

**HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEETING**

**March 22, 2021**

**District Office**

**335 Four Mile Road**

**Conway, SC 29526**

**Board of Education**

Ken Richardson

James Edwards

David Cox

Janet Graham

Neil James

Ray Winters

Shanda Allen

Sherrie Todd

Helen Smith

W Russell Freeman

Howard Barnard

**Horry County Schools Staff**

Velna Allen, Mary J. Anderson, David Beaty, Daryl Brown, Joe Burch, Lt. Col. Davis, John Gardner, Lee Kingsley, Dr. Rick Maxey, Boone Myrick, Heidi Oates, Mark Porter, Lucas Richardson

**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 - March 22, 2021 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER**

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

**a. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Edwards**

Mr. Edwards offered the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

**b. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the March 22, 2021, agenda as presented.

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

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**c. Approval of Minutes**

**1. March 8, 2021**

A motion was made to approve the March 8, 2021, minutes as presented.

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**2. DISCUSSION**

**a. Human Resources Committee Meeting Report - Mr. Cox**

Mr. Cox gave a report from the Human Resources Committee meeting that met earlier in the day. Mr. Cox shared that the committee discussed three options to help remedy the substitute shortages within HCS. Mr. Cox noted that in a typical year, HCS has 1,000 to 1,200 substitutes registered in the system. Due to COVID-19, currently HCS has approximately 300 substitutes in the system. Mr. Cox shared that HCS needs approximately 290 substitutes daily. The first option discussed was hiring 28 first-year teachers at the elementary level to fill in as needed. This option would cost approximately 1.7 million to fund. The second option was to increase the substitute pay scale to align with a more competitive rate of pay. This option would cost approximately 1.3 million to fund. The third option presented was outsourcing to an agency to hire available substitutes. Mr. Cox noted that approximately 27% to 33% went to the agency for their profit. Mr. Cox shared that the Human Resources Committee is in favor of option one but would table that item and revisit it at a later date. The Human Resources Committee recommended and made a motion to ask the Board to increase the pay rate for professional substitutes. Mr. Cox noted that the committee would look at the fill rates again when the pandemic subsides. Mr. Cox shared this item would be a budget line item when the 2021-2022 budgets are presented.

**b. Facilities Committee Meeting Report - Mr. James**

Mr. James gave a report on the Facilities Committee meeting that met earlier in the day. A video was presented with progress updates regarding the completion

of the Socastee High School guard rail and fencing project as well as the completion of the Green Sea Floyds Elementary canopy/lighting project. Loris High School Track is complete along with all drains, curbing and grading; St. James High and Carolina Forest High tracks are complete with the curing of the asphalt, final synthetic surfacing, and striping to begin shortly. SOAR Academy interior work is continuing with above-ceiling installations near completion.

Mr. James commented on ongoing maintenance at North Myrtle Beach Middle including the outdoor air unit installation's being ahead of schedule. Mr. James noted the air units at Lakewood Elementary are ahead of schedule and will be ready before summer.

Mr. James noted the following projects would be out for bid soon: Forestbrook Elementary air units, Green Sea Floyds High cooling towers and track (phase 2), and Aynor track and tennis (phase 2).

Mr. James shared that staff was currently reviewing the bipolar ionization units and consulting with engineers and indoor air quality experts. Funding for this project will be through the CARES Act.

**c. Monitoring Report: R-5 Other Academic Disciplines (Health/PE) - Lt. Col. Davis**

Monitoring Report: R-5 Other Academic Disciplines (Health/PE) was presented for review.

**d. Consider Approval of 2021-2022 Courses for Honors Weighting - Ms. Myrick**

Prior to the agenda item regarding approval of 2021-2022 Courses for Honors Weighting, Mr. James shared he had inadvertently omitted in his Facilities Committee report that the HCEC building will now house ROTC and Drivers Education going forward.

Ms. Myrick addressed the Board to request for assigning honors weighting for the courses listed below according to requirements as outlined in the *SC Honors Framework*.

- *Energy Strategies (Course 3)*
- *Clean Energy Innovations (Course 4)*
- *Impacts of Science and Technology*
- *Creativity and Innovations*
- *Aeronautics Engineering Applications*
- *Astronautics Engineering Applications*
- *Databases in the Cloud*

- *Developing a Cloud Presence*
- *Global Logistics Management*
- *Logistics and Supply Chain Management*
- *PLTW Biomedical Innovations*

**e. Consider Approval of 2021-2022 Certified Personnel Employment Contracts - Ms. Anderson**

Ms. Anderson noted the District is required by law to notify all certificated personnel, excluding the Superintendent or other multi-year contract employees, of their contract status by May 1st of each year. Certificated Staff means those individuals that hold a valid and current teaching certificate. Ms. Anderson and HCS Administration are requesting that the HCS Board of Education move to approve the issuance of 2021-2022 Certificated Personnel Employment Contracts.

**f. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Maxey**

**1. Status Report: School Operations**

Dr. Maxey shared information regarding the CDC's recent announcement concerning the operation of public schools within the COVID-19 environment. Dr. Maxey noted that the most prominent point of the announcement was that students may be in a classroom setting while 3 feet apart, as long as they are wearing a face covering and wearing it properly. Dr. Maxey noted that the CDC announcement also mentions that physical barriers are not required. Dr. Maxey shared that HCS will await written guidance from South Carolina DHEC regarding their interpretation of the CDC's update regarding barriers. Dr. Maxey remarked that HCS would continue the path of installing plexiglass in hopes of all high school installations being completed in the upcoming week.

Dr. Maxey also noted that according to the most recent DHEC's Disease Spread by County report that Horry County was showing a MEDIUM rate of spread. Dr. Maxey stated he felt the mitigation efforts by HCS has helped with the transmission rates within the schools remaining low.

Mr. Gardner was called forward and shared that HCS will receive \$55.7 million additional funding from the ESSER (Emergency Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Fund.

## **2. Status Report: Support Services**

### **1. Plexiglass Dividers for High School Classrooms**

Mr. Brown reported that plexiglass installation at 48 of the 55 schools is complete. Mr. Brown shared that he anticipated Aynor and Conway High School installation would be complete later this week.

### **2. Elementary School Playground Equipment**

As background information, Dr. Maxey shared that HCS seeks input concerning various topics from multiple Superintendents' advisory cabinets that are made up of representatives elected by their peers. The Superintendent Cabinets are as follows: Student, Teacher, Parent, Support, Business, and Faith-Based. Regarding use of playground equipment in the COVID-19 environment, Dr. Maxey stated that staff had sought input from the elementary principals and elementary-level membership of the Teacher Cabinet.

Mr. Mark Porter, Executive Director for Elementary Education, was called forward to share information regarding elementary school playground equipment. Mr. Porter shared that members of the Principal Cabinet and Teacher Cabinet knew and understood the challenges of being cautious and safe. Mr. Porter shared that they were in the early and initial conversations regarding the safe use of playground equipment and would continue to move forward with discussions.

### **3. Facility Rentals**

Mr. Brown shared HCS has received multiple requests for facility rentals. Mr. Brown shared that COVID-19 had changed the responsibilities for renters, and HCS has begun the process to determine what responsibilities those would be. Mr. Brown shared that HCS is in the process of creating a plan to allow the buildings to be available for rental purposes.

### **4. 2021-2022 Student Calendar**

After seeking input from advisory cabinets, Mr. Brown shared the 2021-2022 academic calendar with Board members as information. Mr. Brown noted that principals and teachers recommended taking the entire week of Thanksgiving break. They

also recommended adding a day during the month of March to allow time before spring break. The calendar was presented to all the Superintendent's cabinets and well received by all.

**3. Status Report: Student Services**

**1. Update: Vaccine Roll-out for HCS Employees**

Ms. Velna Allen shared the following information regarding the vaccine roll-out for employees:

- First Event, March 12-13: 374 employees received their first dose of the vaccine. Employees received their appointment for the second dose.
- Second Event, March 19-20: over 500 employees received their first dose of the vaccine.
- Third Event, March 27
- All HCS employees were given the opportunity to receive the vaccination through CMC.

Ms. Allen noted that average time from start to completion for receiving the vaccine at CMC was 18 minutes.

**2. Reminder: K-12 HCS Virtual Program: Timeline for 2021-2022 Student Commitment Process**

Ms. Velna Allen shared the following information regarding the K-12 HCS Virtual Program Timeline:

Date	Event
March 15 – March 31	Use HCS Media Platforms to Inform Parents of 2021-22 Scheduling Process for K-12 HCS Virtual Program.
April 2 – April 11	Spring Break
April 12 – April 16	Send Parents Reminders the Commitment Window Opens on April 19 and closes April 30. No changes permitted after April 30.
April 19 – April 30	Open K-12 HCS Virtual Program Parent Commitment Window. Window closes on April 30.
May 3 – May 10	Assign HCS Virtual Students to Student Management System.
May 10 – May 30	Select K-12 HCS Virtual Program Teachers.
May 10 – June 30	Complete Schools' Master Schedules.

Ms. Allen shared that Student Services and Learning Services met with the principals during the March A-Team meeting. An informational email was sent to all parents. Learning Services is in the process of updating their webpages.

Ms. Allen shared the following additional information regarding enrollment:

- All K-12 students enrolling for 2021-22 (both brick-and-mortar and K-12 HCS Virtual) new and returning, must register for the 2021-22 school year in their assigned brick-and-mortar school.
- Students who are new to HCS will have the opportunity to attend the K-12 HCS Virtual program upon enrollment in their assigned brick-and-mortar school (This opportunity closes after the first five days of school).

- Students/Parents should research all information prior to making a decision.
- ALL DECISIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE K-12 HCS VIRTUAL PROGRAM ARE FINAL AS OF APRIL 30, 2021.
- CD and Kindergarten pre-registration begins Monday, March 29, 2021.
- The student transfer window opens on Monday, March 29, 2021 and ends on June 30, 2021.

**4. South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association (SCAAA) - AAAAA South Carolina Principal of the Year: Gaye Driggers, Carolina Forest High School**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Gaye Driggers, Principal of Carolina Forest High School, for being named the 2021 SCAAA AAAAA Principal of the Year by the SCAAA. Ms. Driggers is being honored for her commitment, dedication, and service to the students, student-athletes, and the education-based interscholastic programs in Horry County Schools, as well as throughout the state of South Carolina.

Ms. Driggers received this special recognition at the SCAAA Spring Conference during a virtual award presentation on March 14, 2021.

**5. National Federation of State High School Associations Citation Award Nominee: Joe Quigley, North Myrtle Beach High School**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Mr. Joe Quigley for being selected as the SCAAA nominee for the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) Citation Award. The NFHS Citation Award is presented annually to individuals whose contributions have impacted high school activity programs through their association with one of the following groups of professionals: state associations and NFHS staff, athletic directors, coaches, music adjudicators and directors, and speech, debate and theatre directors. The award recipients are selected by the NFHS Board of Directors and are presented to outstanding athletic directors for their contributions to interscholastic athletics from eight sections of the country. The NFHS Citation Award winner will be announced later this year.

**6. South Carolina Bar High School Mock Trial Competition - Carolina Forest High School and Socastee High School**



Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Carolina Forest High and Socastee High for advancing and competing in the state's mock trial competition sponsored by the South Carolina Bar. Carolina Forest High School was first runner-up and Socastee High placed fifth in the competition. Dr. Maxey gave thanks to the teacher coaches, attorney coaches, and the students on both mock trial teams for a great job and for representing Horry County Schools.

CFHS Teacher coach, Anthony Antolak and attorney coach, Brad Smith. Students on the first runner-up team were as follows: Caelia Allen, Izzy Bennett, McKenna Bright, P.J. Dagsi, Vayden Dellis, Sophia Harlow, Jenna Holmes, Katie Holmes, Alexandria Johnson, and Julia Sutter.

SHS Teacher coaches: Kelley French & Dawn Kanazska. (5<sup>th</sup> Place)

Team Members: Herman Watson, Rebecca Norton Baker, Sasha Bronovitskiy, Evan Barker, Rhea Procko, Merritt Yoder, Kayla Dixon, Leea Port, Ryan Freudiger, Andie Horn, Petra Cullen and Jadyn Cruz.

Most Effective Attorney Round 2 - McKenna Bright of Carolina Forest High School

Most Effective Attorney Round 2 - Sasha Bronovitskiy, Socastee High School

Most Effective Attorney Round 3 - Herman Watson, Socastee High School

**7. The Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology (AAST) - Cognia STEM Recertification**

Dr. Maxey shared The Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology (AAST) has completed the renewal process for STEM recertification with Cognia. AAST is an Cognia STEM certified school committed to preparing its students to be college and career-ready global citizens by fostering creativity, innovation, systematic problem-solving, and critical thinking through participation in rigorous and authentically collaborative academic and career experiences.

In order to earn STEM certification, AAST had to demonstrate adherence to the Cognia STEM framework as reflected by the school's performance across 16 STEM standards. The certification process provides an evaluation and continuous improvement process supported by research-based tools and resources. Cognia's STEM certification reviewers

examined classroom projects, professional development programs for faculty members, school-wide ventures, and extracurricular offerings that exemplified quality STEM education and real-world integration. Reviewers also interviewed key stakeholders such as school administrators, STEM faculty and staff, parents, students, and community partners. Dr. Maxey congratulated Principal Kelly Wilson and AAST.

**8. 2021 Finalist for the Riley Award for SIC Excellence - Myrtle Beach Middle School Improvement Council**

Dr. Maxey shared that five South Carolina School Improvement Councils (SICs) have been named state-wide 2021 award finalists for their accomplishments in family and civic engagement within their school communities. The School Improvement Council for Myrtle Beach Middle School has been named a finalist.

Now in its 20th year, the SC School Improvement Council's annual Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence recognizes the significant contributions made to public education by the nearly 13,000 local SIC members who volunteer in the state's 1,100-plus K-12 public schools. The winner of the 2021 Riley Award will be selected from this year's finalists by an independent panel of reviewers and announced during a virtual awards ceremony in April. The SC-SIC Riley Award for SIC Excellence is named in honor of former SC Governor and U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley and his late wife, Tunky, and recognizes the couple's longstanding commitment to quality public education.

Dr. Maxey congratulated Dr. Janice Christy, Myrtle Beach Middle School, and its School Improvement Council.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

April Taylor previously signed up to speak during the Public Comments portion of the meeting. Ms. Taylor did not come forward when called.

**4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. Review of Applications for District 8 Board Vacancy**
- b. Consider Potential Purchase/Sale of Property**

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 6:59PM.

**Moved By:** Mr. Barnard

**Seconded By:** Ms. Todd

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 7:55PM. It should be noted no votes or actions were taken during the Executive Session.

**Moved By:** Ms. Allen

**Seconded By:** Mr. Winters

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**a. Selections of Applicants to Interview for District 8 Board Vacancy - Mr. Richardson**

A motion was made regarding the selection of applicants to interview for the District 8 Board Vacancy. In accordance with Board Governance Bylaws, the Board officially sought applications of interest from citizens of District 8 in order to appoint a person to fill a Board member's unexpired term. As a result of the public notice of the District 8 vacancy and the process to be followed, the Board received three applications. The Board will interview all three applicants in alphabetical order. The applicants are as follows: Dr. Christine Rockey, Ms. Melanie Wellons, and Ms. Amanda Whyland. A Special-Called meeting has been scheduled for April 12, 2021, at 6:00 PM, at the District Office.

**Moved By:** Mr. Barnard

**Seconded By:** Mr. Freeman

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**b. Consider Approval of 2021-2022 Certified Personnel Employment Contracts - Ms. Anderson**

A motion was made to issue approval of the 2021-2022 Certificated Employee Contracts. It should be noted that Ms. Allen, Mr. Cox, and Mr. James recused

themselves from voting specifically on family members but voted on the remaining employee recommendations. Recusal forms have been submitted with specific family members addressed.

**Moved By:** Mr. Winters

**Seconded By:** Mr. Edwards

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**c. Resolution Adopting Horry County Government's All-Hazards Mitigation Plan - Mr. Beaty**

The Horry County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan was developed in accordance with the regulations of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the guidance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The purpose of the plan is to assist jurisdictions and special purpose districts with preparation and mitigation of natural and man-made hazardous situations.

The Horry County Emergency Management Department has facilitated the development of this multijurisdictional All-Hazards Plan which is updated and adopted by resolution by the individual jurisdictions and special purpose districts every five years. The County signed the master resolution on March 2, 2021.

The resolution will allow staff to work with Horry County Emergency Management Department as needed to prepare and mitigate any natural or man-made hazard that have the potential to cause harm to people, property damage, and adversely impact school-related operations within the area.

Mr. Beaty is seeking Board approval to adopt the Horry County Government All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

**Moved By:** Ms. Allen

**Seconded By:** Mr. James

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

**a. Personnel Recommendations**

**b. Monitoring Report: OE-1 Global Operational Expectations**

- c. **Monitoring Report: R-5 Other Academic Disciplines (Digital Learning, Fine Arts, Foreign Languages, and CATE)**
- d. **Education Fund Allocation - District 10**
- e. **Education Fund Allocation - District 11**

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

**Moved By:** Mr. Winters

**Seconded By:** Mr. Freeman

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM.

**Moved By:** Mr. Freeman

**Seconded By:** Mr. Cox

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**a. UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- 1. **Special-Called Meeting, Interview District 8 Board Applicants, April 12, T6:00 PM, District Office**
- 2. **Facilities Committee Meeting, 4:00 PM, April 19, 2021, District Office**
- 3. **Board Meeting, 6:00 PM, April 19, 2021, District Office**

Respectfully submitted,



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Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education

APPROVED: April 19, 2021