HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

M I N U T E S

SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP

February 8, 2021
District Office
335 Four Mile Road
Conway, SC 29526

Board of Education

Ken Richardson	Shanda Allen
David Cox	Sherrie Todd
Janet Graham	Helen Smith
Neil James	W Russell Freeman
Ray Winters	Howard Barnard
James Edwards	

Horry County Schools Staff

Mary Anderson, Lisa Bourcier, Edi Cox, Kandi Fleming,
Lee James, Rick Maxey, Boone Myrick

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. **Welcome and Introductions**

   Board Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. Introductions were made by each Board Member and those in attendance.

2. **Review and Approval of Agenda**

   A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented.

   Moved By: Ms. Allen
   Seconded By: Mr. Freeman

   Carried Unanimously

3. **2021-2022 K-12 HCS Virtual Overview – Ms. Myrick**

   Ms. Edi Cox along with Mr. Lee James presented an overview of the 2021-2022 K-12 HCS Virtual program, including updated enrollment projections.

Background Information K-12 HCS Virtual

<u>Since 2011</u>
HCS Virtual FLEX (supplemental program for grades 9-12)

<u>Beginning 2020-21</u>
K-12 HCS Virtual (K-12 full-time virtual learning) Hybrid (face-to-face and distance learning)

SCDOE Memorandum (7-17-20) Regarding Public School Re-opening Plans:

To be approved, plans must answer all questions posed in the school reopening survey sent on June 10, 2020, as well as include:

1. A virtual option for all students

- Districts may choose to deliver their own virtual program, take advantage of VirtualSC, suggest enrollment in one of the public charter virtual schools, or contract the service.

Virtual SC - State Virtual Program

- Supplemental program available to all 9-12 students in the state

- No established K-8 program (currently piloting 6-8)

- Student calendar (start and end dates)

- Caps on enrollment (first come first serve)

K-12 HCS Virtual Course Offerings

- Students enroll in a wide range of courses including College Prep, Special Education, English As a Second Language, Career and Technical Education and Advanced Placement.

- Courses offered in K-12 HCS Virtual closely align with those offered at brick-and-mortar schools.

- Students who attend their brick-and-mortar schools also have access to courses through the HCS Virtual FLEX (supplemental) program.

Typical Instructional Day - Elementary

- In our elementary program, K-12 HCS Virtual students are offered more structure than upper grade levels, but students also benefit from the more flexible schedule K-12 HCS Virtual provides.

- Elementary students receive a minimum of one hour of live direct instruction each day with the whole class. This live instruction is a valuable time to connect with classmates and teachers and get the live instruction needed to learn the skills and be successful in elementary coursework. Additional individualized lessons are scheduled throughout each day to support students in small groups or one on one.

- On average, elementary students spend about 75 percent of their time working on computer-based activities and 25 percent working on hands-on learning activities.

- On average, elementary students spend about 3-5 hours per week for each core course taken and about 1 hour per week for each specials course. This time estimate is a combination of
computer-based and hands-on learning activities.

Typical Instructional Day - Middle/High

- In our middle/high program, K-12 HCS Virtual students have greater flexibility with their daily schedules than compared to a traditional school schedule, whether that is in person or online.

- Middle and high school students are offered two live lessons per course each week with the class. These live lessons are based on the lessons due that week. Additional individualized lessons are scheduled to support students in small groups or one on one.

- Students can personalize their schedules to meet their individual needs throughout the day. Students work on each course based on an individualized pacing guide, with direct teacher support and guidance.

- Middle and high school students usually do more work online with fewer offline assignments.

Guiding Considerations for 2021-2022

- Health and safety concerns are likely to impact family educational decisions in the 2021-2022 school year.

- Motivated by success in virtual school setting in the 2020-2021 school year, families are likely to expect a virtual option.

- Based on data from nation-wide polls, approximately ½ of students currently enrolled in virtual programs are projected to continue into next year. Given current K-12 HCS Virtual enrollment trends, projected enrollment for 2021-2022 would be approximately 5,000 students.

- Structures and protocols are in place to provide effective supports for students and staff for the future.

- A sustainable program can be built based on the lessons learned in the 2020-2021 school year and best practices for online learning.

  Planning is guided by resources from national organizations and experts in the field of online learning. (*National Standards of Quality, Quality Matters, Digital Learning Collaborative, Virtual Learning Leadership Alliance) and well-established quality online programs (Michigan Virtual, Fulton Virtual, VirtualSC, etc*.)

Enrollment Data

	Horry County Schools Current Enrollment *(excluding Pre-K)*	**HCS Virtual Initial Enrollment**	**HCS Virtual Current Enrollment** After first opportunity to return to brick-and-mortar school or enroll in HCS Virtual in September
K-2	9,011	2,735	1,900
3-5	10,036	3,247	2,397
6-8	11,076	3,920	3,035
9-12	13,306	3,715	3,083
Total	43,429	13,617	10,415

Enrollment Projections 2021-22

	HCS Virtual Current Enrollment	Transferring to Base School Second Semester	Transferring to HCS Virtual Second Semester	HCS Virtual Second Semester Enrollment	Projected* 2021-2022 HCS Virtual Enrollment
K-2	1,900	536	107	1,471	910
3-5	2,397	688	127	1,836	1,115
6-8	3,035	940	236	2,331	1,425
9-12	3,083	988	423	2,518	1,750
Total	10,415	3,152	893	8,156	5,200

*Enrollment projections are made by combining the guidance from informal nation-wide polls mentioned previously and enrollment trends in K-12 HCS Virtual.

K-12 HCS Virtual 2021-2022

- K-12 HCS Virtual 2021-2022 will be a continuation of this year's program. The structure will remain the same.

- K-12 HCS Virtual will continue to be an option for all students K-12.

- Students will register in the spring of 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.

- Students will continue to be enrolled in their base school.

4. **2021-2022 K-12 HCS Virtual Program Staffing Formula - Mr. Gardner**

Mr. Gardner shared with the Board that on December 7, 2020, the Board of Education was provided the Personnel Allocation Formulae – FY2022. At that meeting, the Board was notified that the formulae did not include HCS Virtual due to the second-semester decision date deadlines.

At the January 11, 2021 Board Meeting, the 2021-2022 Personnel Allocation Formulae for HCS Virtual was presented to the Board of Education. The Board approved the Personnel Allocation Formulae - FY2022 that was previously submitted in December and recommended that staff consider input from the Board regarding the 2021-2022 Personnel Allocation Formulae for HCS Virtual.

Mr. Gardner is seeking Board approval of the 2021-2022 Personnel Allocation Formulae for HCS Virtual. The estimated cost is $.9 million to $1.5 million for non-instructional staff. Instructional staff will be funded from base school transfers. Funding Source: CARES Act.

5. **Discussion**

At this time, the floor was open for discussion.

6. **Adjournment**

UPCOMING MEETING(S) A motion was made to adjourn at 4:13PM

Moved By: Mr. Freeman
Seconded By: Mr. Winters

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

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Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education