

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
Board Work Session and Special Called Meeting
District Office
April 13, 2015

The following persons were present:

Board of Education

Joe DeFeo, Chairman	Holly Heniford	John Poston
David Cox, Vice-Chair	Neil James	Pam Timms
Jeffrey Garland	Kay Loftus	Sherrie Todd
Janet Graham	Janice Morreale	Ray Winters

Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen	Reggie Gasque	Valerie McNeil
Cindy Ambrose	Melissa Gause	Boone Myrick
Mary Anderson	Kenny Generette	Debbie Rabon
Ramona Baskin	Stephanie Gore	Lucas Richardson
Edward Boyd	Roger Gray	Angela Rush
Daryl Brown	Ben Hardee	Melissa Rutenberg
Dottie Brown	Teal Harding	Beth Selander
Paul Browning	Elizabeth Hinkle	Heather Sheehan
Joe Burch	Traci Hogan	Rhonda Snowden
Shawn Campman	Robert Homer	David Stoudenmire
Dena Chatfield	Jessica Hucks	Connie Strickland
Carolyn Chestnut	Charles Hucks, Jr.	Addie Swinney
Charles Conant	Angela Huggins	Diane Thompson
Edi Cox	Kandi Jones	Tammy Trulove
Margo Cox	Robin Jones	Todd Underwood
Samantha Coy	James LaPier	Vicki Underwood
Kristin Dowling	HT Lee	Matthew Ward
Gaye Driggers	Tammy Martin	John Washburn
Nathan Ernest	Rick Maxey	Melissa Westbury
Martha Fout	Natasha McDonald	Kristin Wilson
John Gardner	Wendye McGuirt	Mark Wolfe

1. OPENING APRIL 13, 2015, AT 6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER

A. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order. Mr. Poston gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approval of Agenda

Item 6-A-2. Professional Contracts for 2015-16 was removed from the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Timms. The motion carried unanimously.

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.

C. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Poston and seconded by Mr. James to approve the Minutes of the March 26, 2015, Board meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. RECOGNITIONS

A. Support Staff Employee of the Year

A reception was held at the District Office prior to the Board meeting to honor the Support Staff Employees of the Year for each of the schools/divisions. Of those selected to represent the individual schools/sites, five were selected as finalists. Dr. Addie Swinney introduced the five finalists for the Support Staff Employee of the Year, as follows: Margo Cox of the District Office; Ramona Baskin of Lakewood Elementary; Debbie Rabon of Pee Dee Elementary; Shawn Campman of Riverside Elementary; and Elizabeth Hinkle of Seaside Elementary. The Support Staff Employee of the Year was then announced. The employee named as Horry County Schools' Support Staff Employee of the Year is Shawn Campman.

B. Carolina Forest High School's Robo Katz

Teal Harding and Velna Allen presented certificates to the members of the Carolina Forest High School Robo Katz team. The team was recently named a winner at the robotics competition and will be going on to the national level competition. The teachers, Nathan Ernest and Janet Hucks, were also recognized.

C. Terence Brister, Carolina Forest High School

Terence was one of five Entrepreneurs of the Year named by the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

D. Carolina Forest High School

Carolina Forest High School recently won first place in the South Carolina Thespian Festival sponsored by the Palmetto Dramatic Association. All students of the troupe were recognized, as was their teacher, Teresa Cox. Many of the students received outstanding individual awards.

3. DISCUSSION

A. R-3: Science Monitoring Report

Cindy Ambrose provided information regarding the Science Monitoring Report. Our District did not perform as well as we would like, and therefore, we know that we have to build structures inside our system to make the adjustments we need. Todd Underwood of Myrtle Beach High School spoke about the Strategies for Focus. Stephanie Gore of Green Sea Floyds Elementary also shared information with the Board on the changes and adjustments we have been making in our classrooms this year to have a greater impact on our scores. Mr. Poston shared that he would like to see the Board provide the digital

tools where students will have programs that will impact science like USA Test Prep and ALEKS math have impacted math scores, as well as provide the lab experience for science and he asked that administration take a look at this and bring any ideas to the Board. Mr. James stated that he commonly hears the statement from teachers that we are constantly adding programs, but we rarely take any away. Do we look at those things that did not prove as effective as we had hoped and take those things away? Mrs. Ambrose said that we can take a look at some things that we can quit doing. She also heard District staff speak of a program that we put in place recently and they do not feel that it is paying dividends. She added that we will take a look at how we might remove or take away some of those things that are not having a positive impact.

B. OE-13: Facilities Quarterly Update

Mr. DeFeo asked if anyone had questions on the information that was provided. Mark Wolfe pointed out the need for corrections on the presentation. The Conway High School track and Myrtle Beach Primary renovation projects, the “Board Approved Date” should be 2014, not 2015. On the Green Sea Floyds High School parking lot, the current status is shown as, “in construction.” That should read, “in design.”

C. OE-9: Communicating with the Public

Information was provided and there were no questions on the matter.

D. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Maxey shared that he is pleased that our District has put a program in place to acknowledge the contributions of our Support Staff. As a reminder, our Teacher of the Year program is scheduled for April 28, 2015, at the Myrtle Beach Marriott at Grande Dunes. The program begins at 6:00 p.m., but we ask that Board members come at 5:15 p.m. to congratulate teachers of schools in your area.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Ms. Morreale to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of A) Contractual Negotiations Regarding Property Transactions; and B) Discussion of Personnel Matters. The motion carried and the Board moved into Executive Session at 6:58 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT OF WORK SESSION

The Board returned from Executive Session and the Board Work Session meeting was adjourned. Mrs. Loftus did not return to the meeting following the Executive Session.

6. SPECIAL CALLED MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Ms. Morreale to go into Business Session. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Business

1. Financial Support for School Teams Participating in School-sanctioned National Competitions

Previously the Board approved setting aside \$100,000 in the budget to assist schools with national competition costs, and that the Board would agree to fund up to 50% of the costs for some of the national competitions. The Board asked administration to come up with a policy that would include the Board's intent in a written document. The draft document, National Student Competitive Activity Request for Funds, was provided wherein there are 11 numbered items. Mr. James added an Item #12 that states: For teams where the registration fee is greater than \$10,000, these requests will be presented to the Board for special consideration. The Board may fund up to 50% of registration fees if approved. This would allow the Board the governance to address special situations. With the aforementioned, Mr. James made a motion to accept the draft and make it the District's official policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garland and carried unanimously.

2. Professional Contracts for 2015-16

This item was removed from the agenda by a vote of the Board during the Approval of Agenda portion of the meeting.

3. Extend Contract of Auditor

This item is a recommendation from the Board Finance Committee, and therefore, does not require a motion and second. Mr. DeFeo shared that in August, Ken Childs stated he does not believe that the selection of an auditor is controlled by the District's Procurement Code. Mr. DeFeo asked that we confirm this. He also noted that the National School Boards Association recommends that Districts not use the same auditor for consecutive terms. While going through this process, Mr. DeFeo asked that we ascertain if the selection of an auditor is outside of the District's Procurement Code because the Board itself is doing the hiring. Mr. Gardner will check on this and take the response back to the Finance Committee.

The recommendation from the Board Finance Committee is that the contract for Financial and Procurement Auditing Services be extended for one (1) additional year to McGregor & Company. In addition, the Finance Committee recommends that the District prepare a solicitation for Financial and Procurement Auditing Services for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2016, June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018, with the option to extend for two (2) additional years. A vote was taken on this recommendation and it carried unanimously.

4. Support for Socastee High School Lacrosse Program

The Finance Committee recommends that support in the amount of \$10,500 be provided to the Lacrosse program at Socastee High School. Ms. Morreale asked, other than football helmets, when we had last given this amount of funds to one team at one school to update equipment? Mr. Gardner responded that typically when a new high school comes on, they are outfitted with equipment through the building program. The key thing with Socastee High School is they already had the program established. The school took money that they raised through their Booster Club and other sources to purchase their equipment. The equipment has some age on it now and the Finance Committee wanted to assist the school with these funds so they could refurbish their equipment. Mr. DeFeo added that students from across our District played openly on the Socastee High team because it was the only program in the District. Socastee High voluntarily allowed students from other schools to play, and Socastee High bore the cost. Ms. Morreale stated that she has concerns with giving a school some money back for a program that they already started, and that they knew they were going into it alone. Ms. Timms commented that she appreciates the Finance Committee recommending that these funds be

given to Socastee High for the Lacrosse program, adding that the program was opened up to schools across the District and that age has worn down the equipment.

A vote was taken on the recommendation of the Finance Committee. The recommendation carried, with Ms. Morreale opposed.

5. Conway Middle School – Laurel Street Improvements

The City of Conway has requested that the District make improvements to include paving approximately 300 feet of street frontage beginning at the corner of 10th Avenue and Laurel Street. This grassy area is frequently used by parents for parking. This will improve curb appeal and provide paved parking.

The Facilities Committee recommends that approval be given to perform the stated work and to provide additional funding allowing the project budget to be exceeded.

Mr. Poston asked if the paving is in the City's right-of-way. Mr. James stated that it is within the City's right-of-way. Mr. Poston asked Mark Wolfe to request some sort of indemnification or release from liability from the City of Conway in the event someone should be injured while we are making these improvements since it is on the City's right-of-way. Mr. Wolfe stated that it is almost entirely on public right-of-way, and therefore, we would want to make sure that is a part of the City's release. Mr. Poston offered an amendment to the recommendation of the Facilities Committee to include a release and indemnification to the recommendation of the Committee. Mr. Winters offered clarification that the work should be done subject to proper indemnification and a hold harmless agreement being provided by the City of Conway. Mr. James seconded the amendment. Mr. Generette stated that we will need to find out if the City of Conway can provide a release and hold harmless indemnification. Because they are a public body like the District, they may not be able to sign such a release.

A vote was taken on the amendment as stated. The amendment carried unanimously. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken on the original recommendation of the Facilities Committee. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

6. LED Message Boards

We have six schools that do not currently have a LED message board. Also, Socastee High School has a message board that is in need of repair or replacement. The Facilities Committee recommends expansion of electronic message centers to all high schools where none currently exist (Aynor High, Carolina Forest High, Loris High, and St. James High Schools), The Academy for Arts, Science & Technology, and The Academy for Technology & Academics. This also includes necessary repairs, or replacement if determined that repair costs exceed 50% of the cost to replace, at Socastee High School, for a total of seven (7) locations at an estimated project cost of \$350,000. Mark Wolfe shared that after having had a sign company look at the sign at Socastee High School, we have learned that the cost to repair the sign is not the main concern. The sign has been in place so long that the parts to repair the sign are becoming unavailable. It can be repaired for approximately \$7,700. Mr. Wolfe recommends that we not repair the sign at Socastee High because we will not be able to continue to get the parts to have the sign repaired. Mr. James revised the recommendation to provide message boards to the six schools named, as well as replace the sign at Socastee High School. Mrs. Graham asked about the sign at Conway High School, stating that it is an older sign as well. Mr. Wolfe said that he is not aware of any problems with the sign at Conway High. Mr. DeFeo added that he would not recommend spending

excessive amounts to repair the sign at Conway High if they were to begin having problems such as at Socastee High.

A vote was taken on the recommendation to provide electronic message centers to the seven schools as noted. The vote carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. James to approve the Consent Agenda items, to include: A. Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law; B. Education Fund Distribution – District 4; C. Education Fund Distribution – District 5; and D. Education Fund Distribution – District 9. The motion carried unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Graham and seconded by Ms. Morreale to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhonda Snowden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rhonda Snowden
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
and Horry County Board of Education**

Approved:
