

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – Board Meeting
District Office
October 13, 2014

The following persons were present:

Board of Education

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

Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen	Kenneth Generette	Bert Owens
Cindy Ambrose	Roger Gray	Vann Pennell
Mary Anderson	Ben Hardee	Beverly Pilkey
Bobbi Antonucci	Teal Harding	Lucas Richardson
Megan Beattie	Leann Hill	Angela Rush
David Beaty	Becky Hinson	Barbara Schlidt
Edward Boyd	Traci Hogan	April Scott
Daryl Brown	Charles Hucks	Heather Sheehan
Dottie Brown	Jill Jeter	Angie Smith
Paul Browning	Robin Jones	Judy Stall
Dena Chatfield	Janet Lawrence-Patten	David Stoudenmire
Edi Cox	H.T. Lee	David Strawderman
Samantha Coy	Cindy McGrath	Kelley Wilttrout
Gaye Driggers	Rick Maxey	James Wright
John Gardner	Boone Myrick	

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus was recognized and asked to give the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman DeFeo then recognized Cameron Moore, a boy scout working on his Citizen in Community Badge.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Washington, the Board unanimously approved the Agenda.

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

Moved by Ms. Timms, seconded by Mr. James, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 22, 2014 meeting.

Public Comments

Chairman DeFeo recognized Ray Winters, Board candidate for District 3. Current members of the Board that are seeking re-election introduced themselves: Jimmy Washington (Dist. 3), Neil James (Dist. 10), Pam Timms (Dist. 6), and Janet Graham (Dist. 7).

Patricia Milley was called to speak; she addressed the Board on time for play. Ms. Milley shared her experiences regarding young children and the stress of the day.

Recognitions

Teal Harding asked Velna Allen to join her as they introduced the principals of schools that met or exceeded national scores on the SAT and ACT. The schools recognized for exceeding the national average were: Aynor High, Carolina Forest High, North Myrtle Beach High, and the Academy for Arts, Science and Technology.

Discussion

Chairman Lazarus addressed the Board regarding the Horry County Clean-Up Day. Chairman Lazarus commended the Board on the cooperation with the County consistently demonstrated and expressed his hope that this cooperation will grow. Mr. Lazarus explained that participation in the November 8th Clean-up Day both individually and as a District would be rewarding. The County is requesting the Board of Education approve the use of buses to help transport workers to areas throughout the County. Chairman DeFeo thanked Mr. Lazarus for his comments, noted his support of the event and assured the Chairman that a vote would be taken at the October 27th meeting.

Monitoring Report: Operational Expectations 3 - Treatment of Stakeholders

Monitoring Report: Operational Expectations 6 - Financial Administration

Operational Expectations 6 - Financial Administration

Monitoring Report: Results 8 - Perception of Stakeholders

Monitoring Report: Operational Expectations 10 - Instructional Program

Chairman DeFeo noted that the monitoring reports on the agenda had all been sent to the Board for their review prior to the meeting and rather than reiterate that information, the Board was encouraged to ask any questions they may have regarding the reports. Mr. Poston asked about the new initiatives on OE-3 under Communication with Stakeholders. Specifically, Mr. Poston asked about the Faith-Based Cabinet's work over the past year. Dr. Elsberry informed the Board that last year was the first year for the cabinet and the results were great. She told them about a letter she recently received where a church coordinated programs to help with reading over the summer. Dr. Elsberry added that often the Faith-Based Cabinet and Closing the Achievement Gap meetings are combined to maximize progress.

Facilities - Quarterly Update

Dr. Maxey updated the Board on facilities projects including the Canopy Projects, Conceptual Design, Drainage and Fire Lane Projects, and the North Myrtle Beach Elementary Project. Mr. Eisner commended everyone involved in the North Myrtle Beach Elementary Schools projects. He noted that the entire project was handled well and encouraged the Board to visit the schools to see the excellent work.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Poston updated the Board on the initial Finance Committee Meeting held prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Poston, Chairman of the Finance Committee, explained that the committee discussed the auditor, a Memorandum of Understanding for Sports Tourism in Myrtle Beach and Fund Balance. The next meeting will be in December and the agenda will include allocation formulas. Mr. Eisner asked if the Sports Tourism discussion included areas other than Myrtle Beach. Mr. Poston answered that other communities will be offered the same agreement, assuring the Board it would be fair and equitable. Chairman DeFeo noted that the Facilities Committee should also be involved in sports tourism discussions.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Elsberry shared with the Board a proclamation by the Governor regarding metric week. She then showed the metric quiz posed to the students of Early College High School as an example of the events of Metric Week in Horry County Schools.

Dr. Elsberry then commended the principals of the schools that had exceptional SAT and ACT scores, noting that the scores are indicative of the work being done at the schools under their leadership. The Superintendent then reminded the Board that the Principal for a Day event was scheduled for the next day. She noted that this historic event brings in 54 leaders in our community to run our schools for a day. Dr. Elsberry invited the Board to come hear the comments of the "Principals" at the meeting on Wednesday morning.

Dr. Elsberry then asked HT Lee and April Scott to share details about the Google CS First program recently started in middle schools. Mr. Lee showed the Board a short video which explained the program being offered at many middle schools at no cost to the district or student. April Scott, principal of Forestbrook Middle School, explained the program and commended the ready-to-go kit which helped launch a successful program. Ms. McIlrath asked how many schools are currently offering this program. Mr. Lee answered that half of the middle schools in the District are participating.

Dr. Elsberry then asked Jan Hucks and Megan Beattie, teachers at Carolina Forest High School, to speak to the Board regarding the use of technology in their classrooms.

Ms. Hucks and Ms. Beattie explained their use of a flipped classroom. In this new teaching tool, the lessons are recorded for students to watch at home, then the students complete the "homework" in class. This allows student to watch the video as many times as needed to understand the lesson and to have any questions answered while working on the problems. Ms. Beattie added that she has also taught students that are absent by using Skype. This allows full participation in class and reduces the burden of make-up work.

Ms. McIlrath asked how other schools in the District can utilize this method. Ms. Beattie answered that the students have been instrumental in letting others, including teachers, know about this. Ms. Hucks added that veteran teachers need to see the benefits of utilizing technology in this capacity. Mr. Poston suggested that these resources be shared with other teachers to alleviate the need to create the lessons at each school.

Dr. Elsberry added that learning specialists and instructional coaches ensure best practices like these seen tonight are shared from school to school.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Mr. Garland, seconded by Mr. Cox, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. (Personnel Recommendations, Education Fund Allocation for Dist. 2 and Dist. 6, and Approval of Requests for High School Diplomas.)

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. James, seconded by Mrs. Morreale, the Board unanimously approved adjourned at 7:04pm.