

# **HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **MINUTES**

### **SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**March 15, 2020**

**District Office**

**335 Four Mile Road**

**Conway, SC 29526**

#### **Board of Education**

Ken Richardson

John Poston

Janet Graham

Janice Morreale

Neil James

Ray Winters

Shanda Allen

Sherrie Todd

W Russell Freeman

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

Velna Allen, Mary J. Anderson, Lisa

Bourcier, 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 AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

##### **a. Invocation**

Mr. Freeman offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **2. DISCUSSION**

##### **a. District Plans for Response to Governor McMaster's Cancellation of Public Schools - Dr. Maxey**

Mr. Richardson thanked the Board Members and staff for coming in on such short notice. Mr. Richardson stated the format of this meeting was to enter in discussion with questions following. Dr. Maxey shared that Horry County is the largest county this side of the Mississippi River and roughly the size of the state

of Rhode Island. Currently, HCS has roughly 6,000 employees and 45,626 students. Dr. Maxey noted if we were a city in South Carolina, we would not be far from being a large cosmopolitan area.

Dr. Maxey stated that while the district has tried to prepare for this closure, there are many important questions without answers.

Dr. Maxey recognized Tammy Trulove for her part in being an invaluable connection between HCS and SCDHEC.

Dr. Maxey shared at 4:00 P.M. today, Governor Henry McMaster announced the closure of all South Carolina public schools beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, through March 31, 2020. The closure includes ALL school-related activities. During this time, all HCS employees on 240 and 246-day contract will continue to report to work as normal. In addition, some Learning Services, Building Services, Nutrition Services, Transportation, Health Services, and Technical Support employees will be contacted by their supervisors regarding their work schedules.

Teachers will be asked to report to work on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, in order to prepare for delivery of alternate instruction over the extended closure. Thereafter, teachers will not report to their respective schools. However, should circumstances demand a change to HCS staff schedules to perform essential tasks, an announcement will be made by the Superintendent's Office. During this closure, District staff will continue with additional planning and technology efforts to support our students and prepare for the reopening of our schools.

Dr. Maxey stated "I cannot answer how long we're going to be out of school. I don't know. I can't tell you what's going to be done with makeup days. Will this all be excused? I don't know." Dr. Maxey added, "We're going to do everything we can do make sure our students graduate, but we cannot at this time in these extraordinary circumstances provide answers to questions that we don't know." Dr. Maxey remarked that HCS also does not yet know how this closure will affect spring break, but he did confirm that with this closure, all activities are suspended — including any afterschool activities, sports, and practices.

Dr. Maxey asked everyone to "be patient with us because we cannot see into the future and we can only deal with the facts we have." Dr. Maxey reminded everyone that many people are involved in making the county operate efficiently during this time. Dr. Maxey commended the staff for putting together a plan in such a short period of time.

Dr. Maxey stated he would call on the Chief Officers one by one to provide information on their departments.

At this point, Ms. Boone Myrick, Chief Officer of Learning Services was called forward.

Ms. Myrick shared on Thursday, March 12, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) asked South Carolina school districts to submit a ten-day instructional plan by Friday, March 20, 2020, to assist students during the time that public school(s) may be closed as a result of COVID-19. Horry County Schools submitted its ten-day instructional plan to the SCDE on Friday, March 13, 2020, and received SCDE's approval of the HCS plan earlier this afternoon. The HCS instructional plan includes options for students to access assignments in both online and offline (print) formats; platforms for communication with teachers, students, and parents; and support for teachers and students throughout the closure period. Information for parents concerning this alternate instructional plan will be shared with parents by 6:00 PM, Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Ms. Myrick noted grades will be given at the lowest grade equivalent.

At this point, Ms. Velna Allen, Chief Officer of Student Services was called forward.

All students in grades 3-12 will have the option to take a Personalized Digital Learning (PDL) device home (High School - laptop; Middle School - Chromebook; Elementary - iPad).

Additional information, such as how to grant parent permission to take a device home, how to pay an optional technology fee to offset costs if a device is damaged while at home, appropriate internet use, etc., will be provided to students and parents by 6:00 PM, Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

At this point, Mr. Daryl Brown, Chief Officer of Support Services was called forward. Mr. Brown shared the following Nutrition Services Meal Service Plan:

- We will be serving breakfasts and lunches following the Summer Feeding guidelines.
- We have 11 Hub locations:

Homewood Elem	Whittemore Park Middle
Loris Elem	Green Sea Floyd's Elem
Socastee Elem	North Myrtle Beach Middle
Myrtle Beach Middle	Aynor Elem
Myrtle Beach Elem	Waccamaw Elem
Palmetto Bays Elem	

- We will be serving grab-and-go style meals. Parents will drive up to a designated location at each school and pick meals up for children off a table. Meals will be for all students under the age of 18 that are in the vehicle. Students can visit any location to pick up meals. They do not have to attend that meal location. No adult meals are provided.
- We will include a note in each bag explaining proper procedures for meal consumption. The note will read as follows: Thank you for eating with us! Please enjoy this lunch and included breakfast for tomorrow. Lunches are intended to be eaten immediately or should be stored in the refrigerator within 2 hours. The breakfast should be refrigerated until ready to consume. Please discard any leftovers within 3 days. Hot food should be kept hot (entrees > 135 degrees) and cold foods (milk, juice and entrees < 41 degrees) kept cold.
- While we may have many people other than cafeteria staff who will want to assist in meal service, we feel it may be in the best interest of protection to only allow Nutrition Services staff to handle this meal service.
- Best practices will be used in prep, preparing, handling, sanitation, and food safety as always.
- Meal pickups will begin Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>. We will operate on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. Monday through Wednesdays grab and go bags will include for each student one lunch and one breakfast for the next day. Thursday grab-and-go bags will consist of one lunch, and one breakfast and lunch for Friday.
- Additional locations can be opened if the need presents itself.

Mr. Brown then shared the following cleaning and disinfecting protocol as follows:

- Wipe down high touch surfaces with an EPA-approved germicidal solution
- Wipe down locker fronts
- Wipe down locker rooms and other athletic rooms such as weight rooms
- Clean all offices- we will not be cleaning individual staff members' computers and request they wipe their own personal equipment to ensure nothing gets damaged.
- Wipe down all playground equipment
- Clean all restrooms

At this point, Mr. Kenny Generette, Chief Officer of Communications, Policy, and Legal was called forward.

Mr. Generette shared that the Communications Department is working to share the most updated information available on all of the social media platforms including the HCS Website, Facebook page, Twitter, Instagram, HCS TV, and Parentlink. Mr. Generette highly encouraged parents to utilize these options. Mr. James asked that we establish a regular schedule of update times to keep everyone current.

At this point, Mr. John Gardner, Chief Officer of Fiscal Services, and Ms. Mary Anderson, Chief Officer of Human Resources, were called forward.

Mr. Gardner stated over the 10-day closure, there will be no financial impact to employees. Ms. Anderson clarified anyone who is a full-time or a part-time employee will receive a paycheck as they normally do. The people who have to submit their time worked in order to get their paycheck will be the only ones negatively affected. Ms. Anderson stated that the Human Resources will be flexible in looking into special circumstances.

In conclusion, Dr. Maxey noted this is uncharted territory for HCS. Dr. Maxey stated we do everything we do in the interest of our children. Dr. Maxey stated he was proud to be a part of Horry County and the community we live in. Dr. Maxey noted it was going to be difficult but we were going to work together to get through this.

Mr. James noted that State Superintendent Molly Spearman shared a resolution regarding the state assessment and accountability. Mr. James made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

#### RESOLUTION

Whereas, the COVID-19 threats and impact have produced unprecedented events in our communities and schools throughout South Carolina;

Whereas, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster has suspended all public school activity through at least March 31, 2020;

Whereas, this disruption will detrimentally affect South Carolina's state assessment and accountability systems;

Therefore, the Horry County Schools Board of Education supports the South Carolina Superintendent of Education's request to provide flexibility from state assessments and accreditation mandates, including, but not limited to, seat time requirements, and from the federal assessment and accountability system mandates.

Mr. Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Richardson recognized Renee Elvis, Horry County Clerk of Court, in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

**Moved By:** Ms. Graham

**Seconded By:** Mr. Winters

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

Respectfully submitted,



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Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education