HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

M I N U T E S

BOARD MEETING

May 17, 2021
District Office
335 Four Mile Road
Conway, SC 29526

Board of Education

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

Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen, Mary J. Anderson, David Beaty, Joe Burch, John Gardner, Kenny Generette, Norman McQueen, Rick Maxey, Boone Myrick, Heidi Oates, Lucas Richardson, Gina Sabol

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 - MAY 17, 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. Winters

Mr. Winters offered the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Introduction of Board Members

Each Board member was asked to introduce herself/himself and state the areas which he/she represents.

c. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the May 17, 2021, agenda 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

d. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 3, 2021, minutes as presented.

Moved By: Ms. Graham
Seconded By: Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

2. DISCUSSION

a. Facilities Committee Report - Mr. James

Mr. James gave a report from the Facilities Committee meeting that met earlier in the day. A narrated video was presented with updates on the final surfacing and striping completion on Carolina Forest High School and Green Sea Floyds High School tennis courts. Synthetic surfacing on tracks at Carolina Forest High School and St. James High are also complete with final striping commencing and contractor completion of punch list work. Interior work at SOAR continues and the building is nearing completion. Ceiling installation is in final stages. Kitchen equipment has been installed as well as restroom fixtures, whiteboards, and other items. Sidewalks are in place and canopies are nearing completion. Substantial completion on the building is still planned for mid-June.

Mr. James shared an update regarding the ditches at St. James Middle School and St. James Elementary School. HCS is working to resolve the issues with SCDOT and is collaborating with Horry County.

Mr. James noted that there was significant discussion regarding upcoming sustainment and modification projects. Those items were identified and approved and are subject to full Board approval. Mr. James shared there was discussion regarding ESSER Phase II and roofing projects.

Mr. James shared that a request for an RFQ will be discussed at the next Facilities Committee Meeting for the design of an elementary school in the Carolina Forest area and a replacement facility for Whittemore Park Middle School in the Conway area. Mr. James stated the appropriate committee will be used to review those solicitations.

Mr. James stated the North Myrtle Beach High School Improvement Council and Advisory Board suggested naming the field house to The Lynda and Benjy Hardee Field House and this item will come before the Board at the upcoming meeting.

b. Consider Approval of Non-Certificated Professional Contracts - Ms. Anderson

Ms. Anderson addressed the Board seeking approval to issue 2021-2022 Non-Certificated Professional Contracts. Ms. Anderson noted that these are employees who hold professional contracts but do not hold teaching certificates.

c. Consider Approval for Naming of School Mascot and Colors

1. Scholars Academy High School - Mr. Burch

Mr. Burch addressed the Board noting the School Improvement Council for Scholars Academy High School, in conjunction with their mascot and colors subcommittee, has been reviewing and discussing the creation of an official school mascot and color scheme. The subcommittee began in the fall of 2020 discussing and surveying students, staff, and parents about a mascot and colors. After several rounds of surveys and discussion, a recommendation was sent to the School Improvement Council to adopt a mascot and color scheme. The School Improvement Council has voted and recommends that the Board consider the following for Scholars Academy High School:
Mascot: Phoenix
Colors: Teal, Bronze, and Black

d. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Maxey

1. Status Report: School Operations

Dr. Maxey shared the following recent governmental actions/pronouncements impacting COVID-19 mitigation efforts by Horry County Schools via PowerPoint slideshow:

May 11, 2021 - Governor Henry McMaster - State

Executive Order No. 2021-34. Section I, directs DHEC to take action to allow for parents, guardians, legal custodians, foster-care providers, or other representatives authorized to provide consent for or on behalf of a student in any South Carolina public school to opt out of any face covering requirement imposed by any public school official or public school district in South Carolina. The DHEC opt-out form that schools must use, unaltered, to get parental or legal guardian consent for a student is available here. In order to be valid, the form must be completed without change by the parent or guardian (or student, if age 18 or older).
https://governor.sc.gov/news/2021-05/gov-henry-mcmaster-issues-order-empowering-parents-decide-masks-schools-restricts

May 12, 2021 - State Superintendent Molly Spearman – State

In an email statement to South Carolina district superintendents, South Carolina Superintendent Spearman stated the following:
“Rather than wage a debate over constitutionality that would pit elected officials, students, and families against one another, Superintendent Spearman has, effective immediately, rescinded the state face covering policy with the exception of the school bus requirement that is now required by the federal government....Superintendent Spearman and the SCDE continue o urge schools and districts to follow DHEC’s public health guidance as they have throughout the pandemic.”

https://www.wistv.com/2021/05/12/sc-superintendent-cancels-mask-policy-students-schools/

May 12, 2021 - South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) – State

“Option to Opt-Out of Mask Use
As of May 11, 2021, Executive Order No. 2021-34. Section I, directs DHEC to take action to allow for parents, guardians, legal custodians, foster-care providers, or other representatives authorized to provide consent for or on behalf of a student in any South Carolina public school to opt out of any face covering requirement imposed by any public school official or public school district in South Carolina.

The DHEC opt-out form that schools must use, unaltered, to get parental or legal guardian consent for a student is available here. In order to be valid, the form must be completed without change by the parent or guardian (or student, if age 18 or older).”

Interim COVID-19 guidance for schools - Management of known and possible COVID-19 cases:
(https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/Interim-DHEC-Guidance-for-School-Response-to-COVID-19-05.12.21.pdf.)

SCDHEC Opt-Out Form:
https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/D-4286.pdf

May 12, 2021 - Horry County Schools – District (Via Email to HCS Parents and HCS Employees)

“After a thorough review of Executive Order 2021-23 by our General Counsel, we are prepared to move forward with our best good-faith effort to reconcile these conflicting directives. In order for the opt-out procedure to take effect as soon as possible, schools will accept signed/completed paper copies of the SCDHEC opt-out forms starting tomorrow, Thursday, May 13, 2021, from parents (or students

over the age of 18)."

NOTE:

1. The decision to allow parents the option to choose whether their children wear masks in public schools was enacted by Governor Henry McMaster through his Executive Order No. 2021-23 which has the force of law in S.C.

2. Governor Henry McMaster directed SCDHEC to develop an opt-out form which parents can sign to indicate they do not want their child to wear a mask while at school. (However, children who ride buses, due to Federal regulations, still must wear a mask.)

3. Per Governor McMaster's Executive Order, SCDHEC developed a mask opt-out form for parents to sign indicating they do not want their child to wear a mask at school. The SCDHEC opt-out form specifically states that for the form to be valid, the form must not be altered or changed by the parent in any way.

4. SCDHEC did not specify a date range for the validity of their opt-out form.

5. Horry County Schools did not develop the opt-out form and has no authority to change it or add a date range to it.

On April 28, Governor McMaster signed into law the General Assembly's SC COVID-19 Liability Immunity Act that provides protection from liability for entities that follow SCDHEC protocols and guidelines.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/bills/147.htm#:~:text=A%20JOINT%20RESOLUTION%20TO%20ENACT,DEFINE%20NECESSARY%20TERMS%3B%20TO%20PROVIDE

May 13, 2021 - Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – Federal
Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

"Summary of Recent Changes
• Update that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance
• Update that fully vaccinated people can refrain from testing following a known exposure unless they are residents or employees of a correctional or detention facility or a homeless shelter"

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html

May 14, 2021 - SCDHEC - Dr. Edward Simmer, Director - State

“As the state’s public health agency, we have a responsibility to protect the health and safety of all South Carolinians. This includes advising our residents what activities are safe for them.

Per CDC, people should still continue to wear masks when in schools, healthcare facilities, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and on commercial transportation. Also, people who have weakened immune systems should consult with their physician to determine the best course of action for them. Those who have not been fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks, socially distance, and take all other needed precautions to prevent COVID-19. This includes children, especially those in school. With the approval of the Pfizer vaccine for those 12 years and older, we are hopeful that as more 12- to 15-year-old children get vaccinated, this revised guidance can be extended to them as well.

This decision is based on the latest science that tells us that the currently approved vaccines are working. The risk of being infected or spreading COVID-19 once fully vaccinated is very low, and therefore wearing a mask if you are fully vaccinated is not needed.”

https://scdhec.gov/news-releases/south-carolina-public-health-officials-release-statement-new-cdc-mask-guidelines

May 16, 2021 - SCDHEC - Brandi Hagman, COVID19 Response Schools Coordinator – State (Via Email to District Superintendents)

“CDC updated their website this morning to clarify that the new recommendations for fully vaccinated people do NOT apply to schools:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html

CDC recommends schools continue to use the current COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2020-2021 school year to include:

• Consistent implementation of layered prevention strategies to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission in schools
• Consideration of indicators of community transmission to reflect levels of community risk
• Phased prevention strategies based on levels of community transmission

The following public health efforts provide additional layers of COVID-19 protection in schools:

• Testing to identify individuals with a SARS-CoV-2 infection to limit transmission and outbreaks
• Vaccination for teachers and staff as soon as possible”

Following the slideshow presentation, Dr. Maxey then shared the recent disease activity by county and noted Horry County was rated LOW.

2. Status Report: Student Services

Ms. Velna Allen, Chief Officer for Student Services, shared an update regarding the number of students whose parents selected either the HCS Mask Opt-outs or In-Person Opt-outs as of May 17, 2021, at 1:30 PM.

3. Recognitions

1. Top 5 Finalists for 2022 HCS Rookie Teacher of the Year

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated the 2022 HCS Rookie Teacher of the Year Finalists: Stephanie Hall, Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology; Rebecca Lopes, Aynor High; Ryleigh Stoll, Kingston Elementary; Madison Badurski, Lakewood Elementary; and Alicia Davenport, North Myrtle Beach High.

Dr. Maxey mentioned that a grant Coastal Carolina University was awarded by the College Football Playoff Foundation helped HCS fund the first Rookie Teacher of the Year event. This program recognizes and celebrates teachers who are excelling in the classroom within the first three years of their service as teaching professionals. Rookie Teacher of the Year school honorees are nominated by their school principals for their professionalism in providing quality instruction and meeting the needs of all students. Finalists were chosen from the school-level winners.

2. Top 5 Finalists for 2022 HCS Support Staff of the Year

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated the 2022 HCS Support Staff of the Year Finalists: Tammy Hughes, Aynor Middle; Margo Holmes-Washington, Burgess Elementary; Charmaine Martin, Conway Middle; Peggy McGonigal, St. James Middle; and Katherine O'Conner, Waccamaw Elementary.

Dr. Maxey shared the HCS Support Staff of the Year recognition program celebrates the contributions of exemplary employees who serve the students and staff members of HCS. School-level and departmental winners were nominated by their peers and were each eligible to be considered as one of five finalists.

3. 2022 HCS Teacher of the Year Ceremony

Dr. Maxey extended an invitation to join HCS this Thursday, May 20, at 5 p.m. as we announce the 2022 HCS Teacher of the Year winner. You can watch the ceremony live on our YouTube Channel and on our Facebook page. The links are available on our website and Facebook page.

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated the 2022 HCS Teacher of the Year finalists: Mindi Penn, Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology; April Troglauer, Aynor Middle; Jill Barnes, Loris Middle; Caroline Kelly, Pee Dee Elementary; and Jacob Scheuer, St. James High.

4. HCS Virtual Technology Fair

Dr. Maxey shared that this year's HCS Technology Fair, which will be held virtually, is open to all HCS students in grades PreK through 12th grade. The HCS Technology Fair is an opportunity for students of all ages to showcase their technical know-how and creativity. Multiple competitive categories are available, including a category for teachers only.

Technology Fair Participants will
• Create their own learning experience and innovation
• Design and share projects to communicate the story of their project
• Effectively present their project to judges and the public through a video presentation

The entry deadline is this Friday, May 21st, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Judging will take place from May 24th-26th, 2021, and award winners will be announced on May 28th, 2021.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Ashli Ambrose signed up to speak during Public Comments. Ms. Ambrose came forward when called.
- Stacey Burns signed up to speak during Public Comments. Ms. Burns came forward when called.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Discussion of Personnel Recommendation

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 7:04 PM

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

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

5. BUSINESS

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

Moved By: Mr. Cox
Seconded By: Mr. Freeman

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

a. Consider Approval of Personnel Recommendation - Dr. Maxey

Dr. Maxey recommended Ms. Gina Sabol be named Principal of SOAR Academy effective July 1, 2021. A motion was made to approve Dr. Maxey's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Sabol was recognized and congratulated.

Moved By: Ms. Allen
Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

b. Consider Approval of Locally Developed Courses for 2021-2022 School Year - Ms. Myrick

A motion was made to approve the request for locally-developed course numbers for the 2020-21 school year.

Moved By: Mr. James
Seconded By: Ms. Todd

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

c. Consider Preliminary Approval of 2021-2022 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget - Mr. Gardner

Mr. Cox moved to approve the preliminary 2021-2022 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget. This motion was seconded by Mr. Winters. A motion was then made by Mr.

James to amend the original motion to include reactivating the Director of Athletics position. The amended motion was seconded by Ms. Todd.

The first amended motion passed unanimously.

Moved By: Mr. James
Seconded By: Ms. Todd

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

Mr. Edwards then made a motion to amend the amended motion to include an additional assistant principal position at Loris High School. The additional amendment was seconded by Mr. James.

The second amended motion passed unanimously.

Moved By: Mr. Edwards
Seconded By: Mr. James

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

Moved By: Mr. Cox
Seconded By: Mr. Winters

The motion, as amended carried, 10-1. All members present voted for the motion as amended with the exception of Ms. Allen who voted against.

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

Against (1): Ms. Allen

Board Action: Carried (10 to 1)

d. Consider Approval of CARES II Spending Plan - Mr. Gardner

A motion was made to approve the CARES II Spending Plan as presented.

Moved By: Mr. James
Seconded By: Ms. Smith

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

e. Consider Approval of Supplemental Funding of High School Athletic Programs Due to Pandemic Impacts - Mr. Gardner

Mr. James made a motion to accept either the higher value of the 5-year average or the 5-year median per school. This motion was seconded by Mr. Edwards. Ms. Smith made

a motion to amend the supplemental funding to $500,000 divided by the number of individual athletes per school. Mr. Barnard seconded the amended motion.

All Board members present voted against the amended motion with the exception of Ms. Smith.

Moved By: Ms. Smith
Seconded By: Mr. Barnard

For (1): Ms. Smith

Against (10): Mr. Richardson, Mr. James, Mr. Freeman, Ms. Todd, Mr. Winters, Mr. Cox, Mr. Barnard, Ms. Graham, Ms. Wellons, Mr. Edwards, and Ms. Allen

Board Action: Failed (1 to 10)

The original motion to accept either the higher value of the 5-year average or the 5-year median per school was then voted on and carried unanimously.

Moved By: Mr. James
Seconded By: Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

f. Consider Approval of Authorization of Expenditures from Revenue Collected from the Education Capital Improvement Sales and Use Tax - Mr. Gardner

A motion was made that the Board authorizes the expenditure of not to exceed $36,200,000 from Sales Tax Revenues for the direct payment of costs for Approved Projects including classroom & instructional technology and the Short-term Facilities Plan.

Moved By: Mr. Winters
Seconded By: Mr. Cox

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

g. Consider Approval of Funding Flexibility - Mr. Gardner

A motion was made that the District request a flexibility waiver for the Four-Year Old Early Childhood funds in the amount of $200,000. These funds will be transferred to the EIA initiative: Aid to Districts where a larger population can be served.

Moved By: Mr. Barnard
Seconded By: Mr. Freeman

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

6. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Personnel Recommendations

b. Monitoring Report: OE-6 Financial Administration

c. Monitoring Report: OE-5 Financial Planning

d. Education Fund Allocation - District 1

e. Education Fund Allocation - District 3

f. Education Fund Allocation - District 8

g. Education Fund Allocation - District 11

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

Moved By: Mr. Winters
Seconded By: Ms. Todd

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:21PM.

Moved By: Mr. Cox
Seconded By: Mr. Freeman

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Oates

_____

Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education