

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING/BOARD WORK SESSION

November 1, 2021
District Office
335 Four Mile Road
Conway, SC 29526

Board of Education

Ken Richardson
Neil James
W Russell Freeman
Sherrie Todd
David Cox

Helen Smith
Janet Graham
Melanie Wellons
James Edwards
Shanda Allen

Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen
Mary J. Anderson
Lisa Bourcier
Joe Burch
Dena Chatfield
Kandi Fleming
John Gardner
Kenneth 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 AND CALL TO ORDER

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

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

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

b. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Richardson

A motion was made to approve the November 1, 2021, agenda as presented.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

c. Approval of Minutes

1. October 25, 2021

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

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Ms. Wellons

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

2. DISTRICT 3 BOARD VACANCY INTERVIEWS

Pursuant to Board Governance By-laws concerning the appointment of a person to fill a Board member's unexpired term, the Board officially sought applications of interest from citizens of District 3. The Board received three applications. The Board will interview the applicants during tonight's meeting in alphabetical order. Each interview is anticipated to last 20-30 minutes. Upon the conclusion of the interviews, at the appropriate time on the agenda, the Chair will entertain a motion to convene an Executive Session to allow deliberation on the applicants. The Board will later reconvene in public session to appoint by a majority vote one person from the applicants to fill the vacancy at tonight's meeting.

Individuals who have not been interviewed will remain in a different location while other interviews are being conducted. Once a candidate has completed his/her interview, they may stay for the public meeting. The Board members took turns asking questions of each candidate. Mrs. Ann D. MacDonald was the first candidate called for an interview. Mr. Michael Ryhal was then called, followed by Mrs. Tracy S. Winters.

a. Mrs. Ann D. MacDonald - 6:10 PM

- b. **Mr. Michael Ryhal - 6:40 PM**
- c. **Mrs. Tracy S. Winters - 7:10 PM**

3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. **District 3 Board Vacancy Deliberations**
- b. **Receipt of Legal Advice Regarding Personnel Matters**
- c. **Consider Student Appeals**

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 7:05 PM.

Moved By: Mr. Freeman

Seconded By: Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

4. **ADJOURN SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING/CONVENE WORK SESSION**

A motion was made to adjourn the Special-Called Meeting and convene the Work Session at 8:42 PM.

5. **DISCUSSION**

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

Ms. Todd provided a report from the Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting from earlier today. Ms. Todd shared this was an informational meeting regarding the IB Program at the high schools. Ms. Todd noted that Ms. Myrick along with her staff gave a detailed report and answered questions during the meeting. Ms. Todd shared there will be an update provided at a future meeting.

b. **Technology Committee Meeting Report - Ms. Shanda Allen**

Ms. Shanda Allen provided an update from the Technology Committee meeting from earlier today. Ms. Shanda Allen shared that Ms. Velna Allen and her staff provided information regarding the high school PDL device refresh. Ms. Allen noted the out-of-date Chromebooks have been sold with 2,000 remaining. Ms. Shanda Allen shared the high school refresh process will begin in fall of 2021

and the new high school devices will be issued at the beginning of the 2022 school year.

Ms. Velna Allen shared that from the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year until September, 50 devices were lost, 278 devices were damaged, and 983 device work orders were placed. Ms. Velna Allen also noted HCS offered hot spot devices for students that did not have internet access in their homes, with 14 students utilizing this service. Ms. Velna Allen shared that to date 572 teacher devices had been distributed with 75 still available. The Dell Latitude 3120 and the Chromebook 11 will both be brought before the high school refresh committee at the school level for review and input. The Technology Committee will meet at a later date to get a recommendation from those who reviewed the options. Ms. Velna Allen remarked that 98.6% of parents had utilized online registration.

c. Monitoring Report: OE-8 Communicating with the Board - Mr. Generette

Monitoring Report OE-8 was presented. No questions were posed by the Board.

d. Monitoring Report: R-1 Literacy - Ms. Myrick

Monitoring Report R1 was presented. No questions were posed by the Board.

e. Consider Engagement of Risk Management Consulting Services - Mr. Gardner

Mr. Gardner addressed the Board sharing that Horry County Schools utilizes several partners to provide property, casualty, health/dental, and workers' compensation insurance coverage. The Insurance Reserve Fund is the provider for property/casualty. The SC Public Employee Benefits Authority is the provider for health/dental insurance. The SC School Board Insurance Trust is the provider for workers' compensation insurance. The District also has coverage for privacy and network security, student accident, student athletics, drone, and commercial crime. The purpose of considering risk management consulting services is to engage a qualified risk management consultant to evaluate exposures, assess risk, and examine insurance programs to determine whether assets and personnel are adequately and cost effectively protected.

f. Consider Approval of the 2021-24 Short-Term Capital Project List - Mr. Burch

Mr. Burch shared on June 21, 2021, the Facilities Committee and Finance Committee at a joint meeting received information from Facilities and Finance about potential projects and funding for the 2021-24 Building Program. On June 21, 2021 the Board approved funding for the 2021-24 Building Program in the amount of \$109.3 million. In addition, The Board approved the designation of \$58 million for a new Whittemore Park Middle School.

The remaining items on the 2021-24 Building Program Project List were approved by the Facilities Committee on July 13, 2021. Total additional project estimates are \$35.9 million, \$10.5 million in contingency, and an anticipated available fund balance remaining of \$4.9 million for a total of \$51.3 million.

g. Consider 2021-22 Bonus for Active HCS Employees - Dr. Maxey

Dr. Maxey addressed the Board noting HCS employees have gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide continuity of services to the students of Horry County and to maintain the daily operations of Horry County Schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many employees have served in unfamiliar capacities and have gladly performed "other duties as assigned" for the benefit of our students. Dr. Maxey is seeking Board approval for the payment of a bonus to all active HCS employees in acknowledgment of and in gratitude for their dedicated service to HCS students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

h. Superintendent's Report

1. Superintendent's Evaluation

Dr. Maxey shared the following pertaining to superintendent evaluation. In accordance with Board Governance Policy B/SR-5, the board considers superintendent performance to be linked to organizational performance. Organizational accomplishment of the board's Results policies and operation according to the values expressed in the board's Operational Expectations policies will be considered successful superintendent performance. Each November, the board will conduct a formal summative evaluation of the superintendent. The summative evaluation will be based upon data collected during the previous academic year from the monitoring of Results and Operational Expectations policies. Dr. Maxey stated a letter will be sent to Board Members on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, sharing the process of the evaluation and including links to documents regarding Board Governance expectations. Dr. Maxey noted that the Board would conduct his evaluation during the November 15, 2021, Board Meeting.

Additionally, Dr. Maxey shared the positive news that COVID numbers are continuing to decline. As of today, there are 37 student positives and 8 employee positives. Dr. Maxey shared that 672 students and 22 staff are in quarantine as of today. Dr. Maxey noted HCS is heading in the right direction as far as COVID cases are concerned.

Dr. Maxey shared that Office Max/Office Depot participates in donation campaigns for schools. This year, a "round-up" campaign raised to

provide support for Title 1 schools, and Myrtle Beach Primary was chosen as a recipient of one of the most significant grants in the company's history with a \$34,000 grant. Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated Myrtle Beach Primary and shared a brief video regarding this donation.

2. HCS Employees - Veterans Series

Dr. Maxey noted that Horry County Schools will celebrate Veterans Day on November 11. Schools across our district will host events and virtual events honoring the many veterans who served our country. Also, on November 11, the HCS Communications Team will release a video series highlighting the over 200 veterans who work for Horry County Schools. A brief video presentation was shared regarding the upcoming video series.

6. ADJOURN WORK SESSION/CONVENE SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING

A motion was made to adjourn the Work Session and convene a Special-Called Meeting at 9:10 PM.

7. BUSINESS

a. Appointment to Fill Unexpired District 3 Board Seat - Mr. Richardson

Ballots were passed to Board members. After selecting a candidate, the ballots were passed to the Board's Executive Assistant. After a tally of the votes, the Executive Assistant notified the Board Chair of the outcome of the vote. This vote resulted in a tie vote. There were 9 Board members present. Of the nine votes, four were for Mrs. Winters, four were for Mr. Ryhal, and one for Mrs. MacDonald. Because no candidate received a majority vote, Mrs. Winters and Mr. Ryhal were declared run-off candidates. A second ballot was passed and following that vote, the Board Chair announced the outcome of the vote. Mrs. Tracy S. Winters was elected by the Board to fill the vacant seat for District 3 by a vote of seven to two. It should be noted the Mrs. Winters will be administered the oath of office at the beginning of the Board meeting scheduled for November 15, 2021.

b. Consider Student Appeals - Mr. Richardson

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

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Mr. Cox

For (8): Mr. James, Ms. Todd, Mr. Cox, Ms. Smith, Ms. Graham, Ms. Wellons, Mr. Richardson, and Ms. Allen

Against (2): Mr. Freeman, and Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried (8 to 2)

c. Consider 2021-22 Bonus for Active HCS Employees - Dr. Maxey

A motion was made to approve payment of a bonus in the amount of \$1000 to all active full-time employees and \$500 to all active part time, substitute, and positive pay employees for their dedication and service to HCS students during the COVID-19 pandemic. This motion was seconded by Mr. James. No vote was taken.

Moved By: Mr. Cox

Seconded By: Mr. James

Board Action: NA

A second motion was made by Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Graham to amend the original motion to approve payment of a bonus in the amount of \$1183.90 to all active full-time employees and \$591.95 to all active part-time, substitute, and positive pay employees. The amended amounts will result in a net payment of \$750 for active full-time employees and \$375 for active part-time, substitute, and positive pay employees. Mr. Gardner noted this would be in the form of a separate check arriving prior to Thanksgiving break. The motion carried.

Moved By: Ms. Smith

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

For (8): Mr. Freeman, Ms. Todd, Ms. Smith, Ms. Graham, Ms. Wellons, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Richardson, and Ms. Allen

Against (2): Mr. James, and Mr. Cox

Board Action: Carried (8 to 2)

8. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. **Personnel Recommendations**
- b. **Monitoring Report: OE-6 Financial Administration**
- c. **Education Fund Allocation - District 5**

Moved By: Mr. James

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29PM.

Moved By: Mr. Freeman

Seconded By: Mr. Cox

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Oates

Heidi Oates

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education