

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES – Board Meeting
District Office
April 7, 2014

The following persons were present:

Board of Education

Joe DeFeo, Chairman (Joined meeting at 6:32pm)	Janet Graham	John Poston
David Cox	Neil James	Pam Timms
Harvey Eisner	Karen McIlrath	Jimmy Washington
Jeffrey Garland	Janice Morreale	

Horry County Schools Staff

Melody Adams	Roger Gray	Boone Myrick
Velna Allen	Kenny Generette	Bert Owen
Gretchen Almeida	Buddy George	Betty Owen
Cindy Ambrose	Angela Gore	Vann Pennell
Mary Anderson	Ann Hall	Aunquize Perkins
Mary Lynn Ashby-Hope	Leanne Hagen	Beverly Pilkey
Deborah Bennett	Ben Hardee	Lucas Richardson
Marcus Bennett	Leann Hill	Buffy Roberts
Doris Bessent	Traci Hogan	Angela Rush
Ashley Blankenship	Charles Hucks	April Scott
Edward Boyd	Robin Jones	Randy Smith
Teal Britton	Candace Lane	Wynnette Smith
Daryl Brown	Mollie Laut	Judy Stall
Dottie Brown	HT Lee	Connie Strickland
Joe Burch	Ebony Livingston	Addie Swinney
Carolyn Chestnut	Tammy Martin	Diane Thompson
Samantha Coy	Rick Maxey	Tammy Trulove
Matt Dean	Angela McCune	Marion Touzel
Dennis Devorick	Dawn McKinney	
Martha Fout		

Support Staff Recognition Reception -- 4:30 p.m., Room C-300

[Opening April 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. - Call to Order](#)

Vice Chairman James called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

[Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance](#)

Mr. Cox delivered the invocation. The Conway High School Navy JROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Approval of Agenda](#)

ACTION: *Upon motion by Mr. Eisner, 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 - 3/31/14](#)

(Attachment: [3/31/14 Minutes](#))

ACTION: *Upon motion by Ms. Morreale, second by Mr. Garland, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 31, 2014 meeting.*

[Public Comments](#)

There were no public comments.

[Recognitions](#)

Mr. James acknowledged the School Board candidates in the audience.

[Support Staff Member of the Year](#)

Dr. Swinney announced that Marcus Bennett had just been named Support Staff Member of the Year. Dr. Swinney also recognized Victoria Smith, Doris Bessent, Melody Adams, and Wynnette Smith as finalists.

[Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation - FIRST Robotics](#)

Mr. Brad Lofton, Executive Director of the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation, presented a citation to Dr. Elsberry and the Board recognizing them for contributions in the area of Robotics.

[Forestbrook Middle School and Ocean Bay Middle School Mock Trial Teams](#)

The students and mentors of the Forestbrook Middle School Mock Trial Team were congratulated for their recent win at the inaugural North Carolina/South Carolina Championship. Ocean Bay Middle School was recognized for their 2nd place title.

[HCS Named by National Association of Music Merchants Foundation to the 2014 Best Communities for Music Education](#)

Fine Arts Director Mr. Bert Owen accepted the recognition. He then shared that there were over 2000 Districts nominated and only about 300 chosen, nationwide. Mr. Owen thanked the Board for their commitment to the arts, as well as the students, parents and booster clubs.

[Columbus Project Hope Donations to Schools](#)

Mr. Mike Aldridge and Mr. David Taber of the Knights of Columbus presented a check which represented donations made to schools from fundraising programs.

[Discussion](#)

[Quarterly Review of OE-13](#)

Dr. Maxey reviewed for the board the various projects that the facilities department has been working on recently. Mr. Poston asked that Dr. Maxey update the Quarterly Report on the website regarding the Scholars Academy project. Mr. Poston also asked the Board be notified when a project receives Lead Certification.

Mr. James asked about tracking the unused funds from delayed projects such as the fire lane and drainage projects. Mr. Matt Dean was asked to answer. He explained that Phase 4 funds remain within that phase unless that project is removed.

[Monitoring Report: Results 3 - Science](#)

(Attachment: [Results 3 - Science Monitoring Charts](#)) (Attachment: [Results 3 – Science](#))

Mrs. Ambrose presented to the Board the review of data collected on student progress in Science. She noted that this is the first time engineering is being added to standards. Mrs. Ambrose then asked Ms. Leanne Hagen and Ebony Livingston from Loris Middle School to give an overview of the DiscoveryEd Techbook. At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. McIlrath asked if the Techbook was used county-wide in all middle schools. Mrs. Ambrose answered that yes, it was, and they are researching other digital content for next year.

Mr. Defeo arrived at 6:32pm

Mr. Poston asked about the use of labs in conjunction with digital learning. He asked if there was a reduction of labs. Mrs. Ambrose assured the Board that there is no reduction in the physical lab component of science curriculum.

[Monitoring Report: Operational Expectations 9 - Communication with the Public](#)

(Attachment: [Operational Expectations 9](#))

Edward Boyd reviewed OE9 Communicating With Public report. He explained to the board the ways the District Office has expanded electronic means of communications including Facebook, Twitter, Granicus and the new HCS Mobile App.

Chairman DeFeo encouraged the use of Granicus and the search feature. He asked that a training session be held during an upcoming meeting.

[Short-Term Facility Plan](#)

(Attachment: [Short-Term Facility Plan - J. Garland Proposal](#))

(Attachment: [Board Approved \(9/30/13\) Short-Term Facility Plan](#))

Mr. Jeffrey Garland reviewed his proposed plan noting that it was designed to alleviate the need to use bonding capability or a referendum.

Mr. Eisner acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Garland and suggested a stipulation that if enrollment projections change, the Board would revisit the plan.

Chairman DeFeo agreed with Mr. Eisner noting that the Board needs to move forward and solicit public input, possibly through a referendum, to ensure projects are not delayed.

Mr. James asked for clarification on the projects already agreed upon, noting their importance. Mr. Garland assured the Board that the initial 4 projects of phase 1 would remain; however, cash flow may determine the order in which the projects are completed.

Ms. McIlrath expressed concern for the schools with current overcrowding issues and their priority on the list.

Chairman DeFeo asked if Dr. Elsberry would like to add to the discussion. Dr. Elsberry noted that the staff was proceeding with the projects that the Board has already approved for middle and intermediate schools. She added that the staff has been discussing a new vision for the Horry County Education Center (HCEC). Programmatic changes would allow students with various restrictions to be served at HCEC. Dr. Elsberry cautioned that any modification to the structure should be delayed until program changes are decided.

Chairman DeFeo raised concern with designing a school that will have programmatic changes that may alter the needs of the structure. Ms. McIlrath agreed that while a new building is needed, a minor delay while determining needs may be in the best interest of the students.

Mr. Eisner clarified that Phase 1 does not include building a middle school. Chairman DeFeo answered that the original plan included an intermediate school. He noted that there are projects in the plan that may not be built; however, issues like this will be worked out by June. Chairman DeFeo suggested that the next meeting agenda include a Committee of the Whole item that would ask for a vote on the Short-Term Facility Plan.

[Board Performance Indicators - Neil James](#)

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

Mr. James reviewed the results of the self-assessment questionnaire distributed to the Board at the February 17th meeting. He proposed creating a document that included the top 11 questions as an assessment tool.

Mr. Poston commended Mr. James for taking this project on, noting that performance indicators such as this are an important tool for the Board to utilize.

Mr. James thanked Dr. Elsberry and her staff for the work that contributed to this project.

Superintendent's Report

Instructional Materials

(Attachment: 2014-15 Textbook Recommendation Memo)

Mr. Owen addressed the Board on the process used to select instructional materials. He commended the members of the selection committee and their work with the State Department of Education. Funding will now be addressed. Mr. James asked if the selected materials were unanimously approved by the committee. Mr. Owen answered that English Language Arts was unanimous and there was great unanimity in every subject. Mr. James noted that over the course of the school year he had received several calls regarding the curriculum. Mr. Owen and Dr. Elsberry assured him that the highest standards are applied to all curriculum decisions.

Dr. Elsberry informed the Board that John Gardner, who was attending a conference and unable to attend the meeting, would be providing a budget update at the next meeting.

New Programs - Technical Scholars, Coding

Ms. Allen and Mr. Hardee gave an overview of two programs proposed to be offered - welding and coding. Several programs are offered in conjunction with Horry Georgetown Technical College. A video of the benefits of teaching computer coding was shown.

Chairman DeFeo inquired about the cost of the programs. Mr. Hardee explained that the cost is enrollment tuition. Chairman DeFeo suggested a review of current programs to see if there are programs that are less applicable today that could be eliminated.

Mr. James asked if Ms. Allen and Mr. Hardee were requesting funds to start the program. Dr. Elsberry answered that the staff would like to produce more college and career ready graduates at minimal to no cost. She further explained that the Board will be asked to vote on the proposal once the details have been arranged.

Mr. James inquired about the time frame for the new programs. Ms. Allen explained that the plan is to poll students to determine interest. Then a review of graduation requirements will be needed. Mr. James expressed concern that programs be offered to all attendance areas. Mr. Hardee explained that eventually he would like to see coding offered in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Mrs. McIlrath asked if Horry Georgetown Technical College would pilot the program in-full for one year.

Dr. Elsberry noted that the cost is unclear at this point. Boone Myrick was asked about funding options. Ms. Myrick answered that lottery revenues provide scholarships to students taking at least two classes.

Chairman DeFeo stated that funds should be allocated to launch this next year. Ms. McIlrath noted that coding is the future and is as important as Chinese and Arabic. Ms. Morreale asked about

transportation at the end of a student's senior year, when the student is required to take summer classes. Mr. Hardee explained that parents and students would have to commit to providing transportation.

Mr. Garland applauded both programs and recalled that the Board had passed a policy last year addressing the costs. He recalled that coding may not have a cost, but he believed welding did.

There was brief discussion on the need to review the list of current programs being offered to see if all are still relevant. It was also noted that attendance areas are very diverse which necessitates a variety of programs.

[New Principal Introduction - Cindy Elsberry](#)

Dr. Elsberry introduced the six newly named elementary principals to the Board. There were five in attendance: Samantha Coy, Burgess Elementary; David Cupolo, Forestbrook Elementary School; Loris Elementary School; Dawn McKinney, Palmetto Bays Elementary School; and Felisa McDavid, St. James Elementary School.

Dr. Elsberry then recapped a recent League of Innovative Schools conference she attended. A graphic was shown illustrating how to prepare our students for the future.

Chairman DeFeo encouraged the Board to attend the National School Board Association (NSBA) meeting that will be held in Savannah in June. He noted that he and Mr. Garland had recently attended an NSBA conference, and both were impressed with the topics covered. Mr. Garland added that one interesting session explained that simply having technology in classrooms does not make the students smarter; the need for qualified teachers is more important than ever. He also stressed the importance of access to technology outside of the classroom.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Eisner, second by Mr. James, the Board unanimously approved entering executive session at 8:30pm.

[Executive Session for Discussion of Personnel Matters and Negotiations Incident to the Sale of Property](#)

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Ms. Morreale, the Board unanimously approved re-entering regular session.

[Business](#)

[Consider Sale of Property](#)

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Poston, the Board unanimously approved a request from Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority to purchase a 100' by 100' piece of property at the rear corner of Seaside Elementary School property for the purchase price of \$2500.00.

[Personnel Contracts for 2014-15 School Year](#)

Dr. Elsberry reviewed the materials presented to the Board regarding Personnel Contracts for 2014-15 school year.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Eisner, second by Mr. Washington, the Board approved the Continuing Personnel Contracts for the 2014-15 school year as presented. (Although not legally required, several members abstained from individual names as indicated on Recusal Form submitted.)

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Garland, second by Ms. Timms, the Board unanimously approved to Conditionally accept Superintendent's recommendation of non-renewal of four contract employees for the 2014-15 school year subject to Board review of the matter on the merits and hearing Pursuant to South Carolina law.

[Consider Financial Support for National Competitions](#)

(Attachment: Agenda Action Form - Financial Support for National Competitions)

Chairman DeFeo asked for a motion regarding the proposal to offer financial support for National Competitions. Chairman DeFeo suggested that the policy be written to support half the cost of teams traveling to represent Horry County Schools at national competitions.

Mr. Eisner informed the Board that the teams attending competitions this year have raised nearly all the funds needed. He suggested a scale be established by the District for future teams and help the teams competing this year such as Academy of Arts, Science, Technology; Carolina Forest High; North Myrtle Beach High.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Eisner, second by Ms. Timms, the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent to contact principals of those schools with teams competing nationally to determine needs and make a policy recommendation to the Board.

Dr. Elsberry suggested that the wording include "School Sponsored" to eliminate any confusion. Mr. Poston asked if this would apply to this year, which Chairman DeFeo answered yes.

[Consider Recommendation to Change the North Myrtle Beach Middle School Mascot from "Warriors" to "Chiefs"](#)

(Attachment: [Agenda Action Form - North Myrtle Beach Middle School Mascot](#))

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Eisner, second by Mrs. McIlrath, the Board unanimously approved changing the North Myrtle Beach Middle School Mascot from "Warriors" to "Chiefs".

[Consider Recommendation for the Names, Mascots and Colors of the Three "New" Elementary Schools in North Myrtle Beach](#)

(Attachment: North Myrtle Beach Elementary School names)

(Attachment: [Agenda Action Form - North Myrtle Beach Mascots and Colors](#))

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Eisner, second by Mrs. McIlrath, the Board unanimously approved the North Myrtle Beach Names, Mascots and Colors of the three "new" elementary schools as follows: North Myrtle Beach

Primary will become Ocean Drive Elementary; North Myrtle Beach Elementary will become Riverside Elementary; and North Myrtle Beach Intermediate will become Waterway Elementary. All three Schools will have the colors Blue/Gold and the mascot will be "Chiefs".

Consent Agenda

Monitoring Report: Operational Expectations 1 - Global Expectations - Cindy Elsberry

Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law - Addie Swinney

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Eisner, second by Ms. McIlrath, the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

Adjournment

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Washington, second by Ms. Morreale, the Board unanimously approved adjournment at 9:44pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Leann Hill

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

Approved: