

# Horry County Board of Education



## Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 24, 2024

### Board Members Present:

James Edwards, Finance Committee Chairman	David Koch
Pam Dawson, Finance Committee Member	Tracy Winters
Neil James, Finance Committee Member	Melanie Wellons
Howard Barnard, Finance Committee Member	Shanda Allen

### Staff Members Present:

Dr. Rick Maxey, Superintendent	Crystal Gerald
Mary Anderson	Lucas Richardson
Boone Myrick	Lee James
Daryl Brown	Tonya Pickett
John Gardner	Leon Hayes
Kenneth Generette	Leslie Huggins
Lisa Bourcier	Dawn Brooks
	Dustin Bishop

### Media Present:

Nicole Ziege, Post and Courier Myrtle Beach	Seth Herlinger, WPDE TV 15
Casey Jones, My Horry News	

*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.*

### Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Edwards called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Edwards welcomed everyone, and Introductions were made.

### Review and Approval of Agenda

Mr. James moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Dawson seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

### Review and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Barnard moved to approve the April 15, 2024, minutes of the Joint Finance/Human Resources Committee meeting as presented. Mr. James seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

## **Discussion**

### **A. Update on State Funding**

Mr. Gardner gave the Committee an update on State Funding. He reviewed the recent projections from the Senate Finance Committee. He then reviewed the 2024-25 Budget Update and noted that Senate Finance version was a \$840,191 decrease from the House version of the State budget.

Mr. Barnard asked for clarification on the Safety and Security increase for Elementary schools. Mr. Gardner replied that the original proposal only included putting unarmed security guards at middle and high school entrances. He added this proposal includes adding unarmed security guards to elementary schools as well.

### **B. Teacher Salary Increase**

Mr. Gardner reviewed the Teacher Salary Increase Options handout.

The Committee discussed the different options on the handout. The Committee also went back to the Preliminary General Fund handout and discussed Student Searches by Staff and Salary and Benefit Adjustments from Prior Year. The Committee also discussed vacancies. No decisions were made.

Mr. Barnard stated he has an alternate budget proposal. He provided a handout and reviewed it. Committee Chairman Mr. Edwards stated this is not on the agenda. He asked Mr. Barnard if he would be good with giving the Committee time to review this. Mr. Barnard stated he plans to offer this as an alternative when the full Board has budget discussions. Ms. Dawson asked for the date the budget needs to be finalized. Mr. Gardner replied that the plan is to do preliminary approval on June 3, 2024, with final approval on June 17, 2024. He added that May 13, 2024, would be the date he would present the 2024-25 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget to the Board. Regarding Mr. Barnard's handout, Mr. Edwards stated he would like time to review this. Mr. Barnard agreed. Mr. Edwards added that since we are out of order, he would like to get back on track with the agenda. No decisions were made.

### **C. Fine Arts Supplement Request**

Mr. Koch reviewed the handout.

Mr. James asked if there is anywhere we can cut costs without affecting payroll. Mr. Gardner stated that a large portion of the budget supports salaries and benefits. He did agree that it would be possible to reduce certain items with the exclusion of utilities and other fixed costs, but he felt that the reductions would not be significant regarding the current budget position. Ms. Dawson asked about Learning Services consultants and how feasible it would be to train the trainer. Ms. Myrick replied that most of the Consultant funds are Title II Federal funds that would not impact the General Fund.

Mr. Edwards asked if the committee has a motion to insert the Fine Arts Supplement request into the budget. No motion was made.

### **D. Review of 2024-25 General Fund Budget**

Ms. Dawson asked if there are any line items on the previous budget that are not in this proposal. Mr. Gardner replied that any changes were highlighted in yellow. He also shared that the line item Student Searches by Staff is projected to cost \$4.6 million based on a \$25 per day stipend.

Ms. Allen stated she would like to see thought put into the additional Assistant Principal requests from the Principal's Recommended 2024 – 2025 Personnel Allocation Formulae. Ms. Dawson added that some schools may prefer to have Behavior Coaches instead of additional Assistant Principals. The Committee had a discussion, but no decisions were made.

#### **E. Payroll Frequency**

Mr. Gardner reviewed the handout. He added that we would have to work out a transition plan if the Committee decides to pursue this.

The Committee discussed different scenarios. Mr. Gardner stated if it is the pleasure of the Finance Committee, we will pursue this option and work on a timeline. Mr. James stated he prefers we keep it the way it is. Ms. Dawson added she is curious how much effort it would take to determine the amount of interest. She also stated if there is a tremendous amount of interest, maybe we would consider pursuing. Ms. Wellons stated there are principals present in the meeting, she asked if it has been talked about at their schools. The principals all agreed that most of their employees are opposed to the change. The Committee did not move forward with a recommendation.

#### **F. Next Meeting**

Mr. Edwards said he would like to schedule the next meeting for April 29, 2024 at 2:00. He added he and Mr. Gardner would work on the agenda.

#### **Adjourn**

Mr. Barnard moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. James; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Gerald  
Administrative Asst. – Fiscal Services

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_