

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

November 18, 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

Wendy Hodges

James Edwards

Shanda Allen

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 - NOVEMBER 18, 2024 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER - BOARD MEETING ROOM

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

a. Invocation - Mr. Edwards

Mr. Edwards offered the invocation.

b. Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance - Loris High School Army JROTC

Loris High School Army JROTC presented Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

c. Introductions of Board Members - Mr. Cox

Prior to the approval of the agenda, Mr. Cox asked Board Members to introduce themselves and indicate the areas that they represent.

d. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Cox

A motion was made to approve the November 18, 2024, agenda as presented.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Ms. Wellons

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

e. Approval of Minutes - Mr. Cox

1. November 4, 2024

A motion was made to approve the November 4, 2024, minutes as presented.

Moved By: Mr. Edwards

Seconded By: Ms. Wellons

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

2. DISCUSSION

a. Joint Human Resources and Finance Committee Update - Mr. Barnard and Mr. Edwards

Mr. Barnard provided an update on the Joint Human Resources-Finance Committee Meeting that occurred earlier in the day.

Items discussed during the meeting included additional Assistant Principal positions, the review of current policy to adjust Principal's salaries due to enrollment changes, LETRS training and the possibility of having Coastal Carolina University work with Horry County Schools. The meeting concluded with the discussion of third-grade retention.

b. Technology Committee Update - Ms. Shanda Allen

Ms. Shanda Allen shared information discussed during the Technology Committee Meeting earlier in the day.

Ms. Shanda Allen mentioned that a certain portion of ESSER funds would need to go back to the state from the sale of older devices as they were originally purchased with these funds. She also shared that new devices will be needed for Middle School in the upcoming year along with the possibility of ordering new cases to reduce damage to devices. It was also stated that the Technology Refresh schedule for the next two years was presented and that this will need to be brought forth to the Board for consideration.

c. Facilities Committee Update - Mr. Neil James

Mr. Neil James provided a brief update about the Facilities Committee Meeting held earlier in the day. Topics of discussion during the meeting included the Topping Off Ceremonies for the two new elementary schools in the Carolina Forest area, the approval of the relocation of ten modular classrooms from Ocean Bay Elementary School to Waccamaw Elementary School, and the related cost and funding for this. Mr. James also reviewed the process that has been followed to establish the new elementary school attendance areas, while noting that some changes were made in response to feedback received. It was shared that as a result of the changes, the new capacity at the five Carolina Forest Area Elementary Schools will average 76% capacity.

Mr. Neil James shared that the process used for the renaming of the former Whittemore Park Middle School to Horry County Schools Rivertown Complex was also reviewed during the meeting concluding that the new name was appropriate for the complex.

d. Monitoring Report R-7 College and Career Readiness - Mr. Lee James

Mr. Lee James presented Monitoring Report R-7, College and Career Readiness. Mr. James reviewed policy guidelines and shared a presentation with Board Members containing testing data from recent years for comparison.

e. Draft HCS Personal Electronic Device Policy - Ms. Velna Allen and Mr. Generette

Mr. Generette addressed the Board and presented the proposed draft of the Personal Electronic Device Policy. Mr. Generette provided Board Members with background information on the topic referencing the passed proviso 1.103, by the General Assembly where districts are to implement a policy adopted by the South Carolina Board of Education, prohibiting access to personal electronic communication devices by students during the school day. Mr. Generette noted the South Carolina State Board of Education passed a model policy on September 3 of this year which was provided to school districts throughout South Carolina. Mr. Generette mentioned input has been requested from Principals for their specific levels regarding the model policy.

Mr. Generette also shared with Board Members the South Carolina Department of Education recently released, Free to Focus initiative which contains more information regarding the topic.

Discussion followed regarding the date of implementation with Mr. Generette stating that the policy has to be implemented in January 2025. Mr. Generette clarified that a date for implementation will be provided at a later time. The timing concern regarding the distribution of information to the community was also brought up with Mr. Generette noting the schools already follow some aspects of

the policy while also assuring the Communications Team will work with Principals to ensure the information is shared accordingly.

f. Superintendent's Report

1. Recognitions - Ms. Bourcier

1. Schools Celebrate Veterans Day

Ms. Bourcier shared HCS proudly honors and recognizes the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces, acknowledging their sacrifices and dedication to our nation. It was noted that across the district on Veterans Day, schools held events to celebrate and honor military veterans. Ms. Bourcier presented a video of the many school celebrations hosted on Veterans' Day.

2. Topping Off Ceremonies for the Two New Carolina Forest Area Elementary Schools

Mr. Bourcier shared that on Tuesday, November 12, HCS hosted two Topping Off ceremonies for the new Carolina Forest Elementary Schools, which are currently under construction. The schools will open to students in August for the 2025-2026 school year. A video was shared which documented this momentous occasion.

3. Principal for a Day Event

Ms. Bourcier also shared that on Tuesday, November 12, HCS hosted its annual Principal for a Day program. This program invites local public figures and community leaders to shadow a school principal and participate in normal day-to-day activities in a primary, elementary, middle, high, or program school. The program gives the school's principal and the Principal for a Day the opportunity to discuss the challenges and responsibilities each is facing in their leadership positions. It also allows the Principal for a Day to see how the role of the principal has changed since they were in school and how instructional delivery has changed to meet the needs of all students, as well as to envision strategies for our schools and community to work together in mutually beneficial ways. A video of guest Principals and their experiences in the program was also shared with Board Members.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals signed up to speak during the Public Comments portion of the meeting and came forward when called: Leah Hornberger, Patricia Milley, Rick Rivers, Edward Peddell, Bobby Chandler

The following individual signed up to address the Board during the Public Comments section of the meeting and did not come forward to when called: Leslie Oleszkowicz

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 7:21 PM.

- a. School Security Update**
- b. Consideration of Student Appeal**
- c. Discussion of Personnel Matters**

Moved By: Mr. Edwards

Seconded By: Mr. Koch

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

5. BUSINESS

A motion was made to move into the Business portion of the meeting at 8:45 PM. It should be noted no votes were taken and no decisions were made during the Executive Session.

Moved By: Ms. Edmonds

Seconded By: Ms. Allen

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

a. Consideration of Student Appeal

Ms. Dawson made a motion to uphold the District Appeal Board's decision for the student to be assigned to SOAR Academy. Ms. Wellons seconded the motion; no votes were taken.

Discussion followed, Mr. Koch moved to amend the motion to modify the District Appeal Board's decision to strike drug possession and add possession of a vaping device and assignment to SOAR Academy be truncated and the student be allowed to return to Myrtle Beach High School immediately. Mr. Barnard seconded the motion.

The Board voted on the amended motion made by Mr. Koch, first:

For (4): Koch, Winters, Barnard, Edwards.

Against (8): Edmonds, Hodges, James, Dawson, Graham, Wellons, Allen, Cox.

Moved By: Mr. Koch

Seconded By: Mr. Barnard

Board Action: Failed (4 to 8)

The Board voted on the original motion made by Ms. Dawson:

For: Edmonds, Hodges, James, Dawson, Graham, Wellons, Allen, Cox

Against: Koch, Winters, Barnard, Edwards.

Moved By: Ms. Dawson

Seconded By: Ms. Wellons

Board Action: Carried (8 to 4)

b. Consideration of Personnel Recommendations - Ms. Anderson

Ms. Velna Allen recommended Andrena Baker for the position of Principal at Ten Oaks Elementary School effective January 2025.

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Ms. Wellons

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

Ms. Velna Allen recommended Dr. Michael Raymond for the position of Principal at Pine Island Elementary School effective January 2025.

Moved By: Ms. Wellons

Seconded By: Ms. Edmonds

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

c. Monitoring Report OE-8 Communicating with the Board - Mr. Generette

Ms. Dawson moved that the Board's disposition of the OE-8 monitoring report be compliance with exception. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koch, no votes were taken. Discussion followed regarding the expected timeliness of the meeting agendas for Board Meetings to include Committee Meeting Agendas.

Mr. Edwards moved to amend the original motion, adding that the Board Meeting Agenda with attachments be sent to Board Members by Wednesday and

Committee Meeting Agendas and attachments be sent to Board Members on Thursday. Mr. Neil James seconded the motion.

The Board voted on the amendment to the motion first.

Moved By: Mr. Edwards

Seconded By: Mr. James

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

The Board voted on the original motion as amended.

Moved By: Ms. Dawson

Seconded By: Mr. Koch

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

d. Monitoring Report R-1 Literacy - Mr. Lee James

Ms. Shanda Allen made a motion to accept Monitoring Report R-1 Literacy as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wellons. No votes were taken.

Discussion followed; Ms. Dawson stated that she has consulted with Ms. Graham to have the Policy Committee review the current policy requirements for this report as they do not currently align with the available data points.

Ms. Allen re-stated her original motion and added that this matter goes back to Policy and that Mr. Lee James would work with Ms. Graham and the Policy Committee to address the concern.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Ms. Wellons

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

e. Monitoring Report OE-6 Financial Administration - Mr. Gardner

A motion was made to approve Monitoring Report OE-6 as presented.

Moved By: Ms. Dawson

Seconded By: Mr. James

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

f. Monitoring Report OE-7 Asset Protection - Mr. Gardner

A motion was made to approve Monitoring Report OE-7 as presented.

Moved By: Ms. Wellons

Seconded By: Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

g. Consideration of Approval of the 2025-2026 Budget Assumptions and Parameters - Mr. Gardner

A motion was made to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Assumptions and Parameters as presented. No votes were taken.

Discussion followed with Ms. Edmonds noting that the Board reserves the right to adjust the personnel allocations at any time as a full Board. Mr. James clarified that this would apply to the Personnel Allocation item also on the agenda.

Moved By: Mr. Edwards

Seconded By: Ms. Allen

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

h. Consideration of Approval of the 2025-2026 Personnel Allocation Formulae - Mr. Gardner

Mr. Gardner addressed the Board and recommended the approval of the 2025-2026 Personnel Allocation Formulae with the understanding that changes to the Personnel Allocation Formulae will be considered by the Board at a later time.

A motion was made to approve the 2025-2026 Personnel Allocation Formulae as presented.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

i. Recommendation for School Name, Mascot, and Colors for the New Carolina Forest Boulevard Elementary School - Mr. Burch

Mr. Burch approached the Board seeking approval of the committee's name recommendation for the new elementary school on Carolina Forest Boulevard, Ten Oaks Elementary School, the mascot Red Fox and the colors Red/Maroon and Silver.

A motion was made to approve the recommendation as presented.

Moved By: Ms. Wellons

Seconded By: Ms. Winters

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

j. Recommendation for School Name, Mascot, and Colors for the New Ronald McNair Boulevard Elementary School - Mr. Burch

Mr. Burch approached the Board seeking approval of the committee's name recommendation for the new elementary school on Ronald McNair Boulevard, Pine Island Elementary School, the mascot Pelican, and the colors Green and Yellow.

A motion was made to approve the recommendation as presented.

Moved By: Ms. Winters

Seconded By: Ms. Hodges

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

a. Personnel Recommendations

b. Education Fund Allocation

1. District 2

2. District 3

3. District 10

4. District 11

Moved By: Ms. Dawson

Seconded By: Ms. Edmonds

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

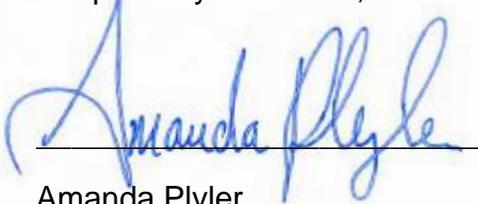
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 PM.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Plyler

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education