

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

BOARD WORK SESSION

February 8, 2021

District Office

335 Four Mile Road

Conway, SC 29526

Board of Education

Ken Richardson

W. Russell Freeman

David Cox

Janet Graham

Neil James

Ray Winters

Shanda Allen

Sherrie Todd

Helen Smith

James Edwards

Howard Barnard

Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen, Mary Anderson, Daryl Brown, Edi Cox, John Gardner, Kenny Generette, Lee James, Rick Maxey, Boone Myrick, Mark Porter

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 - February 8, 2021 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER

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

a. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance - W. Russell Freeman

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

b. Acknowledgement of the Late John Poston, District 8, Vice-Chairman

Mr. Richardson read a statement on behalf of the Board of Education as follows:

"On behalf of the entire Horry County Board of Education, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the loss of one of our own – Mr. John Poston. John was first elected to the Board in 2008 and did an exceptional job representing not only District 8, but he served in the interest of the entire county. John became Vice-Chair in 2019 and served in this capacity for a two-year term. Mr. Poston's

work and passion for education and the children of Horry County is well known, admired, and appreciated. Mr. Poston will be missed. For tonight's meeting, we honor Mr. Poston's years of public service and dedication to education in Horry County by draping the chair and placing a white rose where he sat as our colleague." At this time, Mr. Richardson opened the floor for any comments Board members wished to share.

Board members shared comments and kind words regarding Mr. Poston and his service to the children of Horry County.

A moment of silence was observed in Mr. Poston's honor.

Mr. Richardson noted that out of respect for Mr. Poston, we do not plan to discuss the filling of the District 8 vacancy tonight, but we will do so at our next Board meeting.

c. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the February 8, 2021, agenda as presented.

Moved By: Mr. Winters

Seconded By: Ms. Smith

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

d. Approval of Minutes

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

1. January 25, 2021

A motion was made to approve the January 25, 2021, minutes as presented. Mr. Winters would like it noted that on item 1.C. it was suggested to hold the special-called workshop within one week following January 25, 2021, Board Meeting. The workshop had to be rescheduled as a result of Mr. Poston's passing and was held prior to the February 8, 2021, Board Work Session.

Moved By: Mr. Winters

Seconded By: Mr. James

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

e. Organizational Business

1. Election of Vice-Chairman

Mr. Richardson opened the floor for nominations of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Cox nominated Mr. James. No other nominations were brought forward. The Board voted unanimously for Mr. James to serve for a two-year term as Vice-Chairman, beginning on February 22, 2021. Mr. Richardson congratulated Mr. James on his position.

Moved By: Mr. Cox

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

2. Board Committee Assignments

Mr. Richardson appointed Mr. Edwards to serve on the Facilities Committee to replace the position previously held by Mr. Poston.

2. DISCUSSION

a. Technology Committee Report - Ms. Shanda Allen

Ms. Shanda Allen shared an update from the Technology Committee Meeting earlier today. Currently HCS has issued 36334 devices to students in Horry County meaning 84.6% of students are using our devices. Ms. Allen shared that HCS has 613 hotspots in place with Horry Telephone Cooperative providing 260 additional internet connections to HCS families. Ms. Allen shared that the selection committee had 3 devices to choose from iPad, Dell Latitude, or a Chromebook. The selection committee suggested moving forward with the Dell Latitude as the device to use for the refresh of Middle Schools. Mr. Winters questioned the battery life of those devices. The Technology Committee asked HCS to begin the process of refreshing. This is done in 4-year period. Mr. Winters asked the staff look into upgrading RAM in those devices and provide funding through pre-allocated funds.

b. Monitoring Report: R-4 Social Studies - Ms. Myrick

Monitoring Report R-4 was presented for review.

c. Monitoring Report: OE-4 Personnel Administration - Ms. Anderson

Monitoring Report OE-4 was presented for review.

d. 2021-2022 General Fund Budget Planning - Mr. Gardner

1. Fiscal Services - Mr. Gardner

Mr. Gardner gave an overview and update on the 2021-2022 budget process. Chief Officers Mary Anderson and Daryl Brown presented new budget requests for each of their respective divisions. Staff will continue

to update the Board as they move forward in the process and as they gain additional information.

Mr. Gardner presented to the Board members the following for their consideration:

- to utilize at least \$11 million of fund balance as an additional funding source for the General Fund in 2021-22.
- a request to provide staffing for an enrollment of 44,218 K-12 students.
- a request for funding to due to an increase in employer retirement contributions to SCRS.
- a request for funding to provide employees a STEP increase based on their years of experience and to provide any cost of living adjustment as determined by the state.
- a request for funding to provide a 2% salary increase for employees not eligible for a step, and
- a request for funding to provide the estimated increases in certain fixed costs such as property insurance, copier leases, charter school payments, and service contracts.

2. Human Resources - Ms. Anderson

Ms. Anderson presented to the Board members the following for their consideration:

- funding for implementation of the Comprehensive Employee Compensation Study findings.

3. Support Services - Mr. Brown

Mr. Brown presented to the Board members the following for their consideration:

- to provide funding for adequate staffing for cleaning school facilities.
- to provide funding for improved services for all District Facilities building service supplies.
- to provide funding for rooftop mechanical room equipment service contracts.
- to provide funding for electrical lighting monitoring contract.
- to provide funding for solar array maintenance contracts.

e. General Fund Budget Development - Mr. Gardner

Mr. Gardner provided a recap of the preliminary 2021-2022 General Fund Budget, a recap which incorporated the budget requests listed above.

f. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Maxey

1. Status Report: COVID-19 and Schools

Dr. Maxey reported that in a joint press conference with Governor McMaster on February 4, 2021, Superintendent Spearman and Governor McMaster spoke about prioritization of the COVID-19 vaccine. Superintendent Spearman noted that recent data have shown that having children attend school in person does not promote the spread of COVID-19 as long as precautions are taken by schools such as the wearing of masks, practicing good hand hygiene, and maintaining social distancing. Plexiglass barriers permit students to have less social distancing provided that masks are worn and worn properly. Dr. Maxey noted Superintendent Spearman shared that each school district needs to formalize a plan for the roll out of COVID-19 vaccinations when the vaccine becomes available to school personnel. Dr. Maxey noted that this week the District will have a plan formalized with local medical partners in order to offer vaccines to staff when vaccines become available. At the request of State Department of Education, HCS issued a survey to all employees about their willingness to take the vaccine. Dr. Maxey noted this survey information, which is protected by HIPPA, indicates that approximately 50% of District employees have expressed the desire to receive the vaccine.

Dr. Maxey noted that today was the first day of face-to-face instruction in the elementary schools. A video presentation of this first day was shown to the Board.

Mr. Mark Porter and his team visited 20 schools and shared that it seemed very much like the first day of school with the staff treating the students like cheerleaders. Mr. Porter shared it was a great day of getting the students back together.

2. Status Report: Second Semester Scheduling

Dr. Maxey asked Ms. Velna Allen to share information regarding second semester scheduling. Ms. Allen shared second semester began last Monday, and as of 1:00 PM today, there were 8026 students enrolled in the K-12 HCS Virtual program. Ms. Allen noted that the number is changing because new students could enroll in K-12 HCS Virtual and that a small number have left for various reasons. As of today, there are 3335 elementary students, 2315 middle school students, and 2376 high school students in the K-12 HCS Virtual program. Compared to our entire enrollment, that is approximately 18.5% K-12 students attending school in

a virtual setting. Ms. Allen noted in preparation for second semester Learning Services and Student Services worked to prepare schedules. On January 29, 2021, schedules were emailed to parents for students to have on the first day, February 1, 2021. Ms. Allen noted that SDE regulations allow high school students to have the first 5 days to change their schedules. Ms. Allen noted at this time no instructional platform changes will be made.

3. Status Report: Plexiglass Barriers for Middle School/High School Classrooms

Dr. Maxey asked Mr. Brown to come forward to provide an update on Plexiglass installation in the schools. Mr. Brown shared the following.

- Installation of Plexiglass at the middle schools has begun.
- Plexiglass installation in classrooms at Socastee Middle School & Ten Oaks Middle School is complete.
- HCS is completing the Myrtle Beach Middle School installation with HCS Facilities staff.
- On February 15, Herald Office Solutions will begin installation of desktop shields for middle schools in the district.
- We estimate that each school will take about 1-2 days to complete.
- The schedule may change as we progress, but the plan is to start with Forestbrook Middle School on the 15th. That will complete both middle schools in the Socastee area allowing that attendance area to return to 5-day in school instruction.
 - *To clarify, that will allow the middle school students of the Socastee attendance area to return. The high school will be completed at a later date in March.*
- Once the middle schools are complete, installation at the high schools will begin.
- This project – *middle and high schools* - will take about four weeks to complete. HCS is working to have all schools completed by the end of March.

Dr. Maxey stated installation of the plexiglass was funded by state and is another step toward mitigating spread of virus.

3. ADJOURN BOARD WORK SESSION AND CONVENE SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING

A motion was made to adjourn the Board Work Session and Convene a Special-Called Meeting.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Mr. Winters

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

4. BUSINESS

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

A motion was made to approve the 2021-2022 K-12 HCS Virtual Staffing Formula.

Moved By: Ms. Smith

Seconded By: Mr. James

For (10): Mr. Cox, Ms. Graham, Mr. James, Mr. Winters, Ms. Allen, Ms. Todd, Ms. Smith, Mr. Freeman, and Mr. Edwards, Mr. Richardson

Against (1): Mr. Barnard

Board Action: Carried (10 to 1)

5. CONSENT

a. Personnel Recommendations

b. Monitoring Report: OE-6 Quarterly Financial Administration

c. Education Fund Allocation - District 6

d. Education Fund Allocation - District 7

e. Education Fund Allocation - District 10

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. It should be noted that Mr. Freeman recused himself from item 5, a.

Moved By: Mr. Winters

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41PM.

Moved By: Mr. Freeman

Seconded By: Ms. Todd

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

a. **Upcoming Meetings**

1. **Facilities Committee Meeting, 4:00 PM, February 22, 2021, District Office - C-300**
2. **Board Meeting, 6:00 PM, February 22, 2021, District Office - Board Room**

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education