

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – Board Meeting
District Office
November 10, 2014

The following persons were present:

Board of Education

Joe DeFeo, Chairman	Janet Graham	Janice Morreale
David Cox	Neil James	John Poston
Harvey Eisner	Kay Loftus	Pam Timms
Jeffrey Garland	Karen McIlrath	Jimmy Washington

Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen	HT Lee	Ben Prince
Mary Anderson	Rick Maxey	Lucas Richardson
Bobbi Antonucci	Dennis Devorick	Angela Rush
Daryl Brown	Laura Farmer	Heather Sheehan
Dottie Brown	John Gardner	Judy Stall
Jackie Bryant	Sie Gilbert	Jackie Stanley
Joe Burch	James Gorasky	Addie Swinney
Dena Chatfield	Ben Hardee	Vicki Underwood
Carolyn Chestnut	Teal Harding	Kristin Wilson
Edi Cox	Ara Heinz	Mark Wolfe
Meagan Cox	Leann Hill	Danny Wysong
Samantha Coy	Mollie Laut	
David Cupolo	Beverly Pilkey	
Matt Dean	Mark Porter	

Opening November 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. - Call to Order

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Cox to give the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman DeFeo requested the agenda be amended to include personnel discussion during executive session and removal of the executive session for the superintendent's evaluation. Moved by Mr. James and seconded by Mr. Garland, the agenda was unanimously accepted with those changes.

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.

Approval of Minutes (October 27, 2014)

Mr. James made a correction to the minutes under the motion to purchase property. The correct school name is Seaside Elementary. Mr. Cox moved to accept the minutes with this change, seconded by Mr. Washington, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Edward Boyd summarized the College and Career Readiness report given to the Board. Mr. Eisner asked the reason for test score fluctuation from year to year. Mr. Boyd explained that inherently the numbers will change because a different pool of students takes the tests each year.

Mr. Poston asked what the distribution was between students taking the SAT as opposed to the ACT and if the students were directed to a particular test. Mr. Boyd answered that about 42% of eligible students took the SAT and about 45% took the ACT and many take both tests.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Elsberry asked Velna Allen to share with the Board the recent recognition of a Scholars Academy student. Mrs. Allen told the Board about Ty Limpasuvan who has been invited to the 14th Annual Student Conference of the American Meteorologist Association. His research with the CCU science department led to his invitation to present his abstract on "Dust Plume Properties in the Vicinity of the Bodele Depression" at the National Conference.

Differentiated Instruction

Mrs. Ambrose presented the Board with information about differentiated instruction and the strategies taken to reach all students.

Mr. Poston commented on the importance of growth in the area of top-achieving students as well as struggling students.

Mrs. McIlrath asked how the District addresses the needs of those students that are at the bottom of the acceptable range. Ms. Ambrose explained that teachers track each child's progress and work with the students to improve understanding of the lessons both during school and before/after school hours. She also noted that digital learning will help to customize the lessons to each child.

Mrs. Graham inquired if the test scores will improve next year in light of the use of digital learning. Mrs. Ambrose answered that the assessments will change for next year and that may hinder test results across the state.

Prior to entering executive session, Chairman DeFeo informed the Board that the two remaining delegate votes for the South Carolina School Boards Association state meeting in December would be given to Janice and Jeffrey as they have seniority on the Board.

Executive Session for Negotiations Pertaining to the Purchase of Property

Motion was made by Mr. Garland to enter executive session, seconded by Mrs. Morreale; the Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion was made by Mr. James to re-enter regular session, seconded by Mrs. Morreale, the Board unanimously approved the motion. (Mrs. Loftus did not return to the meeting.)

Business

Consider Approval of Purchase of Property

Mrs. Timms made a motion to authorize the purchase of five adjacent parcels of land totaling 20.38 acres, collectively referred to as the "Wall Estate" and located off of Socastee Boulevard, for \$1.84 Million dollars as the proposed site for the replacement of Socastee Elementary School. Seconded by Mrs. Graham, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

Consider Capital Finance Plan - John Gardner

John Gardner was called to review the Capital Finance Plan as presented to the Board. Mr. Gardner recommended the Board approve the Capital Finance Plan and issuance of two bonds not to exceed \$156.89 million, with the understanding that a resolution would be presented to the Board for approval.

Moved by Mr. Eisner, seconded by Mrs. McIlrath, the motion to approve the Capital Finance Plan which includes utilization of the education capital sales tax issuance of 8% general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$156.89 million. Seconded by Mrs. McIlrath, the motion passed unanimously.

Refunding of Bonds

Mr. Gardner then summarized the details of refinancing bonds and the resolution presented to the Board. He explained that a net savings of 5% or greater would be realized, which based on current market conditions, would be \$15.6 million.

Mr. James moved to accept the staff recommendation to approve the resolution and refinance the bonds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garland, all voted in favor.

District Solicitation for Construction Projects

Mrs. Morreale motioned to cancel the Request for Qualification Number 1415-12 in its entirety, Mrs. McIlrath seconded. Mr. James clarified that the motion meant the current Request for Proposals will be rescinded. Chairman DeFeo stated for the record that Mrs. Graham had recused herself from this agenda item. Mr. Eisner and Mr. Poston voted against the motion, all others voted in favor; motion passed.

Mrs. Morreale then motioned to proceed with new procurements for Carolina Forest, Myrtle Beach and Socastee Middle Schools, St. James Intermediate/Middle and Socastee Elementary School as High-Performance – Energy Positive Schools, and that the delivery method be selected and a new solicitation be issued as soon as possible. The delivery method analysis must include the objective of high energy performance standards and life-cycle cost optimization, and retain to the extent practicable the prototypical conceptual design and program already developed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Timms.

Mr. Eisner questioned the absence of North Myrtle Beach from the motion. Mrs. Morreale stated that she had another motion which would address his concerns.

Mr. James stated that it was his understanding that this motion will not adversely impact the delivery date of 2017; Mr. Dean confirmed. Chairman DeFeo stated that the projects should be delivered in the spring of 2017, which would be 3 months ahead of schedule.

Mr. Poston asked for clarification on the motion: is it a requirement of the RFQ that the buildings generate more energy than the building can consume?

Mrs. Morreale answered that the option would be considered, such as solar panels. Mr. Poston further asked if other options and parameters would be considered. He commented on the limiting nature of the motion by specifying that the building be energy producing and recommended research into these important aspects of the building. Mrs. Morreale noted that the motion was based on discussion from prior meetings. Chairman DeFeo commented that if the new buildings can reduce their energy expenses by \$1 million or \$800,000 it is the best option that would help with financing. He added that the motion does not specify which type of energy will be generated.

Mr. Cox asked if the building could be energy neutral as well as energy positive. Chairman DeFeo explained to the Board that energy positive means that the building produces more energy than it uses. Net zero means that the building is self-sufficient. Chairman DeFeo reiterated the importance of being conscientious of energy expenses in buildings.

Mr. James stated that he needed to familiarize himself with the various terms and benefits. He stated the importance of getting to be net-positive, noting that some savings would be in cost avoidance and some by reducing consumption. The cost benefit analysis by a Santee Cooper team confirmed that the project had an 11.3 year payback.

Mr. Poston stated that he appreciates the Board's concern but reminded them of future operational costs and sustainability. He mentioned other options such as alternative water uses, design features, and other opportunities that should be looked at. Mrs. McIlrath asked if those features can be incorporated into the design. Mr. Poston answered yes, although the motion does not require such.

Chairman DeFeo called for a vote on the motion made by Mrs. Morreale. Mr. Eisner and Mr. Poston voted against the motion, all others voted in favor; motion passed.

Mrs. Morreale then motioned to proceed with the new procurements for additions/renovation of North Myrtle Beach Middle and Midland Elementary, and that the delivery method be selected and new solicitation be issued as soon as possible. The delivery method analysis must include the objective of high energy performance standards and life-cycle cost optimization, and retain to the extent practicable any conceptual design and programming already developed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Timms. Mr. Poston voted against, all others voted in favor; motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Timms, the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda (Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law, Education Fund Allocation for District 5, Education Fund Allocation for the Chairman, and Approval of Requests for High School Diplomas).

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Washington, the Board unanimously approved adjournment at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Leann Hill

**Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
and Board of Education**

Approved: