

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

May 15, 2023

District Office

335 Four Mile Road

Conway, SC 29526

Board of Education

David Cox, Chair

David Koch

Debbie Edmonds

Tracy Winters

Howard Barnard

Janet Graham

Pam Dawson

Melanie Wellons

James Edwards

Shanda Allen

Wendy Hodges

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 Cox called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

a. Invocation - Mr. David Koch

Mr. Koch offered the invocation.

b. Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance - Green Sea Floyds High School JROTC

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

c. Introduction of Board Members - Mr. Cox

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

d. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Cox

A motion was made to approve the agenda with item 2., b, to be removed.

Moved By: Mr. Barnard
Seconded By: Mr. Koch

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

e. Approval of Minutes

1. May 1, 2023

A motion was made to approve the May 1, 2023, minutes as presented.

Moved By: Ms. Wellons
Seconded By: Ms. Edmonds

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

2. DISCUSSION

a. Recognition of 2024 Top 5 Finalists and the 2024 Support Staff Employee of the Year - Ms. Anderson

Ms. Mary Anderson congratulated and recognized the 2024 Top 5 Finalists and the 2024 Support Staff Employee of the Year.

b. Legislative Update - Senator Greg Hembree

The agenda was amended to remove this item.

c. Joint Finance-Facilities Committee Meeting Report - Mr. Edwards and Mr. James

Mr. Edwards shared what was discussed during the May 8, 2023, committee meeting stating Mr. Brown shared a recap of the current and future HCS capital plans to include those items planned for the 2013-2024 Short-Term Facility Capital funding needs. Following that discussion, the 2021-2024 Facilities Plan, and 2024-2029 capital improvements plan were discussed. Mr. Brown then discussed the capital budget in detail, the 2024 Capital Administration, and the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan. At this point, the Committee was then updated regarding the budget. Mr. Gardner presented funding for additional staff to support implementation of SC Law 59-5-63. A motion was approved for option 3 of that item.

Under 2023-24 supplements for Fine Arts, the Finance Committee voted to support option 2 for Fine Arts supplements. Mr. Gardner presented 2023-2024 ESSER III personnel costs with Nursing Services at 3 FTEs, RBHS Services at 6 FTEs, and Building Services at 12 FTEs. A motion was made to make these recommendations to the full Board.

The Phase 2 Athletic Expansion was tabled by the Finance and Facilities Committees. Mr. Gardner noted the Phase 2 Athletic Expansion is still present in the Budget. Also, the current general fund Building Services budget was reviewed by Mr. Gardner including the expenditures within the general fund. Mr. Gardner included maintenance expenditures in that review.

Mr. Gardner reviewed handouts for the quarterly financial report which include technology projects, sustainment, and building modifications.

A motion was made by the Finance Committee to approve Mr. Gardner's recommendation to restore funding of 22.8 million to the appropriate funds.

The committee voted to approve the ATA's request for a mascot, the Navigators Osprey. Additionally, the committee approved Dominion Energy's request to allow temporary workspace on El Bethel Road.

Mr. Beaty presented information regarding Myrtle Beach Police's Acoustic Detection Program, and the committee approved the implementation of these devices provided that the Myrtle Beach Police Department receives appropriate permitting for the use of utility poles.

d. Policy Committee Meeting Report - Ms. Graham

Ms. Graham shared all members were present for the Policy Committee meeting held earlier today. Ms. Graham noted that while the committee is still waiting on the 501(c)(3) non-profit status to be finalized, the committee worked on establishing the Board of Directors for the Foundation. The Board will consist of 9 voting members and 5 non-voting members. Of the 9 voting members, by-laws state there has to be representation from each area. The committee is proposing that each attendance area is represented with some overlapping. It is suggested that each person who has the majority in that attendance area submit a name or names to be considered. Board Members areas of representation are as follows:

- Aynor - Shanda Allen
- Carolina Forest - Tracy Winters
- Conway - Janet Graham
- Green Sea Floyds - Neil James
- Loris - James Edwards
- Myrtle Beach - Debbie Edmunds
- North Myrtle Beach - David Koch
- Socastee - Pam Dawson
- St. James - Howard Barnard

The remaining three Board members would be placed on the non-voting portion of the Board. The Superintendent, the chief financial officer, a principal, and two Board members would serve on the Board as well. The committee is suggesting Melanie Wellons and Wendy Hodges serve on that portion. The committee is suggesting the principal is from one of the program schools to provide adequate representation. The committee is asking the Board to provide recommendations for whom they would like to represent their areas during the August 14, 2023, Policy Committee meeting. This item will be brought before the Board for a vote on those members during the August 28, 2023, Board meeting. Mr. Generette will provide talking points to the members for Board members to utilize when speaking with the public.

e. Human Resources Committee Report - Mr. Barnard

Mr. Barnard shared the Human Resources Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding substitute staffing options led by Ms. Anderson and Mr. Gardner. Ms. Velna Allen shared information regarding how mental health issues are addressed in Horry County Schools.

f. Facilities Committee Report - Mr. James

It should be noted Mr. James was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Edwards reported on the Facilities Committee meeting during item 2, c.

g. Consider Annual Request to Authorize Expenditures from Revenues Collected from the Education Capital Improvement Sales and Use Tax - Mr. Gardner

Mr. Gardner shared that the Education Capital Improvement Sales and Use Act approved on November 4, 2008, authorizes the school district to utilize sales tax revenue to pay debt service on bonds to be issued, to pay debt service on bonds previously issued, and directly pay costs of projects authorized in the referendum question.

The Burr Forman Firm has prepared a Resolution to authorize the direct expenditure of approved capital improvement projects including classroom & instructional technology, the Short-term Facilities Plan, the 2021-24 Facilities Plan, and the 2024-29 Capital Improvement Plan.

It is recommended that the Board authorizes the expenditure of not to exceed \$72,500,000 from Sales Tax Revenues for the direct payment of costs for Approved Projects including classroom & instructional technology, the Short-term Facilities Plan, the 2021-24 Facilities Plan, and the 2024-29 Capital Improvement Plan.

h. Superintendent's Report

1. 2024 Top 5 Finalists for Rookie Teacher of the Year

Dr. Maxey shared that five finalists have been chosen from school-level honorees for the Horry County Schools Rookie Teacher of the Year distinction.

The top five finalists are:

- Sarah Nobles - Aynor Elementary, 1st Grade
- Kelsea Konwin - Carolina Forest High, Special Education
- Meredith Millen - Myrtle Beach High, CTE - Hospitality & Tourism
- Chloe DeRocker - St. James Intermediate, 5th Grade ELA & Social Studies
- Sarah Beth Spears - Whittemore Park Middle, Special Education

The Rookie Teacher of the Year program is designed to recognize and celebrate teachers within the first three years of their careers and improve teacher retention by celebrating success early in their careers. 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. Five finalists have been chosen from school nominees, and the HCS Rookie Teacher of the Year will be recognized on Thursday, May 18.

2. Recognitions

1. 2023 AAAA Boys Tennis State Champions: Myrtle Beach High School

Dr. Maxey recognized and offered congratulations to the Myrtle Beach Boys Tennis Team for winning their second back-to-back state championship. They defeated Riverside High School 5-1 to become the State Class AAAA champions.

2. 2022-23 Career and Technology State Winners

Dr. Maxey recognized and offered congratulations to the 40 students who won at the state level in various career- and technology-related events this year. The students represent several of our high schools and their career and technology associations, including DECA, the Technology Student Association, HOSA Future Health Professionals, FCCLA, Skills USA, and FFA. Dr. Maxey noted for a full listing of the winners and their categories, please visit our website at horrycountyschools.net.

3. 2022-2023 South Carolina Band Directors Association (SCBDA) Outstanding Performance Award: Ocean Bay Middle School and Socastee Middle School

Dr. Maxey recognized and offered congratulations to Ocean Bay Middle School and Socastee Middle School. The South Carolina Band Directors Association (SCBDA) has given the band programs at both schools the Outstanding Performance Award for the 2022-2023 school year. Ocean Bay Middle's band director is Martha Gasque, and Socastee Middle's is Ray Dobell. The Outstanding Performance Award is the most prestigious award that SCBDA gives each year to South Carolina band programs. The award indicates that a school's band program performed at a very high level in all SCBDA events, including All-State and Region Band, Concert Performance Assessment, and Solo & Ensemble.

4. National Merit Scholarship Winners

Dr. Maxey recognized and congratulated the three students from Horry County Schools who are among the winners of the National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship, and they are:

- Zhong Zhao – Scholars Academy and Aynor High School
- Tanner Buck – Scholars Academy and St. James High School
- Gavin Ockert – Scholars Academy and Carolina Forest High School

National Merit \$2500 Scholarship winners are the finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of winners named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the nation's graduating high school seniors. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation will announce additional winners in June and July.

i. 2024 SCASA Superintendent of the Year: Dr. Rick Maxey - Mr. Cox

Mr. Cox recognized and congratulated Dr. Maxey as the winner of the 2024 SCASA Superintendent of the Year. Mr. Cox shared many of Dr. Maxey's achievements during his time at Horry County Schools.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals signed up to address the Board and came forward when called: Ernest Martin, Patricia Milley, Jeremy Ballen, David Warner, and Ken Richardson.

The following individuals signed up to address the Board and did not come forward when called: Joseph Biskup, Wendy Farris, Scott Rosene, Ashley Cowen, and Luke Fender.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 6:59 PM.

- a. Consider Personnel Recommendation**
- b. Consider Potential Purchase of Property**
- c. Security Update**

Moved By: Ms. Wellons

Seconded By: Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

5. BUSINESS

A motion was made to move into the Business portion of the meeting at 8:03 PM. It should be noted no votes were taken and no decisions were made during the Executive Session.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Ms. Dawson

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

- a. Consider Personnel Recommendation - Dr. Maxey**

A motion was made to approve the recommendation of Dr. Maxey to name Ms. Krista Finklea as principal of St. James Elementary School beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

Moved By: Mr. Barnard

Seconded By: Ms. Dawson

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

b. Consider Preliminary Approval of 2023-2024 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget - Mr. Gardner

The proposed 2023-24 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget was presented to the Board of Education at the May 1, 2023, Board Meeting. The administration's General Fund Budget proposes the utilization of \$21,532,640 in unassigned fund balance.

At the May 8, 2023, Joint Finance and Facilities Committee, the following motions were approved to bring to full Board at the May 15, 2023, meeting:

- Support the 2023-24 Staff to Support Implementation of SC Law 59-5-63 - Option 3 (currently in the 2023-24 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget)
- Increase the proposed supplements for fine arts (an increase of \$200,787 to the 2023-24 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget)
- Support the 2023-24 ESSER III Personnel Costs (currently in the 2023-24 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget)
- Table the 2023-24 Phase II Athletic Program Expansion (currently in the 2023-24 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget)

The amended General Fund Budget proposal utilizes \$21,733,427 of unassigned fund balance.

On June 5, 2023, there will be a public hearing on the 2023-24 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget and a special called meeting requesting approval of the 2023-24 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget.

If needed, the Board may revisit the 2023-24 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget on June 19, 2023.

Mr. Koch made a motion to give preliminary approval of the 2023-2024 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion.

Prior to the vote, Ms. Wellons made a motion to table the \$200,787 additional increase for fine arts supplements (currently in the 2023-24 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget) to the 2024-25 Budget Cycle and to table the 2023-24 Phase II Athletic Program Expansion (currently in the 2023-24 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget) to the 2024-25 Budget Cycle. Motion carried.

Moved By: Ms. Wellons

Seconded By: Ms. Winters

For (7): Ms. Edmonds, Ms. Winters, Mr. Barnard, Ms. Dawson, Ms. Wellons, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Hodges

Against (3): Mr. Koch, Ms. Graham, and Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried (7 to 3)

Mr. Barnard made a motion to add \$2.3 million for Substitute Staffing Services. Motion carried.

Moved By: Mr. Barnard

Seconded By: Ms. Hodges

For (7): Ms. Winters, Mr. Barnard, Ms. Graham, Ms. Dawson, Ms. Wellons, Mr. Edwards, and Ms. Hodges

Against (3): Mr. Koch, Ms. Edmonds, and Ms. Allen

Board Action: Carried (7 to 3)

A final vote was taken on the main motion as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved By: Mr. Koch

Seconded By: Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

c. Consider Annual Request to Authorize Expenditures from Revenues Collected from the Education Capital Improvement Sales and Use Tax – Mr. Gardner

Mr. Gardner addressed the Board recommending that the Board authorize the expenditure of not to exceed \$72,500,000 from Sales Tax Revenues for the direct payment of costs for Approved Projects including classroom & instructional technology, the Short-term Facilities Plan, the 2021-24 Facilities Plan, and the 2024-29 Capital Improvement Plan.

Moved By: Mr. Barnard

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

d. Consider Restoring Monies Used to Fund 2021-24 Facilities Plan - Mr. Gardner

A motion was made to approve the restoration of \$10,800,000 capital improvement funds and \$12,000,000 technology funds from projected additional sales tax revenues.

Moved By: Ms. Graham

Seconded By: Mr. Edwards

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

e. Consider Amendment to the 2024-29 Capital Improvement Plan - Mr. Brown/Mr. Gardner

A motion was made to amend the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan approved on May 1, 2023, with three additional Annual Funding Allocations as recommended by staff and the Facilities and Finance Committee:

- Athletic Improvements: \$25,000,000 (\$5 million annually)
- Capital Administration: \$10,000,000 (\$2 million annually)
- Capital Improvement Projects: \$125,000,000 (\$25 million annually)

Moved By: Mr. Edwards

Seconded By: Ms. Graham

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

f. Consider Dominion Energy's Request for Temporary Workspace on El Bethel Road - Mr. Brown/Mr. Burch

A motion was made to approve the temporary workspace agreement with Dominion Energy at the New Whittemore Park Middle site on El Bethel Rd.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Ms. Wellons

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

g. Consider Academy of Technology and Academics' Request for Mascot Approval - Mr. Burch

A motion was made to approve the recommendation of Navigators (with Osprey) as the mascot for the Academy of Technology & Academics.

Moved By: Ms. Allen

Seconded By: Ms. Hodges

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

h. Consider Myrtle Beach Police Department's Request for Implementation of Acoustic Detection Program at Myrtle Beach Area Schools - Mr. Brown

A motion was made to approve the request by the Myrtle Beach Police Department to install nineteen Acoustic Threat Detection devices in and around the properties of the Myrtle Beach area schools.

Moved By: Mr. Edwards

Seconded By: Ms. Winters

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

i. Consider Approval of Bridgewater Academy Request to Renew Charter - Mr. Washburn

Ms. Graham made a motion to table this item until the June 5, 2023, meeting. This item passed unanimously.

j. 2023 SCSBA Officers/Board of Directors Nomination: Janet Graham, Secretary-Treasurer - Mr. Cox

A motion was made to nominate Ms. Janet Graham for the 2023 SCSBA Officers/Board of Directors Secretary-Treasurer.

Moved By: Ms. Edmonds

Seconded By: Mr. Koch

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Personnel Recommendations**
- b. Monitoring Report OE-5 Financial Planning**
- c. Monitoring Report OE-6 Financial Administration**
- d. Education Fund Allocation - District 10**
- e. Education Fund Allocation - District 8**

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

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

Board Action: Carried Unanimously

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

UPCOMING MEETING(S)

The meeting adjourned at 8:39PM.

a. **UPCOMING MEETING(S)**

1. **Board Work Session/Special-Called Meeting, 6:00 PM, June 5, 2023,
District Office, Board Room**

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Oates
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Horry County Board of Education