

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

BOARD WORK SESSION

April 15, 2024

District Office

335 Four Mile Road

Conway, SC 29526

Board of Education

David Cox, Chair

Neil James

David Koch

Debbie Edmonds

Tracy Winters

Howard Barnard

Janet Graham

Pam Dawson

Melanie Wellons

James Edwards

Shanda Allen

Wendy Hodges

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 - APRIL 15, 2024 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER - BOARD MEETING ROOM

Chairman Cox called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. Cox recognized and congratulated Mr. Ken Richardson, former Chairman of Horry County Schools, on his appointment to represent the 15th Circuit on the South Carolina Board of Education.

a. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance - Ms. Dawson

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

b. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Cox

Mr. James made a motion to modify the agenda to add an item under Business, section 5,e, Board Governance.

Ms. Edmonds requested the Consent personnel recommendations be removed and added to the April 29th, 2024, agenda.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Ms. Allen

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

c. Approval of Minutes - Mr. Cox

1. March 25, 2024

A motion was made to approve the March 25, 2024, minutes as presented.

Moved By: Ms. Dawson

Seconded By: Ms. Edmonds

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

2. DISCUSSION

a. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report - Ms. Wellons

Ms. Wellons shared a brief update regarding the Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting held earlier today. The following items were brought forward for discussion: textbook adoption, courses for honors weighting, and locally developed course numbers for the 2024-2025 academic year. Based on staff recommendations, a business item will be brought forward during the April 29, 2024, Board Meeting to include the Courses for Honors Weighting and the Locally Developed Course Numbers for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

b. Policy Committee Report - Ms. Graham

Ms. Graham provided a brief update regarding the Policy Committee Meeting held earlier today. The following committee members were in attendance: David Koch, Melanie Wellons, Traci Winter, and Ms. Graham. The committee held a discussion to clear up issues on Governance policy review process. The committee discussed, in its entirety, Board/Superintendent relations. Ms. Graham shared minor adjustments were made in OE-1 through OE-6.

The next Policy Meeting will be held on April 29th, 2024, 3:00PM-4:00PM in room A-132. Items covered will include OE-7 through OE-13. Ms. Graham requests any additions, deletions, changes, etc. be submitted to the Committee by Friday, April 26th, 2024.

c. Joint Finance-Human Resources Committee Meeting Report - Mr. Edwards and Mr. Barnard

Mr. Edwards provided a brief update on the Joint Finance-Human Resources Committee Meeting held earlier today. Topics of discussion included the following: a funding overview for the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan, the Issuance of \$225 million General Obligation Bonds for the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan, Teacher Salary Increase, Teacher Attrition, Payroll Frequency Issue, General Fund-Fund Balance Analysis, Review of the 2024-2025 General

Fund Budget, and D&O Insurance. The next Finance Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 24th at 4:00PM.

d. Discussion of Board Governance Topics - Ms. Edmonds

Ms. Edmonds shared the current Board Governance model started in 2007. She stated it's time to review other models to ensure we are using the best model for the staff and students of HCS. Ms. Edmonds stated she would like to hear other ideas and explore other possibilities before moving forward with this version.

e. Monitoring Report: OE-9 Communicating with the Public - Mr. Generette

Mr. Generette presented Monitoring Report: OE-9 Communicating with the Public.

f. Monitoring Report: OE-13 Quarterly Facilities Report - Mr. Burch

Mr. Burch presented Monitoring Report: OE-13 Quarterly Facilities Report.

g. Consider Approval of Locally Developed Course Numbers for the 2024-2025 Academic Year - Ms. Scott

Mr. Scott addressed the Board sharing that the South Carolina State Department of Education Activity Coding System provides standardized codes for courses, instructional activities, and non-instructional activities that are used in the student information systems in South Carolina public schools. Course codes are assigned to courses by the Office of Federal and State Accountability. In addition, school districts have the option of developing locally board-approved course codes for courses for elective credit only.

"Each district must maintain a listing of locally approved courses by subject areas and subgroups. These activities must be uniformly numbered within each school district. All locally board-approved courses must be approved by the district's board of trustees each year and evidenced in the board's minutes. The Office of Federal and State Accountability may ask for Board minutes during a desk audit." South Carolina State Department of Education Activity Coding System for the Student Information System 2020-21, Page 88

h. Textbook Adoptions - Ms. Scott

Ms. Scott shared with the Board that the State Department of Education "shall publish annually a listing of the newly adopted instructional materials for use in the public schools of South Carolina. A copy shall be provided to each school and school district." All textbooks adopted for the 2024-2025 school year were reviewed by HCS committees that consisted of representatives from the following stakeholder groups: parents, classroom teachers, ESOL teachers, principals, and district staff. School-level representatives were instructed to vote based on input from all appropriate teachers in their schools. Based on the recommendation by the Curriculum Committee, all Advisory Board members were invited to serve on

a committee to review the textbooks. The materials were on display for review February 21, 2024, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. Selected materials may be placed in schools beginning August 2024.

i. Consider Approval of Courses for Honors Weighting - Ms. Scott

Ms. Scott shared with the Board that beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the local school board may approve new courses to receive honors weighting in all content areas except physical education. All new courses must be developed using the SC Honors Framework guidelines.

Honors courses must be developed and implemented to

- provide depth in rigor, complexity, challenges, and creativity beyond college preparatory level (CP) courses as outlined in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate;
- be more challenging than CP level courses in order to foster growth for advanced learners; and
- offer a differentiated program of study that provides an array of opportunities for all students based on their aptitudes, achievement, and interests.

South Carolina Honors Framework Implementation Guide – Appendix A, April 11, 2017

j. Consider Utilization of Fund Balance to Allocate Eight Additional ESOL Positions for the 2024-2025 Academic Year - Ms. Anderson and Ms. Myrick

Ms. Anderson shared the following slide regarding the district's ESOL students:

HCS ESOL: By the Numbers

- **8242** students in HCS are English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). This includes students who, identified through screenings and assessments, require either direct or monitoring services or are English proficient and do not require these services.
- **6210** of these ESOL students require direct or monitoring services due to their current levels of English proficiency. Both students requiring direct and monitoring services are included in the 60:1 student to ESOL teacher caseload ratio.
 - Of these 6210 students, **4417** are non-English speaking students and require direct services.
 - **1,793** of these 6210 students have previously met proficiency criteria and receive monitoring services for four(4) years after meeting an English proficient status level.
- Based on an analysis of growth data over the last four years, HCS is projected to have an increase of an additional 450 ESOL students requiring direct and monitoring services during the 2024-25 school year. This will increase the total number of ESOL students requiring direct services and monitoring to **6660**, thereby requiring an additional 8 ESOL teachers to maintain the 60:1 student to ESOL teacher ratio.

Ms. Anderson is seeking Board approval enabling the district to post and hire highly qualified teachers for the eight ESOL teaching positions that are requested in the 2024-25 budget.

k. Consider Approval of 2024-2025 Employment Contracts for Professional Personnel - Ms. Anderson

Ms. Anderson approached the Board seeking approval to issue 2024-2025 Professional Employment Contracts.

I. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Maxey

1. Month of the Military Child

Dr. Maxey shared that Purple Up Day is Friday, April 19. This day is observed every year on April 19 as a part of the Month of the Military Child. It is an opportunity to honor military children from all branches of the military.

Horry County Schools was named a Purple Star School District by the South Carolina State Department of Education in November 2023. The Purple Star School program makes a significant commitment to welcoming and supporting military families across our school district.

2. HOSA Future Health Professionals State Winners

Dr. Maxey shared in March, students from across South Carolina gathered in Charleston for the annual HOSA State Leadership Conference. (HOSA, a student organization for future healthcare professionals, holds healthcare-related competitions at its annual conferences.) This year, students from the Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology (AAST), the Academy for Technology and Academics (ATA), North Myrtle Beach High, and St. James High participated in these events, and several even won first place.

Dr. Maxey recognized and offered congratulations to the following students for their first-place wins:

- Dental Terminology - Sofia Obiena (AAST)
- Medical Spelling - AnnMarie Willard (AAST)
- Medical Terminology - Rachel Pirttima (AAST)
- Pharmacology - William Jacob Hayden (AAST)
- Health Education - Chelsea Hearl and Kaleigh Hardwick (ATA)

3. Technology Student Association (TSA) State Winners

Dr. Maxey shared that in March, the Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology (AAST) hosted the Technology Student Association (TSA) State Conference, where TSA members from across South Carolina competed in one or more of 40 technology-related events. At the conference, AAST, Scholars, and Conway all brought home awards.

For a list of the numerous first-place winners and their categories, please visit our website at horrycountyschools.net.

4. 2024 HCS Technology Fair Recap

Dr. Maxey noted the 15th Annual HCS Technology Fair was a huge success. The event was free and open to the public, and it gave students and teachers an opportunity to share with the community how they use technology to learn, collaborate, create, and communicate.

A short video was shared regarding this event.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 6:37PM.

- a. Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding a Property Matter**
- b. Discussion of Personnel Matters**
- c. Discussion of Current/Pending Litigation**
- d. Discussion of School Security Matters**
- e. Consider Student Appeal**

Moved By: Ms. Wellons

Seconded By: Ms. Edmonds

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 the Special-Called Meeting at 8:18PM.

Mr. Barnard noted that while in Executive Session, no votes or action was taken.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Mr. Koch

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

5. BUSINESS

a. Consider Student Appeal - Mr. Cox

Ms. Allen made a motion to uphold the District Appeal Board's decision to assign the student to SOAR Academy.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

b. Consider Approval to Issue 2024-2025 Employment Contracts to ESOL Teachers Utilizing Fund Balance - Ms. Anderson and Ms. Myrick

A motion was made that the Board authorize the utilization of Unassigned General Fund - Fund Balance in the amount of \$793,208 to post and hire eight ESOL teaching positions pending the approval of the 2024-25 budget.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Ms. Edmonds

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

c. Consider Approval of 2024-2025 Employment Contracts for Professional Personnel - Ms. Anderson

A motion was made to issue approval of the 2024-2025 Certificated Employee Contracts. It should be noted that Ms. Allen, Ms. Wellons, Mr. Cox, and Mr. James recused themselves from voting specifically for family members but voted on the remaining employee recommendations.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Ms. Allen

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

d. Consider Appeal of Library/Media Center Materials Review Committee's Decisions - Dr. Maxey

Dr. Maxey shared as stated in *District Policies*, the complainant may petition the Horry County Board of Education to review the Library/Media Center Materials Review Committee's decision. The written petition shall state the specific reason(s) for the complainant's disagreement with the review committee's decision. The petition must be signed by the complainant and delivered to the

Superintendent's office within ten (10) business days of the complainant's receipt of the Library/Media Center Materials Review Committee's decision. The Board shall, at its next regularly scheduled meeting, consider the petitioner's request for review and decide whether to grant a review. If a review is granted, the Board shall decide the matter on the written records to include the complainant's petition, the review Library/Media Center Materials Review Committee's decision, and the book under reconsideration. The Superintendent's office will notify the complainant of the Board's actions on the matter.

Dr. Maxey noted the complainant did comply with the timeline. The complainant is appealing the Committee's decision on three books. Dr. Maxey shared the District Reconsideration Committee's recommendation prior to each motion and vote. Dr. Maxey recommends the Board vote on each book individually, as follows:

The book *Crown of Midnight*, by Sarah J Maas, was presented to a District Reconsideration Committee which was formed to review this book in accordance with District Policies. Following that review, the District Reconsideration Committee made the recommendation for this title *Crown of Midnight* to be restricted in the HCS media centers' collection. As a result, parents who elect for their child to check out *Crown of Midnight* may do so upon providing written approval to their child's media center specialists for their child to check out the book. Otherwise, *Crown of Midnight* will not be available for students.

A motion was made to uphold the District Reconsideration Committee's recommendation to be restricted in the HCS media centers' collection. As a result, parents who elect for their child to check out *Crown of Midnight* may do so upon providing written approval to their child's media center specialists for their child to check out the book.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Ms. Dawson

For (4): Mr. Cox, Mr. James, Mr. Barnard, and Ms. Graham

Against (8): Mr. Koch, Ms. Edmonds, Ms. Winters, Ms. Dawson, Ms. Wellons, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Hodges

Board Action: Failed (4 to 8)

A second motion was made to remove *Crown of Midnight* from HCS media centers collection and return to the manufacturer.

Moved By: Ms. Dawson

Seconded By: Mr. Edwards

For (11): Mr. Cox, Mr. James, Mr. Koch, Ms. Edmonds, Ms. Winters, Ms. Graham, Ms. Dawson, Ms. Wellons, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Hodges

Against (1): Mr. Barnard

Board Action: Carried (11 to 1)

Dr. Maxey shared the book *Freedom Writers Diary* with Erin Gruwell was presented to a District Reconsideration Committee which was formed to review this book in accordance with *District Policies*. Following that review, the District Reconsideration Committee made the recommendation for this title *Freedom Writers Diary* to be removed from the HCS media centers' collection for students. The book was listed in the school district media center inventory; however, copies were provided for professional development use by staff. The book was not accessible to students.

A motion was made to uphold the District Reconsideration Committee's decision to remove *Freedom Writers Diary* from the HCS media centers' collection.

Moved By: Ms. Dawson

Seconded By: Ms. Hodges

For (11): Mr. Cox, Mr. James, Mr. Barnard, Mr. Koch, Ms. Edmonds, Ms. Winters, Ms. Dawson, Ms. Wellons, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Hodges

Against (1): Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried (11 to 1)

Dr. Maxey shared the book *Heir of Fire*, by Sara J Maas, was presented to a District Reconsideration Committee which was formed to review this book in accordance with District Policies. Following that review, the District Reconsideration Committee made the recommendation for this title *Heir of Fire* to be retained in the HCS media centers' collection.

Ms. Allen made a motion to disapprove the District Reconsideration Committee's recommendation. There was not a second.

Mr. James made a motion to uphold the District Reconsideration Committee's recommendation.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Ms. Wellons

For (3): Mr. Cox, Mr. Barnard, and Ms. Graham

Against (9): Mr. Koch, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. James, Ms. Graham, Ms. Winters, Ms. Dawson, Ms. Wellons, Mr. Edwards, and Ms. Allen

Board Action: Failed (3 to 9)

A third motion was made to restrict *Heir of Fire* subject to parent approval of student availability.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

For: (10): Mr. Cox, Mr. Koch, Mr. James, Ms. Graham, Ms. Winters, Ms. Dawson, Ms. Wellons, Mr. Edwards, and Ms. Allen

Against (2): Ms. Edmonds and Mr. Barnard

Board Action: Carried (10 to 2)

E: Board Governance

Ms. Dawson made a motion that we establish a Committee of the Whole, to be known as the Governance Exploration and Evaluation Committee, effective no later than April 29, 2024.

Moved By: Ms. Dawson

Seconded By: Ms. Edmonds

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

6. **CONSENT**

a. ~~Personnel Recommendations~~

This item was removed by Ms. Edmonds during the approval of the agenda earlier in the meeting.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Moved By: Mr. Koch

Seconded By: Ms. Edmonds

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Oates

Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education