recommended to the Board approval of Mr. Daniel Plaza as Principal of Aynor Middle School effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Plaza served as Assistant Principal at St. James Middle School. It should be noted Ms. Smith did not enter a vote on this item due to technical difficulties logging in.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Ms. Todd

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

c. Consider Approval of 2020-2021 Non-Teaching Professional Employment Contracts - Ms. Anderson

Ms. Anderson requested the Board approve the issuance of 2020-2021 Non-Teaching Professional Employment Contracts. It should be noted that Ms. Smith did not enter a vote on this item due to technical difficulties logging on.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Ms. Todd

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

d. Consider Approval of the 2020-2021 Superintendent's Budget - Mr. Gardner

Mr. Gardner addressed the Board seeking approval for the following 2020-21 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget as follows:

General Fund \$460,596,649

Special Revenue \$38,819,168

Education Improvement Act \$30,275,610

Debt Service \$93,199,871
School Building \$59,480,963
Food Service \$22,431,672
Pupil Activity \$7,053,709
Total \$711,857,642

Mr. Poston noted this budget approval was made with no increase of millage from the Board.

Moved By: Mr. Hardwick

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

e. Consider Expansion of 1:1 Personalized Digital Learning - Ms. Allen

Ms. Allen addressed the Board seeking approval of funding to expand the 1:1 PDL initiative to include the purchase and assignment of the iPad-7th Generation to all students in grades K-4. Total estimated cost: \$5,365,800. Ms. Allen noted current devices will be passed down to Child Development. This motion will complete the 1-1 initiative in Grades CD through 12th. Mr. Poston noted what a momentous occasion this was and commended the Technology Committee and Department on their work to make this happen.

Moved By: Mr. Cox

Seconded By: Mr. Hardwick

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

f. Consider Approval of General Contractors for Phase I Tennis Court/Track Repairs - Mr. Wolfe

Mr. Wolfe addressed the Board seeking approval of general contractors for Phase I of the Track & Field and the Tennis Court Repairs, Renovations, and Reconstruction projects as follows:

Track & Field: GeoSurfaces Southeast, Inc. - Charlotte, NC

Tennis Courts: Coastal Structures Corporation - Georgetown, SC

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

g. Consider Approval of Reorganization and Reduction in Force Positions Funded by Capital Monies - Dr. Maxey

Dr. Maxey noted this item is a follow up to the discussion that was held with the Board in executive session on Monday, June 1st, during which the Board was informed of the intent to recommend a reorganization and resulting reduction in force of the portion of the Facilities Department that is supported by capital funds. This reorganization and reduction in force will go into effect for the 2020-21 school year.

Dr. Maxey recommended that the Board accept his recommendation to reorganize the portion of the Facilities Department funded by Capital Funds and, as a result, eliminate a total of 11 positions.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

8. CONSENT

- a. **Personnel Recommendations**
- b. **Monitoring Report: OE-12 Learning Environment/Treatment of Students**
- c. **Monitoring Report: R-6 Personal Success and Citizenship**
- d. **Funding Flexibility**

Moved By: Mr. Hardwick

Seconded By: Mr. Cox

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Poston made a motion that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Mr. Larry Hardee, father of former District 11 representative, Trent Hardee, who recently passed away. Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Moved By: Mr. Poston

Seconded By: Ms. Allen

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

a. **UPCOMING MEETING(S)**

1. **June 15, 2020 - Board Meeting, 6:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Oates

Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education

APPROVED: **June 15, 2020**