

**HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEETING**

**February 22, 2021  
District Office  
335 Four Mile Road  
Conway, SC 29526**

**Board of Education**

Ken Richardson  
David Cox  
Janet Graham  
Neil James  
Ray Winters  
Shanda Allen

Sherrie Todd  
Helen Smith  
W Russell Freeman  
Howard Barnard  
James Edwards

**Horry County Schools Staff**

Velna Allen, Mary J. Anderson, David Beaty, Lisa Bourcier, Daryl Brown, Joe Burch, Col. James Davis, John Gardner, Kenny Generette, Leann Hill, Candace Lane, Rick Maxey, Boone Myrick, Heidi Oates, Mark Porter, Lucas Richardson, Erik Schrader, April Scott, Cori Shuford

**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 22, 2021 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER**

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

**a. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**b. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve February 22, 2021, agenda as presented.

**Moved By:** Mr. Winters

**Seconded By:** Ms. Allen

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

**Carried Unanimously**

**c. Approval of Minutes**

**1. February 8, 2021**

- 1. Special Called Workshop**
- 2. Budget Retreat/Board Work Session**

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

**Moved By:** Mr. Edwards

**Seconded By:** Ms. Graham

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

**Carried Unanimously**

**2. DISCUSSION**

**a. Human Resources Committee Report - Mr. Cox**

Mr. Cox gave a report from the Human Resources Committee meeting that met earlier in the day. Mr. Cox shared that the committee discussed hiring teachers ahead of known departures, staffing substitutes with potential for a more permanent position, and possibly using a temp service for substitute needs. Mr. Cox felt this was a move in the right direction and stated the committee would meet again to discuss it further.

**b. Facilities Committee Report - Mr. James**

Mr. James gave a report on the Facilities Committee meeting that met earlier in the day. A narrated video was presented with updates on the Tennis & Track projects, the SOAR Academy, and the Socastee High School Lights.

(It should be noted Mr. Freeman joined the meeting at 6:06 PM.)

Mr. James shared the Socastee High School lights were in operation. Mr. James noted that the SOAR Academy was dried in and that weather had hindered site work and landscaping. Mr. James remarked that information regarding the additional modular classrooms would be shared during the next agenda item. At this point, Mr. James shared that Socastee High School also had structural damage and that the Facilities Committee had made a recommendation to correct the issue. Mr. James shared that an affirmative vote by the Facilities

Committee was needed to proceed with the use of \$350,000 to remedy the damage and was approved. Mr. James noted it was fully fundable within our current sustainment projects.

**c. Consider Purchase of Additional Modular Classrooms - Mr. Brown**

Mr. Burch shared due to the continued student population growth in the District, overcrowding has reached a critical point for some of our schools. In the last few years, principals have done an exemplary job within their facility limitations to accommodate student growth. This year, due to the uncertainty about student populations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is unclear whether additional modular classrooms will be needed in the 2021-22 school year. However, due to the long-term, sustained annual growth of student populations at several school locations, it is appropriate to provide additional modular classrooms now in anticipation of future needs. Additionally, the contract for our current modular supplier expires in May 2022, so purchasing at the present time allows us to leverage our needs with our current pricing before a new vendor contract would need to be obtained. HCS is looking to provide additional temporary classroom space for Carolina Forest Elementary (2) Ocean Bay Elementary (6) and River Oaks Elementary (6). A total of (14) classrooms are requested. The total estimated cost for this request includes all associated components necessary to operate such as engineering, foundations, delivery, set up, utilities, fire alarm, security, site work, ramps, steps, canopies, walkways, parking, etc. When they are no longer needed, HCS will be able to reuse these classrooms at other locations for years to come.

Mr. Burch is seeking Board approval for the utilization of Unassigned General Fund - Fund Balance in the amount of \$2,804,108 to provide additional temporary classroom space at the above-mentioned schools. This item will come to the Board for a vote at a later time.

**d. Process for Filling District 8 Vacancy - Mr. Generette**

Mr. Generette shared the process for filling the unexpired term of the District 8 Board vacancy. This process will be shared in the local newspaper, HCS website, and HCS social media platforms.

**e. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Maxey**

**1. Status Report: Second Semester**

Dr. Maxey shared information pertaining to the start of the second semester, including the return of students at the elementary level to five days of face-to-face instruction. Dr. Maxey's presentation provided a brief

history concerning the use of plexiglass as well as examples of other districts' use of this material in classrooms to mitigate COVID-19 transmission. The presentation is located at the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pksUF0Px7oZdGPngoKAjwbPWp8gFwhNJ/view?usp=sharing>

## 2. **Status Report: Spring Athletics**

Dr. Maxey invited Ms. Velna Allen, Chief Officer for Student Services, forward to share an update regarding spring athletics. Ms. Allen shared the following:

- At this time, HCS winter sports (basketball and wrestling) are winding down, and spring sports have begun. In addition, HCS currently has an open period for fall sports.
- Winter Sports: NMBHS girls basketball team finished first in Region 6-4A as Region 6-4A champions, CFHS boys basketball team finished as Region 6-5A champions, and LHS girls basketball team finished as the #1 seed for Region 6-3A. SHS is the Region 6-5A champion in wrestling, and AHS is the #1 seed for wrestling in Region 6-3A. Playoff games in basketball will continue this week along with pre-qualification for individual wrestlers. State championships in basketball will be held March 3<sup>rd</sup> – March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Spring is our busiest athletic season. There are 7 different spring sports. Each school could potentially have 18 different teams which include b-team, junior varsity, and varsity. HCS has 130 competitive spring teams.
- HCS will continue to practice our COVID-19 safety measures for spring athletics.
  - Spectators must practice social distancing and must wear masks.
  - Schools have determined seating capacity for each of their venues. All facilities are not the same size at each school.
  - HCS will continue to follow all SC High School League (SCHSL) guidelines.
- HCS will continue with our on-line ticketing system. Parents will have first priority. There should not be an issue with getting a ticket except for possibly baseball and softball games.
- HCS invites all board members to attend our spring games. Board members will need their ID cards to enter an event.

The following schools are currently in Basketball Playoffs:

SJHS girls

NMBHS girls

MBHS girls

LHS girls

CHS boys

CFHS boys

NMBHS boys

MBHS boys

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

Dr. Maxey invited Mr. Daryl Brown, Chief Officer for Support Services, forward to share an update regarding the installation of plexiglass barriers for middle and high school classrooms. Mr. Brown informed the Board that due to issues with the vendor that provides the clips to attach the desk shields there has been a slight delay in installations for middle schools. HCS is working with another vendor to provide clips. Installation for Aynor Middle School, Conway Middle School, Whittemore Park Middle, Loris Middle School, Green Sea Floyds Middle/High School, North Myrtle Beach Middle School, Blackwater Middle School, and Ocean Bay Middle is contingent upon getting the needed supplies. Mr. Brown shared once these schools were complete, HCS would provide a 5-day notice prior to returning to the schools to face-to-face instruction.

**4. HCS Virtual Job Fairs**

Dr. Maxey invited Ms. Mary Anderson, Chief Officer of Human Resources, forward to share information regarding HCS Virtual Job Fairs. Ms. Anderson noted considering the current public health crisis, the HCS Job Fairs were held virtually this year. Ms. Anderson shared a video presentation noting the following dates:

Special Education/ESOL: January 29, 2021

Middle/High: February 5, 2021

Elementary: February 12, 2021

Special Education/ESOL: February 19, 2021

Ms. Anderson shared additional information regarding the virtual educator recruitment events as follows:

Each school/department creates a “virtual” booth which includes information about the school including opportunities.

During the event applicants enter booths and have one-on-one chats/video chats with recruiters from each school. Schools/departments that did have vacancies were able to schedule interviews for that afternoon or in the future. Currently 26 teachers have been recommended for next year as a result of the events.

Ms. Anderson shared these events were a successful endeavor and HCS will consider holding more of these virtual events in the future.

## **5. District Recognitions**

### **1. 2021 National Merit Finalists**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated the HCS students who were named as Finalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Our students will compete for 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million. National Merit Scholarship winners of 2021 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join some 353,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

The HCS National Merit Scholarship Finalists are as follows: Gavin P. Fling, Scholars Academy, and Conway High School; Evan M. Ewing, St. James High School; Elizabeth M. Goodroe, Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology and Myrtle Beach High School; Benson J. Case, Alexandra Doyle, Clyve Lawrence, and Anthony D. Mastroberti, Scholars Academy and Carolina Forest High School; and Allen A. Meese, Scholars Academy and Socastee High School.

### **2. "Schools to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform - St. James Middle School**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated St. James Middle School for earning the 2020-21 National Schools to Watch Designation. St. James Middle School has earned the 2020-21 National Schools to Watch® re-designation award by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. St. James Middle School was first designated as an award recipient in 2015. The school's emphasis on strong academics, sensitivity to young adolescents' needs and interests, and commitment to providing all students

with equal access to a high-quality education resulted in this well-deserved recognition. St. James Middle School was one of 29 schools in South Carolina to receive this recognition. Nationwide, just over 450 schools have earned this designation.

**3. Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting - HCS Finance Department**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated the HCS Finance Department on being awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. Dr. Maxey shared the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) awarded Horry County Schools the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE). ASBO International's COE recognizes districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and transparency. The District earned the Certificate of Excellence for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended 2020. Horry County Schools has participated in the COE program for the past 20 years.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Cori Canada and Mr. Justin Yarbrough signed up to speak during the Public Comments portion of the meeting. Both Ms. Canada and Mr. Yarbrough came forward when called.

**4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made to move into the Executive Session at 7:19 PM.

**a. Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding Current Litigation**

**b. Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding Potential Litigation**

**Moved By:** Mr. James

**Seconded By:** Ms. Graham

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

**Carried Unanimously**

**5. BUSINESS**

A motion was made to move into the Business portion of the meeting at 7:54 PM. It should be noted no votes were taken during the Executive Session.

**Moved By:** Ms. Allen

**Seconded By:** Ms. Graham

**Carried Unanimously**

**a. Process for Filling District 8 Board Member Vacancy - Mr. Generette**

Mr. Generette recommended for the Board's approval the process and timeline for filling the District 8 Board vacancy.

**Moved By:** Mr. James

**Seconded By:** Mr. Winters

**Carried Unanimously**

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- a. Personnel Recommendations**
- b. Monitoring Report: R-4 Social Studies**
- c. Monitoring Report: OE-4 Personnel Administration**
- d. Education Fund Allocation - Board Chair**
- e. Education Fund Allocation - District 2**
- f. Education Fund Allocation - District 4**
- g. Education Fund Allocation - District 11**

**Moved By:** Mr. Winters

**Seconded By:** Mr. Freeman

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

**Carried Unanimously**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**



A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM.

**Moved By:** Ms. Allen

**Seconded By:** Mr. Edwards

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

**Carried Unanimously**

**a. UPCOMING MEETING(S)**

- 1. Board Work Session, 6:00 PM, March 8, 2021, District Office**

Respectfully submitted,



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Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education