

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – Board Meeting
District Office
May 12, 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	

Horry County Schools Staff

Velna Allen	Kenny Generette	Betty Owen
Cindy Ambrose	Buddy George	Vann Pennell
Mary Anderson	Angela Gore	Aunquize Perkins
Bobbi Antonucci	Ann Hall	Beverly Pilkey
Tracy Bellamy	Angela Huggins	Lucas Richardson
Ashley Blankenship	Ben Hardee	Buffy Roberts
Edward Boyd	Leann Hill	Angela Rush
Daryl Brown	Traci Hogan	Barbara Schlidt
Dottie Brown	Laurel Houle	April Scott
Joe Burch	Charles Hucks	Randy Smith
Dena Chatfield	Natalie Hunnell	Wynnette Smith
Carolyn Chestnut	Robin Jones	Judy Stall
Edi Cox	Candace Lane	Connie Strickland
Jeanie Dailey	Mollie Laut	Addie Swinney
Matt Dean	HT Lee	Diane Thompson
Sherri Duquette	Samantha Lohr	Olga Toggas
Kandi Fleming-Jones	Rick Maxey	Tammy Trulove
Martha Fout	Angela McCune	Marion Touzel
Melanie Gaddy	Dawn McKinney	Jim Wright
Sie Gilbert	Norman McQueen	Daniel Wysong
Heather Sheehan	Boone Myrick	Stephanie Yancey
Roger Gray	Bert Owen	

Board Dinner -- 5:00 p.m., Room C-107

[Opening May 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. - Call to Order](#)

Chairman DeFeo called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

[Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance](#)

John Poston delivered invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

[Approval of Agenda](#)

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Poston, 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.

[Minutes - 4/7/14 \(Attachment: April 7, 2014 Minutes\)](#)

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Poston, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 7, 2014 meeting.

[Public Comments](#)

Chairman DeFeo recognized Ray Winters, Board of Education candidate from District 3, in the audience. The Chairman then recognized the following current members that are seeking reelection in November: District 1 - Harvey Eisner; District 2 – Karen McIlrath; District 3 – Jimmy Washington; District 10 - Neil James; District 6 – Pam Timms; District 7 – Janet Graham; and Jeffrey Garland who is running for SC House seat 58.

After a brief review of the guidelines regarding public comments, Amy Jordan was called to speak. Ms. Jordan expressed concern with the agenda item regarding Scholars Academy becoming a stand-alone school.

Julie Schexnayder was called to speak. Ms. Schexnayder spoke against Scholars Academy becoming a stand-alone school as well. In addition, she read from a letter written by the parent of another Scholars Academy student.

Lawrence Whitney was called to speak. He expressed concern for the employment status of his mother, Abbie Whitney.

Ray Winters was called to speak. He asked the Board to consider relieving overcrowding a priority with regard to the Short-Term Facility Plan.

Van Washington was called to speak. Ms. Washington expressed concern over the recent changes in the North Myrtle Beach attendance area.

[Recognitions](#)

[Horry County Council "Technology Day" Resolution](#)

County Councilman Gary Loftus presented the Board with a resolution declaring April 9, 2014 as Technology Day in recognition of the outstanding efforts of students, staff, the Superintendent and the Board in the area of technology.

[Perfect Attendance Recognition](#)

Mr. Brown and Mr. Lee commended 5 students who achieved perfect cumulative attendance. The students recognized were: Caleb Isaiah-Billy Tweed, Daniel Alexander De Los Santos, Sofi Alia Cruz-Turner, Andre Jamir Shaw, and Amari Jordan Reed.

[Energy Star Awards](#)

Mark Wolfe introduced Ken Walters and Kevin Cunningham of Control Management Incorporated who presented the Board with plaques for the 5 schools that have been awarded the Energy Star Award from the Environmental Protection Agency. The five schools are: Aynor Middle School, Conway Middle School, Ocean Bay Elementary, Ocean Bay Middle, and Palmetto Bays Elementary.

[Discussion](#)

[Monitoring Report: Results 4 - Social Studies \(Attachment: Results 4 - Social Studies\)](#)

Cindy Ambrose reviewed the Social Studies achievement highlights from across the district for the Board. She announced that just prior to the meeting North Myrtle Beach High School came in second place at the National Mock Trial Competition. Mrs. Ambrose then explained the materials presented to the Board which included 2 years of data.

Jeanie Daley then introduced teachers Melanie Gaddy of Ocean Bay Middle School and Samantha Lohr of Early College High School. Ms. Daley explained that the two programs these teachers represent are at the heart of citizenship and civic engagement. Ms. Lohr acknowledged the "We the People" students currently in the audience. She then introduced Maddie Suggs who gave the Board an overview of the "Underage Drinking" project completed by the class. Ms. Gaddy then introduced Madelyn Hawver who gave a synopsis of what she recently presented at the National History Day event regarding Sweetgrass Baskets.

Mrs. Ambrose gave accolades to the staff of Learning Services and the schools.

Mr. Poston commended the participation in the National History Day competition. Having attended the event he shared with the Board how impressive it was and the excellent integration of history with language arts.

Ms. Daley noted that 1/3rd of the awards issued for National History Day went to Horry County Schools.

[Monitoring Report: Operational Expectations 5 - Financial Planning \(Attachment: Operational Expectations 5 - Financial Planning\)](#)

John Gardner gave an overview of Operational Expectations 5 – Financial Planning as presented to the Board, noting that we are in compliance. Mr. James asked if the staff will be available to meet with Board members as the budget process continues. Mr. Gardner encouraged Board members to schedule a time to meet with staff regarding the 2014-15 Superintendent's Comprehensive Budget.

[Resolution Authorizing Expenditures \(Attachments: Resolution Authorizing Expenditures; Agenda Action Form - Authorizing Expenditures from Tax Revenues\)](#)

Mr. Gardner reviewed the material distributed to the Board regarding expenditures from the education capital sales tax revenues.

[Financial Support for School-Sponsored National Competitions](#)

(Attachment: [Agenda Action Form - Financial Support for School-Sponsored National Competitions](#))

Mr. Gardner explained to the Board that upon approval, \$100,000 will be included in the 2014-15 Budget for the purpose of supporting school-sponsored national competitions. There was brief discussion that a formula be established to determine a fair distribution process. Mr. Gardner assured the Board that the policy will be presented to the Board by August. Mrs. McIlrath spoke of the importance of community involvement in sponsorship and recognition of these impressive accomplishments of students.

[Authorizing Expenditures for School Bus Replacement](#)

(Attachments: [School Bus Replacement Cycle](#), [Agenda Action Form - Authorizing Expenditures for School Bus Replacement](#))

Mr. Gardner explained to the Board that 10 new buses could be purchased from an estimated \$4.5 million surplus from the 2013-2014 budget. He further proposed that we could reduce the 2014-15 budget by \$840,000 if the Board approved the proposal. Mr. James supported this proposal but questioned if the projected \$4.5 million was in addition to the \$3.6 million discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Gardner explained that the \$4.5 million is the impact of several events - the additional tax revenue, additional state revenue and the historical savings from vacant positions (\$3.6 million) which offset the 2013-14 utilization of fund balance by \$4.5M. Based on historical data, we believe that the 2014-15 Budget also includes the potential for \$3.6 million in savings from vacant positions.

Mrs. McIlrath asked if the funds would be used to purchase new or used buses. Mr. Gardner explained that new buses would be purchased to assure quality, safety and dependability.

[South Carolina High School League Athletic Transfer Policy Change](#)

(Attachment: [South Carolina High School League Athletic Transfer Policy Change](#))

Daryl Brown discussed the transfer policy as detailed in the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) handbook. The policy states that a student is only eligible to participate in athletic programs at the high school of his/her home address. He/she is not eligible to play at a base school that the student has transferred to unless that transfer occurred in middle school.

Mr. Poston asked when this policy changed. Mr. Brown answered that the only change is that now the District must police this rule rather than the SCHSL. Mr. Poston suggested that parents receive the details of this policy to alleviate any confusion.

Mr. Cox asked about teachers' children that attend where they teach. Mr. Brown answered that if both principals and the Superintendent agree to the transfer, the student is eligible to participate at the school they transferred to.

There was discussion on the required timing of transfers. Mr. James asked what criteria are applied to transfer requests. Mr. Brown explained that there is a policy for academic transfers and the two principals must be in agreement with the knowledge that the transfer may not be for athletic purposes. To date, we have not had principals disagree.

Mrs. McIlrath posed a question she has received from a constituent: If we are an open attendance district, why are athletic transfers handled differently than academic transfers? Mr. Brown explained that athletic transfers are governed by the SCHSL with very strict rules. If the District were to break one of these rules there would be severe sanctions. It is intended to be a "checks and balances" system.

Possible Stand-Alone Status for Scholars Academy

Mr. Norman McQueen, Principal of Scholars Academy, and Velna Allen addressed the Board regarding the benefits of establishing Scholars Academy as a stand-alone school. Mr. McQueen introduced Morgan Sellers, Teacher of the Year for Scholars Academy, who discussed the interaction between students at the base schools. She noted that the base schools offer extra-curricular activities not offered at Scholars Academy.

Mr. McQueen explained to the Board that time is needed to properly address this issue. He would like to get input from parents, students and instructors and compile a pro/con list. He expressed concern over enrollment, class rank, and the impact on scholarship awards to Scholars Academy students.

Mrs. McIlrath commented that it would be difficult to duplicate the standard high school experience at Scholars Academy. She referenced Mrs. Schexnayder's comments that it would change the dynamics dramatically.

Chairman DeFeo pointed out the need to hear both sides of the argument. He suggested that a change like this would require advanced notice to applicants. Chairman DeFeo would like to provide equal opportunities across the District. He asked that data be compiled for a future meeting regarding the impact this would have on scholarships both at Scholars Academy and at base schools.

Mr. Poston agreed with Mrs. McIlrath and Mrs. Schexnayder. He suggested review of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian rules if that is where the concern lies. He also acknowledged that the students being served should be considered as it is such a successful program. Chairman DeFeo clarified that whereas Scholars is a program and not a school a Valedictorian and Salutatorian cannot be named.

Mrs. McIlrath recounted for the Board that when Scholars Academy was established the original mission of that program was to provide unique and rigorous educational opportunities that were not currently available in our traditional school settings. She feels that making it a stand-alone school goes against that mission statement. She further noted that although many students qualify for scholarships, ultimately the student decides which to utilize. Mrs. McIlrath recalled for the Board the graduation at Myrtle Beach High School where the Valedictorian, who was a student from Scholars Academy, and the student with the highest rank at Myrtle Beach High school were both allowed to speak. This seemed to be agreeable with the community at the time.

Mr. Garland expressed concern over opportunities like band and athletics that Scholars would not be able to provide. In addition, with such a small graduating class, class rank would become an issue. Chairman DeFeo assured the Board that like Early College High School, the students would be allowed to participate in activities at their base school.

Mr. James acknowledged that there would be many benefits. He also stated that this program allows students from smaller schools in the district access to Advanced Placement classes that would not be available to them at their school. Mr. James expressed concern that the Board strive to keep schools as equal as possible, especially with regards to cost per student.

Mrs. Ambrose acknowledged that this is a conundrum and suggested the Board request advice from a policy analyst. She suggested that she and Mrs. Allen could assist the Board in achieving a middle ground such as legislative action that has assisted schools such as the Governor's School by waiving the class rank at Scholars Academy.

Chairman DeFeo reiterated to the Board that making Scholars Academy a stand-alone school was suggested by a parent of a Scholars Academy student and that a review of the options would be beneficial.

Ms. Morreale asked that the data relating to Life Scholarships be presented in the future as well as the other scholarships.

Mrs. Allen informed the Board that this concern is raised every year around graduation time. Many times the concern centers on who give remarks at the graduation. She suggested review of the District policy to allow another speaker at graduation.

Mr. Eisner stated that he was unclear as to why this issue was raised. He suggested that the student body vote on commencement speakers.

Dr. Elsberry addressed some of the questions raised by the Board. The Life Scholar award data, including what would have been lost at the base school, will be collected. As for the per-student cost for each school and program school, John Gardner will provide that information at the next meeting. The AP classes will be reviewed. Dr. Elsberry anticipates that the number of classes offered would not change, just the class size.

[Reschedule June 16th Board Work Session - Joe DeFeo](#)

Chairman DeFeo noted the meeting date needed to change due to several members being out of town on June 16th. After a brief discussion, it was decided to move the meeting to June 9th at the regular time.

[Board Retreat](#)

Chairman DeFeo discussed dates for a board retreat. It was agreed to meet on June 21st at 9:00am.

[HCS Design Steering Committee Update](#)

Mr. Wolfe gave a brief overview of the progress made at recent Steering Committee meetings. Mr. James asked what deliverables could be expected at the next meeting. Mr. Wolfe stated that the next meeting will have finalized floor plans and the team would start looking at exterior ideas. The meeting after that would include exterior elevations and start on interior design. Mrs. Morreale asked for clarification on what the architects are currently working on. Mr. Wolfe explained that the architects are drafting floor plans for review then they will work on outside plans. Mrs. Morreale and the Chairman stated the importance of moving forward without delay.

Chairman DeFeo inquired about OE13 where facilities shows \$8.6 million listed on page 8. Mr. Gardner answered that this is what is projected to be spent this year. He requested a breakdown at the next meeting of the \$8.6 million.

[Superintendent's Report](#)

Mrs. Ambrose was asked to deliver the details on a waiver request to the State Department of Education requesting permission to award high school credit to 6th grade students who pass

Algebra I. This will allow students to earn more high school math credits. It was noted that many of these students go on to earn perfect scores on the math SAT.

Mr. Eisner agreed that this program is a great opportunity for students to advance.

Mr. James asked if a motion was required. Mrs. Ambrose explained that the waiver requires the Chairman's signature.

[Executive Session for Discussion of Personnel Matters](#)

Meeting went into Recess

ACTION: Upon motion by Neil James, second by John Poston, the Board agreed to go into executive Session.

ACTION: Upon motion by Neil James, second by Janice Morreale, the Board reconvened in regular session.

Ms. Loftus and Mr. Cox did not return to the regular session.

[Business](#)

Board Performance Indicators (Attachment: [Board Performance Indicator Form](#))

Mr. James explained to the Board the form presented to them for self-assessment. It was agreed that the form would be used by each member to evaluate the meetings, beginning with the next meeting.

ACTION: Upon motion by Neil James, second by Karen McIlrath, the Board unanimously approved the Board Performance Indicator form for use as a self-assessment tool.

[Committee of the Whole](#)

Chairman DeFeo explained that Committee of the Whole is a non-binding opportunity for Board members to give recommendations and opinions.

[Short-Term Facility Plan](#)

(Attachment: [9/30/13 Approved Short-Term Facility Plan](#); [Mr. Garland's 10 yr. Plan](#); [Mr. Garland's Short-term Facility Plan Proposed Motion](#); [Mr. Garland's 10 yr. Plan with Proposed Revisions and Cash Flow](#))

Mr. Garland made a motion to revise the Short-Term Facility Plan previously approved on September 30, 2013 as presented to the Board. Mr. Eisner seconded the motion. The Chairman opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Eisner stated his support of a "pay-as-you-go" plan with the understanding that the plan may need to be revisited should enrollment projections change.

Chairman DeFeo reminded Mr. Garland that the motion could be revised to include annual review of the plan. At which time Mr. Garland did revise his previous motion to include that the construction plan be reviewed on an annual basis. Mr. Eisner seconded the revised motion.

Mr. Garland informed the Board that after having met with staff to review this proposal it was discovered that the \$75 million listed for Personalized Digital Learning (PDL) would not be

adequate to cover the entire initiative as previously discussed. He noted that to fully fund the 1:1 personal devices the amount should be \$86 million.

Mr. Poston then asked for review of the cash-flow of funding this plan. Mr. Garland answered that he believed a Short-Term Facility Plan should be decided on before in-depth funding options could be analyzed. This would allow the Board flexibility in options such as bonding, enrollment or revenue changes. Mr. Garland added that if the proposed plan is chosen, it will not take 10 years to complete payment, it would take around 9 years.

Mr. James expressed concern on how dynamic these numbers are. He would like to have time to digest the numbers. Superintendent Elsberry explained that there was an increase to miscellaneous equipment. Mr. Garland added that the \$10 million for Myrtle Beach High School renovation was removed because a renovation is not needed. Chairman DeFeo reminded the Board that this is not a final product and this would be discussed again. Dr. Elsberry noted that the \$75 million for technology was not simply Personalized Digital Learning; it included technology needs across the district.

There was brief discussion on the PDL initiative in grades 3-5 including the realignment of these funds to cover the Short-Term Facility Plan. Mrs. McIlrath felt it would be a disappointment to the students and teachers if they were not able to get devices. Mr. Garland reiterated the need to increase Technology to \$86 million.

Mr. Poston spoke regarding the Phase III priority list and would like to see capacity issues addressed prior to renovations. He would like to see Socastee Middle move to a higher position on the list.

Ms. Morreale stated that although it would be disappointing, if eliminating PDL would fund new school construction and renovations, it should be considered.

Mr. Garland noted that this plan does not require a millage increase. Mr. Gardner clarified that this plan includes issuance of \$111 million in debt while remaining within the 8% debt limit.

The motion to revise the Short-Term Facility Plan previously approved on September 30, 2013 as presented to the Board and review said plan annually was unanimously approved.

Chairman DeFeo asked that this item be on the May 19th, 2014 agenda as a Committee of the Whole item for further review.

[2014-15 Budget Update](#)

[Attachment: General Fund Budget Planning Documentation \(Pages 1-26 Distributed 2/17/14\), Page 27 Distributed 5/9/14; 2014-15 Budget Presentation](#)

Chairman DeFeo explained that there are 21 items listed for discussion and encouraged the Board to add items they are personally concerned with.

Chairman DeFeo inquired if the reduction in mid-day bus drivers was included in this budget presentation. Dr. Elsberry explained that the presentation Mr. Gardner is going to show reflects a reduction in overtime, not mid-day bus drivers.

Mr. Gardner presented the Board with an updated budget proposal which reflected revisions in State funding, decrease in bus driver overtime, bus replacement, and projected revenue.

Mr. James asked for clarification on the proposed purchase of 10 buses at \$840,000. He asked if this was in addition to the 2013-14 purchase of 10 buses and creates an accelerated

replacement cycle. Mr. Gardner answered that Mr. James was correct and at the end of the 2014-15 year a total of 20 buses will have been purchased.

At the end of Mr. Gardner's presentation he stated that the schedule for the budget includes time for the Board to meet with staff during May 13th – 16th, then preliminary approval on May 19th, and public notification of the budget hearing May 25th & 26th. June 9th would be public hearing and approval of the budget unless the Board would like to hold that over for the June 30th meeting.

Mr. James asked Mr. Gardner to review specific topics. Mr. James asked about the step increases in the budget. Mr. Gardner informed the Board that increases are mandated by the State for certain certified positions, such as Teacher. Mr. James also asked about the \$350,000 in professional development.

Chairman DeFeo expressed concern with a salary study being performed with a lack of a salary schedule. Mr. Eisner agreed that a review of job descriptions and salary ranges, especially for supervisory personnel, should be reviewed before the study is started.

Mr. Garland inquired about the budget surplus for vacant positions and if it should be applied to the PDL. Mr. Gardner answered that it is prudent to include an average salary amount for unfilled positions in the budget. Chairman DeFeo suggested that Mr. Garland hold this item for the next meeting for discussion.

Mr. DeFeo asked about the proposal to reduce the maintenance personnel. Mr. Gardner answered that there was no proposed changes in this budget. The Chairman agreed that this would be discussed at a future meeting.

Dr. Elsberry addressed the Board regarding the inquiry on professional development. She mentioned that every year are involved in curriculum work which last year applied to Common Core but that curriculum work would be distributed to them.

There was brief discussion on pay increases. Whereas some members were absent from the meeting, it was decided to bring this topic back at the next meeting.

Chairman DeFeo asked Mr. Gardner to prepare information regarding the Professional Development and the maintenance personnel for the next meeting. Mr. Garland briefly noted that the lack of an increase would result in staff taking a pay cut due to increases in health insurance. Chairman DeFeo said this information should be included in the conversation at the next meeting.

Consent Agenda

- Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law - Addie Swinney
- Monitoring Report: Results 3 - Science
- Monitoring Report: Operational Expectations 9 - Communication with the Public

ACTION: Upon motion by Neil James, second by Jeffrey Garland, the Board approved the consent agenda

Adjournment

ACTION: Upon motion by Janice Morreale, second by Pam Timms, the Board adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Leann Hill

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
And Board of Education.

Approved: