

# HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MINUTES

### BOARD MEETING

December 7, 2020

District Office

335 Four 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

#### Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen, Mary J. Anderson, Daryl Brown, Joe Burch, John Gardner, Kenny Generette, Heidi Oates, Rick Maxey, Boone Myrick, Lucas Richardson, 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 - DECEMBER 7, 2020 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER**

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

##### a. **Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Poston**

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

##### b. **Introduction of Board Members - Mr. Richardson**

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 December 7, 2020, agenda as presented.

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**d. Approval of Minutes - Mr. Richardson**

**1. November 16, 2020**

A motion was made to approve the November 16, 2020, minutes as presented.

**Moved By:** Mr. Winters  
**Seconded By:** Mr. Freeman

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**2. BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITIONS**

**a. Board Service: Ms. Janice Morreale, Mr. Chris Hardwick**

Ms. Janice Morreale and Mr. Chris Hardwick were recognized and honored for their years of service as Board members for the Horry County Board of Education.

**3. DISCUSSION**

**a. Facilities Committee Report - Mr. James**

The Facilities Committee met earlier today and received staff updates on Tennis & Track Projects, SOAR Academy, the Pee Dee Elementary School Loop Road, and HVAC improvements at North Myrtle Beach High School and Myrtle Beach High School. Mr. James also report discussion of remediation on the wall flashing at Myrtle Beach High School, as well as land planning for the El Bethel Road and the George Bishop Parkway sites. Mr. James also briefly noted the Committee discussed the need for the Facilities Department to update assessment data on all buildings. These assessment data are used to calculate a building's Facility Condition Index (FCI), a data point which plays a key role in informing the District's long-range planning needs. The last full assessment of District buildings was last completed in 2012. Considering the age of the data, Mr. James noted that the District should plan to conduct a full assessment of District facilities during the 2021-2022 school year. This full assessment item will be coming before the Board in April of 2021 to be included in the May 2021 budget.

The final rooftop air units have been installed at North Myrtle Beach High and are operational. All makeup air units at Myrtle Beach High are also completed. Tennis courts at Conway High, Green Sea Floyds High, and Carolina Forest High are currently in the paving and curing process. Track construction has begun at St. James High and Carolina Forest High.

Mr. James reported that the Pee Dee Elementary Loop Road will be completed at the end of the month and that a plan has been put together to repair the wall flashing at Myrtle Beach High School. This latter project will come before the Board in January for discussion. Mr. James also noted the El Bethel and George Bishop Parkway projects were approved for land planning efforts, and a request for funding for soil borings will come before the Board in January as well.

**b. Monitoring Report: OE-6 Financial Administration - Mr. Gardner**

Monitoring Report OE-6 was presented. Mr. Gardner shared the District has received an unmodified audit opinion for the 2020 FY. The auditor's unmodified opinion on our financial statements concludes Horry County Schools financial statements fairly present the District's financial position and results of operations. An unmodified opinion is the highest audit opinion that may be received from an external auditor. Mr. Gardner noted that at the January 11, 2021, Board Work Session, the District's Auditor will be in attendance and present the 2020 audit at that time.

**c. Monitoring Report: OE-7 Asset Protection - Mr. Gardner**

Monitoring Report OE-7 was presented.

**d. 2021-2022 Budget Assumptions and Parameters - Mr. Gardner**

The 2021-2022 Budget Assumptions and Parameters report was presented by Mr. Gardner who noted that he would be providing a more accurate estimate of number of students during the February budget workshop. Mr. Gardner also indicated that the HCS personnel allocation formulae will be reviewed to address any modifications to the instructional program which would include the K-12 HCS Virtual Program.

**e. 2021-2022 Personnel Allocation Formula - Mr. Gardner**

The 2021-2022 Personnel Allocation Formulae report was presented. Mr. Gardner is seeking approval of the personnel allocation formulae which will play a key role in the development of the 2021-2022 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget.

**f. Monitoring Report: R-2 Numeracy - Ms. Myrick**

Monitoring Report R-2 was presented.

**g. South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA) Report - Ms. Morreale**

Ms. Morreale shared that the SCSBA Annual Convention scheduled for February 18-21, 2021, in Hilton Head will be limited to 300 attendees to allow for proper social distancing and that registration was currently full. Ms. Morreale also noted that the New Board Orientation scheduled for March 4, 2020, in Columbia, South Carolina, will be held in person. Ms. Morreale noted that Ray Winters had been appointed to serve a 1-year term as District 4 Regional Director for the South Carolina School Board Association.

**h. Superintendent's Report**

**1. HCS Adult Education Awards**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated the following Horry County Schools' Adult Education programs and employees that received several prestigious awards from the South Carolina Association of Adult and Community Educators (SCAACE). These awards include the following:

*Stepping Up to the Plate Award* – is a new award for a local program's quick response to converting program activities to a virtual format.

*Facility Enhancement Award* - is given to a county that has made major improvements or enhancements to an adult education facility. The former Myrtle Beach Intermediate School was recently renovated and is the new location of the Myrtle Beach Adult Education Center.

*Paraprofessional/Administrative Assistant of the Year (Region 3)*- Mrs. Sheri Rabon

*Part-Time Teacher of the Year (Region 3)*- Ms. Linda Suter

*Full-Time Teacher of the Year (Region 3)*- Mr. Michael Graham

*Outstanding Learner of the Year (Region 3)*- Mrs. Donna Hamilton

**2. Update on Second Semester Scheduling**

Dr. Maxey called Ms. Velna Allen forward to share the following second semester scheduling updates, as follows:

Virtual Program Students: Opportunity to commit to returning to the brick-and-mortar school for second semester is Monday, December 7th – Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Brick-and-Mortar Students: Opportunity to commit to attending the virtual school for second semester is Tuesday, December 15th – Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Emailed the parents of ALL virtual program students to ensure they are aware of the commitment dates.

Emailed the parents of ALL brick-and-mortar school students to ensure they are aware of the commitment dates.

Posted the information on the virtual school message board.

Posted the information on the HCS Website.

Shared all information and processes with all elementary, middle, and high school principals.

Shared all information and processes with middle and high school guidance counselors.

Information and processes for elementary guidance counselors and data quality will be shared on Friday, December 11, 2020.

Dr. Maxey shared the following regarding utilizing the hybrid model and the schedule concerns near holidays, as follows:

The underlying premise of the hybrid schedule is that students continue to work on their assignments on the days that they are not scheduled for two days of face-to-face instruction; therefore, "B" day students do not have two days off before the designated days of Christmas break.

It was also noted that virtually every HCS family has made holiday plans around the calendar that was provided to parents back in the summer. Consequently, any changes to the calendar at this time would result in dozens if not hundreds or thousands of disruptions to previously made family plans.

### **3. Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Testing in S.C. Public Pre-K-12 Schools**

Dr. Maxey shared a slideshow regarding the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Testing for COVID-19 in HCS. Dr. Maxey noted that the South Carolina Department of Education gave districts the choice whether to be included in the rapid testing program, which was recently announced by Governor Henry McMaster. Dr. Maxey stated that while the District would not participate in the rapid testing program, HCS has and will continue to collaborate with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) by offering school campuses as COVID-19 testing sites when schools are not in session. In addition, the District will collaborate with SCDHEC when SCDHEC-sponsored vaccination events are offered for administration by SCDHEC.

The following information regarding testing was shared in the slideshow presentation:

## FACTS

- The Abbott BinaxNow Rapid COVID-19 test is an antigen test and is most reliable when a person is symptomatic.
- The testing cannot occur in the school's health room.
- Nurses will be required to wear a face shield and a surgical mask, a full-length surgical gown, and gloves.
- SCDHEC will require our nurses to record the results in the SCION system, which is used by SCDHEC and will require the nurses to be trained in data entry. All test results (positive and negative) must be reported within 24 hours.
- Written parent permission is required for students to be tested.
- Consent documentation must be acquired prior to the test administration.
- Once a student is tested, it takes 15 minutes for the test results.
- After each positive test result, the custodial staff must clean the room, then leave the room unoccupied for a minimum of one hour.
- The South Carolina Department of Education has given school districts the option to participate in this testing program.

## ISSUES

- Additional staff will be needed
- Staff to monitor the health room while the nurse is administering tests
- Staff to begin contact tracing in the event of a positive test
- Staff to collect and verify parent consent forms
- Additional PPE requirements for nurses; nurses must change PPE for each test (impervious gown, face shield/goggles, surgical or KN-95 mask, and gloves)
- Additional custodial requirements (testing area must be cleaned after each test.)
- Promotes a false sense of security with a negative test result.  
NOTE: Rapid test is only about 80% accurate.
- Availability of facility space

- Schools have a designated Health Room and Isolation Room. Will need designated testing room(s).
- Promotes sending symptomatic students to school and exposing other students

**4. Status Report: Plexiglass Barriers for Classrooms**

Dr. Maxey called Daryl Brown forward to provide an update regarding the Plexiglass installation in Horry County Schools. Mr. Brown shared the Facilities staff pre-positioned the Plexiglass and frames needed for the student desk workspace shields at every elementary school in the District over the past few weeks. This allowed the vendor hired for assembly and installation to begin work on November 20<sup>th</sup> – starting at Aynor Elementary School. To expedite assembly, staff has been allocated from the Transportation and Maintenance Departments to assist by removing the blue protective covering from the Plexiglass. HCS has contracted with additional assembly/installation vendors to ensure the December 23<sup>rd</sup> completion timeframe is maintained.

The workspace shields for tables, which is being handled by a different vendor, is progressing on schedule. Installation of tabletop shields have been completed at Aynor Elementary, Homewood Elementary, and Kingston Elementary. The tabletops were partially completed at Green Sea Floyds Elementary, Loris Elementary. Daisy Elementary and Conway Elementary School installations begin this evening.

**5. United Way of Horry County - Caring Cup Winner: Socastee High School**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Socastee High School on winning the United Way of Horry County Caring Cup. Jeremy Rich, Principal of Socastee High, was presented the Horry County Caring Cup for the annual United Way campaign. Mr. Rich was recognized and congratulated by Blakely Roof, President & CEO of the United Way of Horry County.

The Horry County Caring Cup is presented each year to the school demonstrating the highest percentage of an increase in campaign participation during the previous year.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Justin Yarbrough addressed the Board on the topic of Plexiglass.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 7:32 PM. It should be noted that during Executive Session Ms. Morreale recused herself from item 5a, Mr. Winters recused himself from items 5a and 5b, and Mr. Richardson recused himself from item 5d.

- a. **Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding Litigation**
- b. **Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding Pending Litigation**
- c. **Discussion of Potential Property Purchase**
- d. **Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding a Contractual Matter**

**Moved By:** Mr. Hardwick

**Seconded By:** Mr. James

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

6. **BUSINESS**

A motion was made to move into the Business portion of the meeting at 8:58 PM. It should be noted that no votes were taken during the Executive Session.

- a. **Consider Sale of Property to Central Electric Power for Right of Way - Mr. Burch**

Mr. Burch addressed the Board seeking approval of the sale of 1.29 acres of property at Waccamaw Elementary School to Central Electric Power for a Right of Way for a new power transmission line connecting to a new Horry Electric Substation in the amount of \$42,400.00. It should be noted Mr. Poston and Mr. James recused themselves from voting on this item.

**Moved By:** Mr. Freeman

**Seconded By:** Mr. Hardwick

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a. **Personnel Recommendations As Required by Law**



**b. Education Allocation Fund: District 4**

**Moved By:** Mr. Winters

**Seconded By:** Ms. Smith

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:01 PM.

**Moved By:** Mr. Cox

**Seconded By:** Mr. James

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

Upcoming Meeting:

**Board Meeting, January 11, 2021, 6:00 PM, District Office, Board Room**

Respectfully submitted,



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Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education

APPROVED: January 11, 2021