

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

October 25, 2021

District Office

335 Four Mile Road

Conway, SC 29526

Board of Education

Neil James

W Russell Freeman

Sherrie Todd

David Cox

Shanda Allen

Helen Smith

Janet Graham

Melanie Wellons

James Edwards

Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen

Mary J Anderson

David Beaty

Lisa Bourcier

Daryl Brown

Joe Burch

Dena Chatfield

John Gardner

Kenny Generette

Kim Johnson

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 - October 25, 2021 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER - BOARD MEETING ROOM**

Vice Chair James called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

a. **Invocation - Mr. Cox**

Mr. David Cox offered the invocation.

b. **Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance - Green Sea Floyds Army JROTC**

The Green Sea Floyds High School Army JROTC presented the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

c. **Introduction of Board Members - Mr. James**

Board Members introduced themselves and indicated the areas they represent.

d. **Approval of Agenda - Mr. James**

A motion was made to approve the October 25, 2021, agenda as presented.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

e. **Approval of Minutes - Mr. James**

1. **October 11, 2021**

A motion was made to approve the October 11, 2021, minutes as presented.

Moved By: Mr. Edwards

Seconded By: Ms. Todd

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

2. **DISCUSSION**

a. **Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report - Ms. Todd**

Ms. Todd shared information regarding textbook adoption for fall of this year. Ms. Myrick and Ms. Jeter presented the books that HCS is considering adopting and they were all approved by the Committee. Ms. Todd shared the Committee also

discussed the addition of a Barbering Major at the Academy for Technology and Academics. Ms. Todd stated there were still questions and concerns, and those will be discussed at a later date.

b. Facilities Committee Report - Mr. James

Mr. James provided a Facilities Committee update on several projects. Mr. James shared that bids were opened for the Riverside Elementary School parent loop road project and that bids received were significantly less than previously thought. Mr. James also shared that the bid process will open soon for the Lakewood Elementary School parent loop road project. The Waterway Elementary School and Aynor Middle School parent loop road projects are currently waiting on OSF approval. Mr. James stated that the Green Sea Floyds High and Elementary sidewalk project along Tulip Grove Road between the two schools required a second bid solicitation with support from SCDOT. The solicitation was very successful and will be awarded to the selected vendor. Mr. James shared an update on the ESSER II projects, noting that 32 of 54 school air purification projects have been completed thus far. Mr. James also noted that HCS has awarded 2 of the outdoor air unit replacements (OAUs) to vendors for Homewood Elementary School and Riverside Elementary School and is currently in the design phase on Carolina Forest Elementary School, Midland Elementary School, Palmetto Bays Elementary School, Pee Dee Elementary School, and Loris Elementary School. Additionally, the roof replacement and OAU replacement project at St. James Middle School is almost ready for bid. Mr. James shared that the Committee had significant discussion regarding the ESSER III funds with the primary focus of those funds being on the following projects: Aynor High School's roof and rooftop HVAC replacement, Conway High School's roof, rooftop HVAC replacement and internal HVAC renovations, Daisy Elementary School's roof and rooftop HVAC replacement, and the Carolina Forest High School OAUs. These projects account for \$53 million of the available ESSER funds. The biggest project out of those listed is the Conway High School roof and HVAC replacements with that school's project alone costing \$34 million. Mr. James noted should there be funds remaining after completing those four main projects, the Facilities focus will be shifted to outdoor air unit replacements at Aynor Middle School, Loris Middle School, Conway Elementary School, Kingston Elementary School, and Ocean Bay Elementary School. Mr. James remarked that the next topic of discussion was capital planning for 2024. Mr. James stated that the Facilities Committee is awaiting the results of the Facility Condition Index to determine if that updated data would change the direction of the planning projects. The Facilities staff was given approval to proceed with the IPD delivery method for the Conway High School ESSER III projects, as well as various tennis, track, and turf projects. The Facilities Committee also reviewed the usage fees regarding gymnasiums. Mr. James noted that the District's usage

fees are in alignment with other areas. A complete listing of user fees will likely be presented at the December Facilities Committee Meeting.

c. Monitoring Report: OE-6 Financial Administration - Mr. Gardner

Monitoring Report: OE-6 was presented for the period ending September 30, 2021.

d. Timeline for Selecting Second Semester Instructional Setting (Brick-and-Mortar OR Virtual) - Ms. Velna Allen

It should be noted Mr. Freeman joined the meeting at 6:23 PM.

Ms. Velna Allen shared the timeline parents will follow to select their students' instructional setting for second semester:

Date	Event
October 25	HCS Board of Education Update
October 26 - 29	Use multiple media platforms (district website, school websites, HCS TV, notice to local media, and district social media outlets) to inform parents/students of the second semester opportunity to change instructional settings.
November 1 - 5	Current K-12 HCS Virtual Students: Send parents of K-12 HCS Virtual students reminders via ParentLink email that the commitment window opens on November 10th and closes on November 19th. ALL PARENT SELECTIONS FOR SECOND SEMESTER ARE FINAL. Current HCS Brick-and-Mortar Students: Send parents of students who attend an HCS brick-and-mortar school reminders via ParentLink email that the commitment window opens on November 29th and closes on December 8th (or sooner). ALL PARENT SELECTIONS FOR SECOND SEMESTER ARE FINAL.
November 10 - 19	Current K-12 HCS Virtual Students: Open Commitment Window for K-12 HCS Virtual students to return to their brick-and-mortar school for second semester. ALL PARENT SELECTIONS FOR SECOND SEMESTER ARE FINAL.
November 22 - 26	Thanksgiving Break

November 29 - December 8 (or sooner)	Current HCS Brick-and-Mortar Students: Open commitment window for students who attend an HCS brick-and-mortar school to enroll in the K-12 HCS Virtual program for second semester. The window may close prior to December 8th IF the maximum student enrollment number* has been reached. ALL PARENT SELECTIONS FOR SECOND SEMESTER ARE FINAL.*Proviso 1.103
December 9 - 17	Create schedules for students who are changing instructional settings.
December 20 - January 2	Winter Break
January 3 - January 13	Create schedules for students who are changing instructional settings.
January 18	Second Semester Begins.

Ms. Allen shared the following important information:

- **Proviso 1.103 limits the enrollment number for the HCS K-12 HCS Virtual program.**
- **The number of current K-12 HCS Virtual students who elect to move to their brick-and-mortar schools will determine the number of available seats for second semester enrollments in the K-12 HCS Virtual program.**
- **The exact number of seats available in the K-12 HCS Virtual program for second semester will be known by Monday, November 29th.**
- **Students who currently attend a brick-and-mortar school will be given the option to apply for a seat in the K-12 HCS Virtual program on November 29-December 8. Commitment to the virtual program will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the maximum student enrollment number has been reached, the commitment process will end.**
- **Teacher assignments may change as a result of second semester student enrollments.**

At the conclusion of Ms. Allen's presentation, Dr. Maxey encouraged parents to make a decision that they and their family will be comfortable with--- regardless of what the virus is doing at the present time---as there will be no changes to a student's instructional setting once parents have submitted their selections for second semester to the District.

e. Consider Calendar Adjustment of November Board Meeting Dates - Dr. Maxey

Dr. Maxey made a recommendation regarding the consolidation of the November 2021 Board Meetings, noting the Board of Education approved its calendar of meeting dates for the 2021-22 school year on August 23, 2021. Since a third meeting date was added to the calendar for the purpose of conducting interviews for the District 3 Board vacancy, the Board is requested to consider the rescheduling of its meeting dates as follows:

November 1st - District 3 Vacancy Interviews/Board Work Session

November 8th - Board Work Session canceled.

November 15th - Board Meeting

November 22nd - Board Meeting canceled

This item will be brought before the Board for a vote during the Business portion of this meeting.

f. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Maxey called Mr. Daryl Brown, Chief Officer for Support Services, forward to discuss operational updates within Nutrition Services. Mr. Brown provided the following statement:

As you know, there are supply chain issues nation-wide. Those issues are beginning to impact Horry County Schools' Nutrition Services meal service. We are working closely with our distributors to make sure we have everything we need to support our program. Availability of the items we need changes daily. Unfortunately, these shortages may impact our menus with little or no notice. If changes become necessary, we will attempt to substitute the scheduled menu item with another similar item if possible.

In addition to food shortages, we are also faced with Styrofoam and paper shortages. Because of the impact on these supplies, many of our students will be transitioning to the cafeteria within the next couple of weeks to consume their meals. This adjustment in service will allow us to use plastic trays instead of Styrofoam trays which were previously used to transport meals to the classrooms.

We appreciate all the efforts of our staff and students to make this a smooth transition.

Following Mr. Brown's statement, Dr. Maxey provided a slideshow presentation regarding SCDHEC's public health guidance to South Carolina K-12 public schools with regards to quarantines. Dr. Maxey highlighted recent updates that SCDHEC has made in regard to student and staff quarantines.

SCDHEC COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

2021-2022 Academic Year - UPDATED: October 12, 2021

Close contact: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes) from 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or specimen collection for an asymptomatic infected person) of the infected person.

- The close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if the exposed student(s) wore mask(s) during the exposure time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
- Close physical contact can include contact with the mucous membranes of a COVID infected person through such things as, kissing, sharing eating/drinking utensils, etc., regardless of the time frame.

SCDHEC COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

2021-2022 Academic Year - UPDATED: October 20, 2021

Close Contact (asymptomatic)

Scenario: Person who is fully vaccinated and does not have any symptoms after a close contact with someone with COVID-19.

Criteria to return to school: Person does not need to quarantine if they voluntarily choose to provide documentation of their full vaccination status to eliminate the need for quarantine.

- Recommended to get tested 5-7 days after exposure.
- It is important for them to wear a mask at school until 14 days after exposure or until they receive a negative test result.
- Testing of vaccinated close contacts living in a household with someone in isolation that cannot be separated should occur 5-7 days after the initial

exposure, and again 5-7 days after the end of isolation for the person diagnosed with COVID-19. They should continue wearing a mask in public indoor settings until they obtain the results of their final test.

Household contact

- If the child or staff member lives in the same household as a known case, their quarantine period begins on the date their household member has been cleared from their isolation period. If they are not a caretaker of the household member who is sick and can separate themselves into their own space in the home, their quarantine period begins the day that they had their last close contact with the ill person.
- Testing of vaccinated close contacts living in a household with someone in isolation that cannot be separated should occur 5-7 days after the initial exposure, and again 5-7 days after the end of isolation for the person diagnosed with COVID-19. They should continue wearing a mask in public indoor settings until they obtain the results of their final test.

Staff working while in quarantine

To limit the chances of COVID-19 spread in the facility, staff should plan to quarantine at home and not return to work after close contact to someone contagious with COVID-19.

- Fully vaccinated staff who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.
 - o Individuals may voluntarily choose to provide documentation of their full vaccination status to eliminate the need for quarantine.
 - o Fully vaccinated people are recommended to get tested 5-7 days after exposure, even if they do not have symptoms. If fully vaccinated people test negative, they may not need to wear a mask.
 - o These individuals should also continue to monitor for symptoms daily and throughout the day, practice physical distancing to the extent possible, practice good hand hygiene, and clean frequently touched surfaces often until 14 days after exposure.

Dr. Maxey then reviewed and highlighted the “SC COVID-19 Liability Safe Harbor Act” as it pertains to public school districts:

SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a covered entity or covered individual that reasonably adheres to public health guidance applicable at the time the conduct giving rise to a coronavirus claim occurs shall be entitled

to immunity from liability for any acts or omissions resulting in a coronavirus claim. This immunity will not apply:

(1) for claims arising pursuant to SECTION 3(1)(b), if a claimant proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the covered entity or covered individual caused the injury or damage by:

- (a) grossly negligent, reckless, willful, or intentional misconduct; or
- (b) a failure to make any attempt to adhere to public health guidance; or

(2) for all other claims, if the claimant proves by clear and convincing evidence that the covered entity or covered individual caused the injury or damage by:

- (a) grossly negligent, reckless, willful, or intentional misconduct; or
- (b) a failure to make any attempt to adhere to public health guidance.”

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals signed up to address the Board during the Public Comments portion of the meeting and did not come forward when called: Jivko Roussev, Denise Patterson, Ashlyn Brierre, and Laurie Stutts-Smith. The following individual did come forward when called: Laura Blackmon.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding a Contractual Matter

b. Consider Student Appeal

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 6:49 PM.

Moved By: Ms. Graham

Seconded By: Mr. Cox

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

5. BUSINESS

A motion was made to move into the Business portion of the meeting at 7:13PM. It should be noted there was no action was taken and no votes were decided during Executive Session.

Moved By: Mr. Cox

Seconded By: Ms. Allen

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

a. Consider Student Appeal

A motion was made that based upon review and consideration of the written record regarding the student's appeal, it is recommended the Board uphold the District Appeal Board's decision to assign the student to the alternative program at the SOAR Academy.

Moved By: Ms. Todd

Seconded By: Mr. Cox

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

b. Consider Calendar Adjustment of November Board Meeting Dates - Dr. Maxey

A motion was made to approve the administration's recommendation that the Board cancel its November 8th and 22nd meetings and reschedule those two meetings for November 1st and November 15th respectively.

Moved By: Ms. Graham

Seconded By: Ms. Smith

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

c. Request City of Conway to Annex the New Whittemore Park Middle School Site - Mr. Burch

A motion was made to authorize the Facilities Department to submit applications to the City of Conway requesting the annexation, combination, and rezoning of the land on El Bethel Road for the New Whittemore Park Middle School site.

Moved By: Mr. Edwards

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

d. Consider Approval of General Contractor for New Whittemore Park Middle School - Mr. Burch

A motion was made to approve H.G. Reynolds to serve as the general contractor to construct the new Whittemore Park Middle School and work under the framework of the IPD method in conjunction with PMH & Associates architects.

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Personnel Recommendations**
- b. Monitoring Report R-8: Perception of Stakeholders - Ms. Myrick**
- c. Monitoring Report OE-10: Instructional Program - Ms. Myrick**
- d. Monitoring Report OE-13: Quarterly Facilities Report**

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

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:21PM.

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education