

# **HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **M I N U T E S**

### **BOARD MEETING**

**April 19, 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

Melanie Wellons

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

Velna Allen, Mary J. Anderson, Joe Burch, Lt. Colonel Davis, John Gardner, Kenny Generette, Rick Maxey, Boone Myrick, Heidi Oates, Lucas Richardson

**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 - April 19, 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. Freeman**

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

##### **b. Administration of Oath of Office - Melanie Wellons (District 8)**

Mr. Neil James, Vice-Chair, administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Melanie Wellons, District 8. Ms. Wellons was sworn into office and seated, effective immediately.

##### **c. Introduction of Board Members**

Prior to the approval of the agenda, Mr. Richardson asked the Board members to introduce themselves and indicate the areas they represent.

**d. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the April 19, 2021, agenda as presented.

**Moved By:** Mr. Winters

**Seconded By:** Mr. Freeman

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**e. Approval of Minutes**

**1. March 22, 2021**

**2. April 12, 2021**

A motion was made to approve the March 22, 2021, and the April 12, 2021, minutes as presented.

**Moved By:** Ms. Allen

**Seconded By:** Mr. Barnard

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**2. DISCUSSION**

**a. Tax Collections Update - Horry County Treasurer, Dr. Angie Jones**

Dr. Angie Jones, the Horry County Treasurer, updated the Board on the status of investments. She shared that the current interest rates are the lowest that she has ever seen. She is pursuing other investment options to increase that average rate of return. She will be working with John Gardner to identify balances that could be invested for 30 days that would generate additional interest earnings.

**b. Finance Committee Meeting Report - Ms. Graham**

Prior to the Finance Committee Report, Mr. Richardson invited Ms. Wellons to introduce her family members in the audience.

Ms. Graham gave a report on the Finance Committee Meeting that met earlier in the day. Ms. Graham shared the committee discussed five topics, with the first being the CARES II spending plan. HCS was allocated \$55.7 million which must be spent by September 30, 2023. Mr. Gardner shared a multi-year plan with \$1.2 million utilized in 2020-2021, \$31.3 million in 2021-2022, and \$23.2 million in

2022-2023. Ms. Graham shared the spending plan is subject to change based upon Board recommendations.

Ms. Graham shared the next item discussed was the analysis of football and basketball gate receipts that have been received to date. Overall, for the 2020-21 seasons, HCS high school football and basketball programs show a combined \$277,000 loss in revenue. To determine each individual high school's shortfall as a result of the pandemic, a five-year average of gross receipts was calculated for each high school, using the gate collections for the two primary revenue sports of football and basketball. To help offset funding losses caused by the pandemic, a one-time allocation of the following amounts were proposed for each high school as follows: Aynor High School, \$26,000; Carolina Forest High School, \$22,000; Conway High School, \$51,000; Green Sea Floyds High School, \$17,000; Loris High School, \$42,000; North Myrtle Beach High School, \$55,000; St. James High School, \$11,000; and Socastee High School, \$18,000. Ms. Graham noted this will be added as a discussion item to the May 3, 2021, Board Work Session agenda.

The next item discussed was the Education Capital Sales Tax analysis. Prior to the pandemic, Mr. Brian Nurick, the District's Financial Advisor, originally estimated that revenue would be approximately \$70.3 million for 2020-21. Due to the potential impact of the pandemic, HCS budgeted a 15% reduction in sales tax collections for 2020-21 which estimated total receipts of \$59.8 million. Mr. Gardner shared the updated collections through February 2021 and stated that the District has received more revenue than budgeted for 2020-21. It is projected that if we continue at this rate, HCS will have received approximately \$66-\$67 million by the fiscal year's end.

The next item discussed was the model procurement code which Mr. Gardner brought forward as an informational item. The District anticipates that the amounts required for solicitations will be increasing and consequently HCS will have more tools to work with going forward. Mr. Gardner will bring this item back to the Board at a later date.

The final item discussed concerned auditing services which is up for a vote tonight. The Finance Committee was a part of selection committee to choose an auditing firm from those submitting proposals to the District's RFP. Two auditing firms were under consideration by the selection committee: Elliot Davis, LLC, HCS's current auditor, and Mauldin Jenkins, LLC. The committee is asking the Board to consider Mauldin Jenkins, LLC as auditor for HCS. The estimated savings would be approximately \$126,000.

**c. Facilities Committee Meeting Report - Mr. James**

Mr. James reported on the Facilities Committee meeting that was held earlier in the day. A video was presented with progress updates regarding ongoing capital

projects. Mr. James noted the completion of bus lot improvements at Carolina Forest High School, as well as HVAC improvements at North Myrtle Beach Middle School and Lakewood Elementary School. Mr. James stated that the final stages of surfacing and striping are being completed at Green Sea Floyds High tennis courts. Mr. James shared the interior work at SOAR Academy is currently underway and noted that several new capital projects are upcoming.

Mr. James discussed updating the District's facility condition information through an assessment process which will assist the District in assigning each building a facility index number which identifies the condition of a building's components as well as the building's overall condition. Mr. James noted HCS is hoping to use a life cycle analysis for the key components within each building.

Mr. James shared that the St. James Middle School fire alarm system needs replacing due to the number of faulty callouts. Mr. James stated that replacing the fire alarm system would fall within the estimated 2021-2022 sustainment projects budget. The approximate cost to replace the fire alarm system is \$600,000. Mr. James shared there are also indications that work needs to be done at North Myrtle Beach High School on the electrical switch gear with an approximate cost of \$171,000.

Mr. James noted there is currently \$71,000 in the budget and reallocations for sustainment projects may be necessary for the upcoming year. Mr. James shared Facilities is looking at Phase 2 of the track projects nearing completion at St. James High School and Carolina Forest High School. The tennis courts at Green Sea Floyds High School, Carolina Forest High School, and Conway High School are nearing completion. Facilities is looking at phase II which will include the tracks at Aynor High School, Green Sea Floyds High School, and North Myrtle Beach High School. The contract was awarded to Geosurfaces of the Southeast for approximately \$2.75 million.

**d. Monitoring Report: OE-13 Quarterly Facilities Report - Mr. Burch**

OE-13 Monitoring Report was presented for review.

**e. Monitoring Report: OE-9 Communicating with the Public - Mr. Generette**

Monitoring Report OE-9 was presented for review.

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

**1. Status Report: School Operations**

Dr. Maxey shared an update regarding school operations. Dr. Maxey noted HCS is working towards finalizing the graduation ceremonies schedule with that information to be forthcoming. Dr. Maxey noted Carolina Forest High School had recently opened for face-to-face

instruction and that HCS was continuing to do everything possible to return all students back to school as quickly as possible. Dr. Maxey noted under guidance of SCDHEC the plexiglass and masking mandates will remain in place. Once direction is given that these items will no longer be required or necessary, steps will be made to remove the plexiglass and masks.

Dr. Maxey noted the timeline for selecting instructional models has begun for next year. He shared the importance and reasoning behind making those decisions now. Dr. Maxey shared HCS will be scheduling 2,700 teachers and 44,000 students and emphasized that HCS hires teachers to match the course selections made by our students during the registration process. Teachers must have proper certifications to teach the courses, so advance preparation is of utmost importance.

Dr. Maxey noted that while positive COVID-19 case numbers have stabilized, there has been a slight uptick since spring break, and consequently, HCS is still having to implement quarantines. Dr. Maxey encouraged everyone to stay the course. Dr. Maxey feels very optimistic about the upcoming school year and will continue to look for direction from SCDHEC regarding masking and plexiglass use.

## **2. Status Report: Support Services**

### **1. Plexiglass Dividers**

Lt. Colonel Davis shared that 53 of the 55 Horry County Schools have completed plexiglass installation. Lt. Colonel Davis noted that Socastee High School and SOAR Academy installation will be completed tonight thus finalizing all schools.

## **3. Status Report: Student Services**

### **1. Update: Vaccine Status Report - HCS Employees**

Ms. Velna Allen shared the last dedicated employee clinic offering vaccinations was held April 10, 2021. However, Ms. Allen shared that employees can still sign up to be vaccinated, but there will no longer be a dedicated site. Ms. Allen noted that due to HIPPA restrictions, the District cannot require employees to report whether they have received a COVID-19 vaccination. Approximately 2,000 employees were vaccinated through Conway Medical Center.

### **2. HCS County Track Meet: April 21, 2021, Loris High School**

Ms. Allen shared the following schedule regarding the HCS County Track Meet on April 21, 2021 held at Loris High School:

12:45 PM – Coaches Meeting

1:20 PM – Opening Ceremony

1:40 PM – First Event Begins (100 Meter Preliminaries)

7:30 PM Team Scores & Award Presentations

It should be noted three males and three females from every high school will compete during each event. Ms. Allen shared a statement from Principals thanking the Board for their support.

**3. Reminder: K-12 HCS Virtual Program: Timeline for 2021-2022 Student Commitment Process**

Ms. Allen shared the following information regarding the K-12 HCS Virtual Program timeline:

Date	Event
March 15 – March 31	Use HCS Media Platforms to Inform Parents of 2021-22 Scheduling Process for K-12 HCS Virtual Program.
April 2 – April 11	Spring Break
April 12 – April 16	Send Parents Reminders the Commitment Window Opens on April 19 and closes April 30. No changes permitted after April 30.
April 19 – April 30	Open K-12 HCS Virtual Program Parent Commitment Window. Window closes on April 30.
May 3 – May 10	Assign HCS Virtual Students to Student Management System.
May 10 – May 30	Select K-12 HCS Virtual Program Teachers.
May 10 – June 30	Complete Schools' Master Schedules.
Date	Event

March 15 – March 31	Use HCS Media Platforms to Inform Parents of 2021-22 Scheduling Process for K-12 HCS Virtual Program. Met with principals during the March A-Team meeting. Sent informational email to all parents. Learning Services updated the virtual webpages.
April 2 – April 11	Spring Break
April 12 – April 16	Send Parents Reminders the Commitment Window Opens on April 19 and closes April 30. No changes permitted after April 30. HCS Communications department emailed information and sent a ParentLink message to all parents in our district.
April 19 – April 30	Open K-12 HCS Virtual Program Parent Commitment Window. The parent commitment window opened today. Information was emailed to parents.

**g. Recognitions**

**1. Elizabeth Hendrick, Top 5 Finalist for South Carolina Teacher of the Year**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Pee Dee Elementary teacher Elizabeth "Beth" Hendrick for being selected as one of five finalists for the South Carolina Teacher of the Year award.

Beth Hendrick, a kindergarten through fifth grade English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher at Pee Dee Elementary School, received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Winthrop University, and a master's degree in Languages for ESOL from the College of Charleston. This marks her tenth year of teaching, including teaching in Horry County Schools since 2012, serving as a teacher of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for the last seven years.

As one of five finalists, Beth will receive \$10,000 and go on to the next stage of the competition, which involves an interview with a team of expert judges. The winner will be announced at the South Carolina

Teacher of the Year Gala on May 5 in Columbia.

The winner receives a total of \$25,000 and is provided with a brand new BMW to use while serving for one year as a roving ambassador providing mentoring, attending speaking engagements, working with teacher cadets and teaching fellows, leading the State Teacher Forum, and serving as the state spokesperson for over 50,000 educators.

**2. Conway High School Chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA) - South Carolina State Champion for the Turf and Lawn Evaluation Career Development Event and South Carolina State Champion for the Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Conway High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter for being awarded the South Carolina FFA State Champion for the Turf and Lawn Evaluation Career Development Event. Teams Members included Sydney Livingston, Jahsalyn Doyle, and Cayden Catoe. The Turf and Lawn Evaluation Career Development Event focused on the science of turfgrass. Students completed an industry knowledge exam and identified species of grass, weeds, pest, and disorders.

The chapter was also awarded the South Carolina FFA State Champion for the Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event. Teams Members included Elizabeth Mey, Ben Pardue, Megan McCrea, and Lauryn Woodle. It was a clean sweep for these students as they were the top 4 highest scoring individuals in the competition. The Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event focused on the science of meats. Students completed an industry knowledge exam and identified retail cuts of beef, pork, and lamb.

FFA is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. FFA develops members' potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give members the tools to achieve real-world success.

**3. James Thompson, South Carolina Coaches Association Hall of Fame Inductee**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Conway High School's current assistant football coach James "Nate" Thompson for being inducted into the South Carolina Coaches Association Hall of Fame this summer. Coach Thompson was also the former Carvers Bay head coach and led the program from 2000-2018, and during his tenure, he won 164 games



and appeared in five state championships. They also won two state titles under Thompson in 2002 and 2006. Another milestone in Thompson's coaching career came in 2018 when he coached the South all-star team in Myrtle Beach during the annual North/South All-Star game in 2018.

**4. Monica Brisbon, Financial Literacy Educator of the Month, Carolina Forest High School**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Carolina Forest High School's Monica Brisbon as the South Carolina Financial Literacy Master Teacher Program's Educator of the Month for March.

Brisbon is the Career and Technology Department Chair at Carolina Forest High School in Horry County. She holds a B.S. in Management and Marketing from Coastal Carolina University, an M.B.A. from Webster University, and an Ed.S. in Principalship from Arkansas State University. Brisbon has also earned a National Board Certification in business education. Her passion for teaching financial literacy and entrepreneurship to young adults has led her to participate in several organizations, including the S.C. Career and Technical Association, the S.C. Business Education Association, and the Association for Career and Technical Education, where she served as a 2017 National Fellow. Brisbon also offered Biz/Startup camps to students through YESCarolina and was named 2019 YES Carolina Teacher of the Year.

**5. Kimberly Rothberg, Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Award - State Finalist**

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Kimberly Rothberg, a Carolina Forest Elementary School teacher, for being chosen by the South Carolina Department of Education as a state finalist in mathematics for the Presidential Teaching Award. The South Carolina Department of Education works to recruit and select nominees for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) program—the highest recognition in the nation for a mathematics or science teacher. Each applicant must demonstrate a mastery of math or science (including computer science), appropriate use of instructional methods and strategies, lifelong learning, and leadership in education outside the classroom. Each candidate was also required to submit a 45-minute video lesson in support of their application. State finalists were selected by a review panel of their peers who reviewed each candidate's content knowledge, effectiveness, achievement results, and professional involvement.

The next step for the finalists will be for a national committee of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators to review their applications. The national panel will recommend up to 108 teachers to receive PAEMST awards – up to two state finalists – mathematics or science – from each state. Teachers selected as PAEMST awardees receive a \$10,000 award, a Presidential certificate, and a trip to Washington, DC, for a series of recognition events, activities, and ceremonies.

**6. Horry County Schools - Best Communities for Music Education Designation - National Association of Music Merchants Foundation**

Dr. Maxey shared that for a third consecutive year, Horry County Schools has received the prestigious Best Communities for Music Education designation from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. The Foundation advances life-long participation in music-making by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving, and public service programs. HCS is one of only six school districts in South Carolina to have earned the designation awarded in 2021.

In its 22nd year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the designation, HCS responded to detailed inquiries about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instructional time, facilities, and support for the music education programs. This award recognizes that HCS leads the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which recommends music and the arts as essential elements of a well-rounded education for all children. HCS met and exceeded award criteria, to include: having music education in all schools and additional offerings of band, chorus, dance, orchestra, and theatre; serving diverse populations of students; providing highly-qualified teachers to deliver music instruction; maintaining class sizes that are conducive to music instruction, and serving diverse populations of students.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no individuals signed up for public comments.

**4. BUSINESS**

**a. Consider Approval of 2021-2022 Courses for Honors Weighting**

A motion was made for the following courses to be assigned honors weighting based upon their meeting requirements outlined in the SC Honors Framework:

- Energy Strategies (Course 3)
- Clean Energy Innovations (Course 4)
- Impacts of Science and Technology
- Creativity and Innovations
- Aeronautics Engineering Applications
- Astronautics Engineering Applications
- Databases in the Cloud
- Developing a Cloud Presence
- Global Logistics Management
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- PLTW Biomedical Innovations

**Moved By:** Mr. Cox

**Seconded By:** Mr. James

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**b. Approval of Contractual Arrangements Concerning Auditing Services**

A motion was made by Ms. Graham on behalf of the Finance Committee, who met and interviewed external auditing firms recently, to direct the District to enter into a contract for external auditing services with Mauldin Jenkins, LLC.

**Moved By:** Ms. Graham

**Seconded By:** Ms. Smith

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**c. Naming of Facilities**

**1. Loris High School - Blue Pride Pavilion**

Mr. James shared the Loris community, with advice and consent of the LHS School Improvement Council, and Loris Advisory Board, is requesting that the Blue Pride Athletic Pavilion at Loris High be renamed in honor of the former Blue Pride president, Mr. Robert Pate. Mr. Pate was one of the founders and President Emeritus of the Blue Pride Booster Club. Mr. Pate was instrumental in establishing the strong athletic organization and support in Loris and was a well-respected member of the community. A motion was made to change the name of the Blue Pride Athletic Pavilion at Loris High School to the Robert Pate – Blue Pride Pavilion, in honor of the late Mr. Robert Pate.

**Moved By:** Mr. James

**Seconded By:** Mr. Edwards

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**2. North Myrtle Beach Middle School - Athletic Field**

Mr. James shared the North Myrtle Beach community, with advice and consent of the NMBM School Improvement Council, NMBH School Improvement Council, and North Myrtle Beach Advisory Board, is requesting that the new athletic field constructed at North Myrtle Beach Middle be named The J. T. Chestnut Athletic Field in honor of the namesake of the former historic Chestnut High School. A SC Department of Archives and History Historic Marker memorializing the Chestnut Consolidated School was approved and placed at the site in 2010. Mr. J. T. Chestnut was the principal of the Popular Training School on Highway 90, the high school for African-American students. He retired in 1952. When the new school was completed in 1954, it was named Chestnut Consolidated High School in honor of Mr. J. T. Chestnut (1885-1967). A motion was made to name the newly constructed athletic field at North Myrtle Beach Middle as The J.T. Chestnut Athletic Field in honor of Mr. Chesnut.

**Moved By:** Mr. James

**Seconded By:** Mr. Freeman

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**a. Personnel Recommendations**

**b. Monitoring Report: R-5 Other Academic Disciplines (Health/PE)**

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

**Moved By:** Mr. Winters

**Seconded By:** Ms. Graham

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

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 PM.

**Moved By:** Ms. Allen

**Seconded By:** Mr. Barnard

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

- a. **Board Work Session, 6:00 PM, May 3, 2021, District Office, Board Room**
- b. **Facilities Committee Meeting, 4:00 P.M., May 17, 2021, District Office - C-300**
- c. **Board Meeting, 6:00 P.M., May 17, 2021, District Office - Board Room**

Respectfully submitted,



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Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education