

# **HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD WORK SESSION**

**May 3, 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  
Melanie Wellons

#### **Horry County Schools Staff**

Velna Allen, Mary J Anderson, Joe Burch, John Gardner, Kenneth Generette, Rick Maxey, Boone Myrick, Heidi Oates, 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 - MAY 3, 2021 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER**

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

##### **a. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance - Ms. Todd**

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

##### **b. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the May 3, 2021, agenda as presented.

**Moved By:** Mr. Winters

**Seconded By:** Mr. Cox

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**c. Approval of Minutes**

**1. April 19, 2021**

A motion was made to approve the April 19, 2021, minutes as presented.

**Moved By:** Mr. Edwards

**Seconded By:** Ms. Allen

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**2. DISCUSSION**

**a. Consider Approval of Locally Developed Courses for the 2021-2022 School Year - Ms. Myrick**

Ms. Myrick requested that the Board approve course numbers for locally-developed courses for the 2021-2022 school year. This item will be brought before the Board for a vote at the May 17, 2021, meeting.

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

The Quarterly Financial Report for March 31, 2021 was provided to Board for discussion.

**c. Monitoring Report: OE-5 Financial Planning - Mr. Gardner**

Mr. Gardner highlighted information from the OE-5 Financial Planning report that was provided.

**d. CARES II Spending Plan - Mr. Gardner**

Mr. Gardner shared information regarding the CARES II Spending Plan that was previously discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting on April 19, 2021. The Finance Committee recommended that the Plan be brought to the Board for information and discussion. Mr. Gardner also shared that HCS was recently notified that the District would receive an additional \$125 million in CARES III funding. This is in addition to the \$55 million being discussed today.

**e. 2021-2022 Budget Workshop - Mr. Gardner**

**1. 2021-2022 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget\***

Mr. Gardner stated that a PDF of the 2021-2022 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget, Budgets by Location, and Special Fund Utilizations had previously been shared with the Board.

## **2. Budget Presentation**

Mr. Gardner provided a presentation regarding the 2021-2022 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget. In his presentation, he shared a list of major revenue and expenditure changes. Mr. Gardner also shared an overview and analysis of the General Fund.

### **f. Analysis of 2020-2021 Football and Basketball Gate Receipts - Mr. Gardner**

Mr. Gardner shared an analysis of the 2020-2021 Football and Basketball Gate Receipts. This information was previously presented at the Finance Committee Meeting on April 19, 2021. The Finance Committee recommended that the analysis be brought forward to the Board for discussion.

The analysis showed a 5-year average of (2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20) gate receipts for football and basketball and the actual collections for the current fiscal 2020-21 year. Mr. Gardner stated that the total difference between the 5-year average collections and the current receipts was a total loss of \$180,419.97 for football and a total loss of \$89,638.86 for basketball. Mr. Gardner proposed to assist all high schools' revenue loss by funding the combined loss of revenue from gate receipts for both football and basketball in the amount of \$270,058.83.

### **g. Authorizing Expenditures from Revenues Collected from the Education Capital Improvement Sales and Use Tax - Mr. Gardner**

The Education Capital Improvement Sales and Use Act approved on November 4, 2008, authorizes the District to utilize the sales tax revenue to pay debt service on bonds to be issued, to pay debt service on bonds previously issued, and directly pay costs of projects authorized in the referendum question.

The Burr Forman Firm prepared a Resolution to authorize the direct expenditure of approved capital improvement projects including classroom & instructional technology and the Short-term Facilities Plan.

It is recommended that the Board authorizes the expenditure of not to exceed \$36,200,000 from Sales Tax Revenues for the direct payment of costs for Approved Projects, including classroom & instructional technology and the Short-term Facilities Plan.

### **h. Funding Flexibility - Mr. Gardner**

Under Provisos 1.25, 1.30 and 1A.14 for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, all school districts and special schools in South Carolina may transfer and expend funds..."to ensure the delivery of academic and arts instruction to students."

The District provides a full-day early childhood program for 1,180 students. The funding for this program is provided through Title I and the Four-Year Old Early Childhood funds. For the past several years, the District utilized a larger portion of Title I funds for this program which resulted in carryover funds in the Four-Year Old Early Childhood funds.

Last year, the Board approved that we utilize the funding flexibility provision and transfer \$750,000 to the EIA initiative: Aid to Districts where a larger population of students can be served.

For the current year, the administration recommends that the District utilize the funding flexibility provision and transfer \$200,000, to the EIA initiative: Aid to Districts where a larger population can be served.

To provide programmatic flexibility, it is recommended that the District request a flexibility waiver for the Four-Year Old Early Childhood funds in the amount of \$200,000. These funds will be transferred to the EIA initiative: Aid to Districts where a larger population can be served.

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

**1. Status Report: School Operations**

Dr. Maxey shared while conditions are improving with the pandemic, Dr. Simmer, Director for the Department of Health and Environmental Control, recommends that masks should be worn in school at least through the end of this school year. Dr. Maxey also shared that he felt mitigation efforts by HCS has helped with transmission rates within the schools remaining low.

Dr. Maxey shared that DHEC specified the most conservative quarantine was 14 days. DHEC then amended that recommendation to 10 days as long as certain criteria could be met. Dr. Maxey noted HCS would move to utilizing the 10-day quarantine provided individuals were not exhibiting symptoms.

Dr. Maxey shared that effective Friday, April 30, 2021, HCS opened all playground equipment for use. Dr. Maxey noted this was another step toward normalcy. Dr. Maxey noted that additional sanitization stations were on order and will be distributed as soon as they arrive.

**2. Status Report: Student Services**

Ms. Velna Allen shared the following HCS K-12 Virtual Program Commitment Data:

| Level      | Number of Student Commitments |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Elementary | 481                           |
| Middle     | 494                           |
| High       | 672                           |
| Total      | 1,647                         |

#### Elementary School Virtual Program Commitments

| Grade Level                 | Number of Student Commitments |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Kindergarten</b>         | <b>6</b>                      |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b> | <b>75</b>                     |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b> | <b>67</b>                     |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b> | <b>98</b>                     |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> | <b>118</b>                    |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> | <b>117</b>                    |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>481</b>                    |

#### Middle School Virtual Program Commitments

| Grade Level                 | Number of Student Commitments |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> | <b>143</b>                    |
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> | <b>181</b>                    |
| <b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> | <b>170</b>                    |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>494</b>                    |

### High School Virtual Program Commitments

| Grade Level            | Number of Student Commitments |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade  | 148                           |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 189                           |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 170                           |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 165                           |
| Total                  | 672                           |

Ms. Allen then shared the following important information:

- 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 brick-and-mortar school. Registration opened May 3rd for returning students.
- Students who are new to HCS will have the opportunity to attend the K-12 HCS Virtual program upon enrollment in their brick-and-mortar school. This opportunity closes after the 5th day of school (August 23, 2021).
- ALL DECISIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE K-12 HCS VIRTUAL PROGRAM WERE FINAL AS OF FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2021.
- The student transfer window opened on Monday, March 29, 2021 and closes on June 30, 2021.

### 3. **Horry County Track Meet, April 21, 2021, Loris High School**

Dr. Maxey reported that for the first time in nearly 20 years, all nine Horry County high schools came together for a county track and field championship meet. The meet was held at Loris High School on April 21, 2021, and was a great way to introduce the new synthetic track being installed at our high schools. Currently, Loris High School is one of three schools in the county, including St. James High School, and Carolina

Forest High School, that have seen their tracks renovated this academic year. Dr. Maxey congratulated the North Myrtle Beach High School Girls and the Carolina Forest High School Boys for winning the team titles during the event. A video was shared showcasing this event.

**4. Employee Appreciation Week: May 3 - 7, 2021**

Dr. Maxey shared that this week Horry County Schools is celebrating Employee Appreciation Week. HCS is honoring our over 5,900 employees who teach and inspire, transport, protect, counsel and coach, nurse and nurture, and serve and support nearly 44,000 students throughout Horry County. Dr. Maxey thanked HCS employees for inspiring possibilities for our young people each day.

**5. Adam Powley, Early College High School; and Michael Macheski, St. James Middle School - Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Nominees for National History Day**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Adam Powley, a teacher at HCS Early College High School, and Michael Macheski, a teacher at St. James Middle School, for being nominated for the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year award in the senior and junior divisions of the National History Day (NHD) National Contest. Patricia Behring sponsors the award in recognition of the pivotal role teachers play in the lives of students.

Each of the 58 National History Day affiliates may nominate one high school and middle school teacher for this award. Mr. Powley is the senior division nominee from South Carolina, and Michael Macheski is the junior division nominee from South Carolina. All nominees will receive \$500 as a result of their nominations. Every nominee is a teacher who demonstrates a commitment to engaging students in historical learning through innovative use of primary sources, implementation of active learning strategies to foster historical thinking skills, and participation in the National History Day Contest.

The national winner will be selected by a committee of experienced teachers and historians and announced on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at the National History Day National Contest Awards Ceremony to be held virtually due to COVID-19. The winner will receive a \$10,000 award. Nominees' work must clearly illustrate the development and use of creative teaching methods that engage students in history and help them make exciting discoveries about the past.

**6. 2022 HCS Top Five Teacher of the Year Finalists:**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated the top five finalists being considered for the title of HCS Teacher of the Year. During the next step of the recognition program's process, members of the District's selection committee will visit finalists for classroom observations. A winner will be announced in May during the HCS Teacher of the Year Virtual Recognition Ceremony.

**Teacher of the Year finalists are:**

**Mindi Penn** – Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology (AAST)

**April Troglauer** – Aynor Middle

**Jill Barnes** – Loris Middle

**Caroline Kelly** – Pee Dee Elementary

**Jacob Scheuer** – St. James High

Following a video presentation acknowledging the top five finalists, Dr. Maxey shared information regarding Myrtle Beach Middle School's Improvement Council having received a top honor as a finalist for the S.C. School Improvement Council's annual Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence. The winner of the 2021 Riley Award was announced during a virtual awards ceremony on Saturday, May 1st. This award 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 SC-SIC Riley Award for SIC Excellence is named in honor of former S.C. Governor and U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley and his late wife, Tunky. It recognizes the couple's longstanding commitment to quality public education. Dr. Maxey offered congratulations to the Myrtle Beach Middle School's Improvement Council, Dr. Janice Christy, and the Myrtle Beach community.

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding Current Litigation**
- b. Discussion of Proposed Sale of Properties**
- c. Discussion of Proposed Purchase of Property**
- d. Discussion of Personnel and Personnel Recommendation**

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 7:57PM.

**Moved By:** Mr. Freeman

**Seconded By:** Ms. Smith



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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**4. ADJOURN BOARD WORK SESSION AND CONVENE SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING**

A motion was made to adjourn the Board Work Session and convene a Special-Called Meeting at 9:57PM. It should be noted that Mr. Winters recused himself from item A during the Executive Session.

**Moved By:** Mr. Freeman

**Seconded By:** Mr. Cox

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.

**Moved By:** Ms. Allen

**Seconded By:** Ms. Smith

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**a. Consider Sale of Property - Mr. Burch**

Horry County Schools has negotiated a proposed property sale to a neighboring property owner at Green Sea Floyds High. Mr. Jackie Woodbury's house fronts Hwy. 9 and has the GSFHS stadium to its rear and side. Mr. Woodbury and his family have lived on this land for many decades and have been good neighbors to the school. As a result of some recent fencing work conducted by the District at the stadium, it came to everyone's attention that the property line between Mr. Woodbury and GSFHS stadium was unclear. In an effort to clear up the property line and make sure improvements are within the proper setbacks and distances, Mr. Woodbury asked to purchase 0.32 acres of property between his home and the stadium. As a result of these discussions, the District asked Mr. Woodbury to hire a professional surveyor who has provided a plat which has been reviewed by staff and appears to be appropriate. Staff recommends pursuing the sale via a quit claim deed in the amount negotiated with Mr. Woodbury.

A motion was made to approve the sale of approximately 0.32 acres of property at Green Sea Floyds High to Mr. Jackie Woodbury in the amount of \$1,500.00.

**Moved By:** Mr. James

**Seconded By:** Mr. Cox

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**b. Consider Purchase of Property - Mr. Burch**

Horry County Schools has negotiated a contract with a landowner for the purchase of 7 acres adjacent to the existing 32 acres purchased in 2020 for a future Conway area school on El Bethel Rd. This additional acreage will provide a more advantageous layout of property for a future school and allow for an improved design of the various site aspects of a new facility. Staff has engaged consultants and has completed the due diligence activities except for the survey and title work. The site appears free of any wetlands, has no findings of an environmental concern, and appears suitable for development of a school site in the future. Access to the property will be off El Bethel Rd and/or Nixon Ave. The due diligence period on the property runs until May 28 which will include all remaining title work and surveys.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of approximately 7 acres of property on El Bethel Rd in the amount of \$70,000.

**Moved By:** Mr. James

**Seconded By:** Ms. Graham

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**c. Professional Employees: Supplemental Pay - Ms. Myrick/Mr. Gardner**

During the pandemic, more HCS students than ever have faced academic challenges. As a result, an increased number of students will need academic assistance during the shortened summer break. Based on the 2020-2021 academic achievement data, our summer school program enrollments will be significantly higher than those during previous summers which will require additional summer program sites and teachers. The informal feedback from schools is that the District may have difficulty recruiting a sufficient number of teachers to staff our programs which may be due in part due to the abbreviated summer break.

To encourage more teachers to join the summer school instructional force, the District is recommending an increase in compensation for 2021. To identify a competitive hourly rate, we researched how much the two largest districts, Charleston and Greenville County School Districts, are paying their summer program staff members. The following table provides comparative data on their hourly rates, as well as the rate that the District has had in place since 2006.

|                             |            |             |                   |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Employee                    | Charleston | Greenville  | Horry (2006-2020) |
| Summer School Site Director | \$65/hr    | N/A         | \$32/hr           |
| Summer School Teacher       | \$60/hr    | \$40/hr     | \$30/hr           |
| School Nurse                | \$50/hr    | Hourly Rate | \$30/hr           |

To avoid a shortage and hopefully recruit summer staff members, we are recommending the hourly rates for the 2021-22 summer programs below. Prior to next summer, the District will revisit and review this hourly rate schedule.

| Employee                    | Hourly Rate |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Summer School Site Director | \$55/hr     |
| Summer School Teacher       | \$50/hr     |
| School Nurse                | \$40/hr     |

In addition, we are recommending the hourly rate for professional staff supplemental pay for the 2021-2022 school year below.

| Employee           | Hourly Rate |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Professional Staff | \$40/hr     |

For context, below is a description of the District's summer programs.

### **HCS Summer School 2021**

#### **Elementary School**

**Grades:** K – 5, including the Summer Reading Camp for Grade 3 as required by the SCSDE

- **Brick-and-Mortar Schools:** 8 sites, one per attendance area (Loris and Green Sea Floyds Attendance areas combined)
- **Virtual Program:** Number of classes to be determined based on the number of students whose parents select this program

#### **Middle School**

**Grades:** 6-8

- **Brick-and-Mortar Schools:** 5 sites
- **Virtual Program:** Number of classes to be determined based on the number of students whose parents select this program

#### **High School**

**Grades:** 9-12

- **Virtual Program:** Number of classes to be determined based on the number of students who enroll in courses

A motion was made to approve the request for the hourly rates supplemental pay for the 2021-22 summer programs and 2021-22 school year.

**Moved By:** Ms. Smith

**Seconded By:** Ms. Graham

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

#### **d. Consider Personnel Recommendation - Dr. Maxey**

Dr. Maxey recommended Ms. Michelle Ammann for the position of Executive Director of Online Learning effective July 1, 2021.

**Moved By:** Mr. Edwards

**Seconded By:** Ms. Graham

For (11): Mr. Richardson, Mr. Cox, Ms. Graham, Mr. James, Mr. Winters, Ms. Allen, Ms. Todd, Ms. Smith, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Edwards, and Ms. Wellons

Against (1): Mr. Barnard

**Board Action: Carried (11 to 1)**

## **6. CONSENT**

### **a. Personnel Recommendations**

- b. **Monitoring Report: OE-13 Quarterly Facilities Report**
- c. **Monitoring Report: OE-9 Communicating with the Public - Mr. Generette**
- d. **Education Fund Allocation - District 1**

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

**Moved By:** Ms. Allen

**Seconded By:** Mr. Winters

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting 10:04 PM.

**Moved By:** Ms. Allen

**Seconded By:** Mr. Winters

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

a. **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- 1. **Facilities Committee Meeting, 4:00 P.M., May 17, 2021, District Office - C-300**
- 2. **Board Meeting, 6:00 P.M., May 17, 2021, District Office - Board Room**

Respectfully submitted,



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Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education

APPROVED: May 17, 2021