

# **HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD WORK SESSION**

**February 12, 2024**

**District Office**

**335 Four Mile Road**

**Conway, SC 29526**

#### **Board of Education**

David Cox, Chair

Neil James

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 - FEBRUARY 12, 2024 - 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER - BOARD MEETING ROOM**

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

**a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Koch**

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

**b. Approval of Agenda - Mr. Cox**

A motion was made to approve the February 12, 2024, agenda as presented.

**Moved By:** Ms. Wellons

**Seconded By:** Ms. Allen

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**c. Approval of Minutes - Mr. Cox**

**January 22, 2024**

A motion was made to approve the January 22, 2024, minutes as presented.

**Moved By:** Mr. Edwards

**Seconded By:** Ms. Wellons

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**2. DISCUSSION**

**a. Policy Committee Report - Ms. Graham**

Ms. Graham provided an update from the Policy Committee meeting held earlier today. Ms. Graham shared that David Koch, Tracy Winters, Melanie Wellons, and herself were all in attendance along with several other Board members. Ms. Graham shared the Committee reviewed Board Governance items GC1-5. The next meeting discussion will begin with Governance items GC6-10. Ms. Graham noted any proposed revisions or changes are to be sent a week prior to the meeting to allow for review. The next meeting date has not been set. Ms. Graham reminded members the HCS Education Foundation introductory meeting will be held tomorrow, February 13, 2024, at 6:00PM, in room C-300.

**b. Human Resources Committee Report - Mr. Barnard**

Mr. Barnard provided a brief update from the Human Resources Committee Meeting held earlier today. The following items were discussed: Principal Leadership Program, Non-Teaching Professional Salary Proposal, Nurses Experience, Paraprofessional Support for Early Childhood Education, and additional interventionists at the primary level. Mr. Barnard shared these items will be brought forward to the full Board at a later time.

**c. Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report - Ms. Wellons**

Ms. Wellons shared the Curriculum & Instruction Committee met earlier today. Ms. Wellons noted all members were in attendance. Mr. Mark Porter shared information regarding DIBELS and MAP Testing.

**d. HCS Transportation Services - Mr. Prince**

Ben Prince, Executive Director of Transportation Services, provided an overview of the Transportation Department including the following items:

- Employees,
- Special Education Buses,
- Cameras,

- Route Guidelines, Safety & Trainees,
- Laws and Guidelines,
- Investing in Employees,
- Job Fairs,
- Recruiting Drivers, and
- Retaining Drivers.

**e. 2024-2025 General Fund Budget Planning - Mr. Gardner**

Mr. Gardner gave an overview and update on the 2024-2025 budget process. Chief Officers Boone Myrick, Velna Allen, Mary Anderson, and Daryl Brown presented new budget requests for each of their respective divisions. Staff will continue to update the Board as they move forward in the process and as they gain additional information.

**1. Fiscal Services - Mr. Gardner**

Mr. Gardner presented to Board members the following proposals from administration for their consideration:

- at least \$22.5 million of fund balance as an additional funding source for the General Fund in 2024-2025,
- \$14.5 million to provide staffing for 46,190 K-12 students and retain current ESSER funded positions,
- \$337,000 for employee retirement increase,
- \$4.7 million for group health increase,
- \$6.6 million for STEP (longevity) increase,
- \$735,000 for a 2% salary increase for all employees not eligible for a STEP increase,
- \$1.1 million (based on 2023-2024) to address estimated increases in certain fixed costs,
- \$14.2 million for the Principals' recommended 2024-2025 Personnel Allocation Formulae Formulae,
- \$5.6 million for Non-Teaching Professional Salary Increase,
- \$2.7 million for Additional Elementary Learning Loss Interventionists, and

- \$2.4 million for additional funding for HCS Child Development Program.

## **2. Learning Services - Ms. Myrick**

Ms. Myrick presented to Board members the following proposals from administration for their consideration:

- \$163,000 for Data Warehouse and User Interface Software,
- \$1,018,882 million for Digital Content,
- \$1,154,375 million for Elementary Summer Reading Camp Grades 3-5,
- \$793,208 (Eight ESOL teachers at \$99,151 each) to adequately serve the district's multilingual learner (ML) population and to meet state recommended ratios,
- \$163,831 for Artistically Gifted and Talented Programs,
- \$701,039 for Middle School Summer School for Promotion to Next Grade,
- \$1.34 million for Special Education Coaches,
- \$594,906 for Special Education Teachers, and
- \$155,700 for Substitutes for Day 4 of LETRS Training.

## **3. Student Services - Ms. Allen**

Ms. V. Allen presented to Board members the following proposals from administration for their consideration:

- \$77,732 (with benefits) for Additional Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS) Behavioral Interventionist Support (1.0FTE),
- \$155,746 (with benefits) Additional Positions for Health Services (2 FTEs), and
- \$1,371,621 million for Phase 2 - Athletic Program Expansion.

## **4. Human Resources - Ms. Anderson**

Ms. Anderson presented to Board members the following proposals from administration for their consideration:

- \$260,000 for Leadership Academy, and

- \$1.2 million to Increase Hourly Rate for Special Needs Paraprofessionals.

**5. Support Services - Mr. Brown**

Mr. Brown presented to Board members the following proposals from administration for their consideration:

- \$633,010 for Building Services Staffing,
- \$332,100 for Building Services Operational Increases,
- \$223,044.85 for New Filter Contract,
- \$159,729 (with benefits) Maintenance HVAC Technicians (2).
- \$128,652 (with benefits) Two Maintenance Assistant Technicians,
- \$198,727 (with benefits) Two Safety & Security Program Specialists, and
- \$709,800 Safety & Security All Day Searches.

**f. Preliminary General Fund Budget Development - Mr. Gardner**

Mr. Gardner provided a recap of the preliminary 2024-2025 General Fund Budget, a recap which incorporated the requests listed above.

**g. Monitoring Report: OE-4 Personnel Administration - Ms. Anderson**

Monitoring Report: OE-4 was presented.

**h. Monitoring Report: R-4 Social Studies - Ms. Myrick**

Monitoring Report: R4 was presented.

**i. South Carolina Department of Education Turnaround Schools: 30-Day Update - Mr. Washburn**

Mr. Washburn provided a 30-day update on the two HCS schools designated by the South Carolina Department of Education as Turnaround Schools, i.e., Loris Elementary School and Loris High School. Mr. Washburn answered questions following the presentation.

**j. Superintendent's Report**

**1. 2024-2025 Academic Calendar**

Dr. Maxey shared the 2024-2025 academic calendar. He noted that during its development, feedback was received from the various superintendent's stakeholder cabinets.

## 2. Recognitions

Ms. V. Allen offered congratulations to the four current or retired HCS employees who have received awards from the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association (SCAAA).

- **Rick Maxey, HCS Superintendent, South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association (SCAAA): 2023-24 4A/5A Superintendent of the Year**

Dr. Rick Maxey has been named SCAAA's 4A/5A Superintendent of the Year for 2023-24. Gaye Driggers, principal of Carolina Forest High, has been named the 5A Principal of the Year. Two retired HCS athletic directors are being inducted into SCAAA's Hall of Fame: Paula Lee, former athletic director at St. James High, and Joe Quigley, former athletic director at North Myrtle Beach High. These award winners will be celebrated at SCAAA's Spring Conference this March in Charleston.

- **Gaye Driggers, Carolina Forest High School, South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association (SCAAA): 2023-24 5A Principal of the Year**
- **Paula Lee, (Retired Athletic Director) St. James High School, South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association (SCAAA): Hall of Fame Inductee**
- **Joe Quigley, (Retired Athletic Director) North Myrtle Beach High School, South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association (SCAAA): Hall of Fame Inductee**
- **HTC Middle School Basketball Champions: Girls - Ocean Bay Middle School and Boys - North Myrtle Beach Middle School**

Ms. V. Allen also recognized and offered congratulations to the North Myrtle Beach Middle School Boys' and the Ocean Bay Middle School Girls' basketball teams. The Chiefs and the Stingrays are the HCS Middle School Basketball Champions. A special thanks to HTC - Horry Telephone Cooperative for sponsoring the championship.

- **North Myrtle Beach High School NJROTC National Brain Brawl**

Dr. Maxey recognized and offered congratulations to the North Myrtle Beach High School Navy JROTC Brain Brawl team. Under the leadership of Cadet James Uzun, the team of five Navy JROTC cadets won second place at the Navy JROTC Area Six Brain Brawl at Cary High School in Cary, North Carolina.

The Brain Brawl is a fast-paced academic competition built on a system of buzzers, just as you would see on Jeopardy. Contestants are tested on the naval science curriculum, pop culture, and a wide variety of other academic topics.

The team will compete in the National Championship at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, Florida, on April 20, 2024.

- **St. James Middle School Redesignated as a "School to Watch"**

Dr. Maxey recognized and offered congratulations to St. James Middle School. The school has been re-designated a "School to Watch" by the SC Association for Middle Level Education and the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. St. James Middle is one of only 36 schools in the state that have received and maintained this designation.

Schools that earn this designation emphasize strong academics, sensitivity to young adolescents' needs and interests, and commitment to providing all students equal access to a high-quality education.

- **HCS Teacher of the Year Top Ten Semifinalists**

Dr. Maxey shared the ten semifinalists have been chosen from school-level honorees for the Horry County Schools Teacher of the Year distinction.

***The top 10 semifinalists are:***

- Joey Hernandez, Academy for the Arts, Science & Technology
- Krystal Mante, Academy for Technology and Academics
- Sandra Matthews, Conway Elementary
- Nicole Sypher, Daisy Elementary
- Kristy Floyd, Early College High
- Brooke Hall, Loris High
- Matthew Harder, Ocean Bay Middle
- Alexandra (Ali) Tobin, Pee Dee Elementary
- Katie Suggs, Socastee Elementary
- Chad Hamilton, St. James Middle

The ten semifinalists were chosen by the District's Teacher of the Year Selection Committee after a review of written applications submitted by school winners. Following a further review of the semifinalists' portfolios and interviews with the committee, the group of semifinalists will be narrowed to five finalists. One of those five will be named the 2025 HCS Teacher of the Year.

**3. HCS Teacher Recruitment Fair**

On Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, HCS held its annual educator recruitment fair at Conway High School. While our recruitment efforts are a year-round process, this fair allows prospective teachers, aides, and other educators to meet with representatives from schools with open positions, interview on the spot, and be offered a provisional contract, pending applicants' successful completion of the requirements for the job, such as passing a background check. At this year's fair, 101 provisional contracts were signed. Dr. Maxey shared a video presentation regarding the fair.

**4. Elementary Students Celebrate 100th and 101st Days of School (February 1st and 2nd)**

Dr. Maxey shared Thursday, Feb. 1st marked the 100th day of school. This day ties in with students' understanding and recognition of numbers up to 100. Students around our district



celebrated by dressing up, creating projects, and having lots of fun in their classrooms. A short video was shared regarding the 101<sup>st</sup> days of school.

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made to move into Executive Session at 8:07PM.

**a. Discussion of School Security Matters**

**Moved By:** Ms. Edmonds

**Seconded By:** Ms. Allen

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**4. ADJOURN BOARD WORK SESSION AND CONVENE SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING**

A motion was made to adjourn the Board Work Session and Convene a Special-Called Meeting at 9:36 PM. It should be noted no decisions were made, and no votes were taken during the Executive Session.

**Moved By:** Mr. James

**Seconded By:** Ms. Allen

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

**5. BUSINESS**

**a. Consider Approval of Principal Nominee for HCS Education Foundation Board - Dr. Maxey**

Dr. Maxey shared he was asked to identify a principal candidate to serve as an ex-officio member of the HCS Education Foundation Board. Dr. Maxey recommends Dr. Andrea Pridgen, Principal of the Academy for Technology and Academics.

**Moved By:** Ms. Dawson

**Seconded By:** Ms. Hodges

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

- b. **Consider Approval of Career Technical Education (CTE) Major at GSFHS for the 2024- 2025 Academic Year: Family and Consumer Science – Ms. Myrick**

A motion was made for Board approval of the Family and Consumer Science major at GSFHS.

**Moved By:** Ms. Wellons

**Seconded By:** Ms. Winters

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

6. **CONSENT**

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 4**
- d. **Education Fund Allocation - District 6**
- e. **Education Fund Allocation - Board Chair**

**Moved By:** Mr. Edwards

**Seconded By:** Ms. Winters

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the February 12, 2024, meeting at 9:39PM.

**Moved By:** Ms. Graham

**Seconded By:** Mr. Edwards

**Board Action: Carried Unanimously**

a. **UPCOMING MEETING(S)**

- 1. **HCS Education Foundation Introductory Meeting, 6:00 PM, February 13, 2024, District Office, C300**
- 2. **Facilities Committee Meeting, 4:00 PM, February 26, 2024, District Office, C300**

**3. Board Meeting, 6:00 PM, February 26, 2024, District Office, Board Room**

Respectfully submitted,

*Heidi Oates*

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