

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES – Board Meeting

District Office

March 31, 2014

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

The following persons were present:

Board Members:

Joe DeFeo, Chairman
David Cox
Harvey Eisner

Janet Graham
Karen McIlrath
Janice Morreale

John Poston
Pam Timms
Jimmy Washington

Superintendent:

Cindy Elsberry

District Office Staff:

Velna Allen
Cindy Ambrose
Edward Boyd
Teal Britton
Daryl Brown
Dottie Brown
Carolyn Chestnut
Edi Cox
Jeanie Dailey
Matt Dean

Laura Farmer
John Gardner
Ashley Gasperson
Kenny Generette
Roger Gray
Ben Hardee
Leann Hill
Traci Hogan
Charles Hucks
Mollie Laut

HT Lee
Ruth Lilly
Rick Maxey
Boone Myrick
Beverly Pilkey
Lucas Richardson
Barbara Schlidt
Judy Stall
Addie Swinney
Tammy Trulove

Mark Wolfe

Principals:

Dwight Boykin
Stephen Fitch
Kandi Fleming-Jones
Melissa Gause

Connie Huddle
Candace Lane
Janet Lawrence-Patten
Jennifer Parker

April Scot
Margret Sordian
Trevor Strawderman

Media:

Heather Gale, Horry Independent
A.J. Janavel, TV 13

Vicki Grooms, Sun News
April Baker, TV 15

Opening - 6:00 p.m. - Call to Order

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

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman DeFeo gave the invocation followed by the Aynor Army JROTC presenting the colors and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of 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.

Mr. Eisner requested the addition of Support for School Teams Advancing to National Competitions be added as a discussion item. Chairman DeFeo requested that Performance Indicators be removed from the agenda and placed on the April 7th agenda.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Washington, second by Mr. Poston, the Board unanimously approved the agenda with the addition of Support for School Teams Advancing to National Competitions and removing Performance Indicators.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Poston, second by Mr. Washington, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting.

Public Comments

Mr. Bobby Chandler was called to speak. He addressed the Board on concerns of big business and big government restructuring public schools.

Kay Kay Ford was called to speak. Kay Kay Ford, Regina Hill, Luke Ammons and Jeremy Bishop from Early College High School presented their research on childhood obesity and proposed a requirement of four years of Physical Education in all high schools.

Recognitions

Midland Elementary School and Forestbrook Middle School named Palmetto's Finest Winners
Teal Harding addressed the Board regarding recognitions. She first congratulated Jennifer Parker, principal of Midland Elementary School, and April Scot, principal of Forestbrook Elementary School, on being chosen Palmetto's Finest.

Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce - Donation Towards the Covey Leadership Program
Dr. Elsberry introduced Brad Dean, Chief Executive Officer of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce who presented a check for the Covey Leader in Me program.

North Myrtle Beach High School - Named to the Hospitality 100 List
Teal asked Velna Allen to join her as she recognized instructor Connie Porter and Principal Trevor Strawderman of North Myrtle Beach High School for being named to the Hospitality 100 list of Secondary School Culinary Programs.

North Myrtle Beach High School - Mock Trial State Champions
Kenny Generette and Trevor Strawderman joined Teal as she congratulated the North Myrtle Beach High School on their third mock trial state title in four years. Team members were called forward and personally congratulated by the Board.

National Board Certified Teachers

Dr. Addie Swinney was asked to recognize the 23 Horry County School District teachers that recently received National Board Certification. Dr. Swinney noted that there are 397 nationally certified teachers in Horry County Schools.

Teal noted that the Forestbrook Middle School and Ocean Bay Middle School mock trial teams will be recognized at another meeting for their recent accomplishments in state competitions.

National History Day

Jeanie Dailey, Social Studies Learning Specialist, presented the 86 recent National History Day winners. It was noted that Horry County Schools was one of nine counties at the competition and received 85% of all awards presented.

Discussion

Horry County Schools Financial Support for Teams Advancing to National Competitions

Mr. Eisner asked the Board to consider providing financial support for national competitions such as Mock Trial and We The People. Chairman DeFeo and Mr. Cox offered their support. It was agreed to add it to the April 7th agenda.

Mark Wolfe gave the Board an update on the progress the steering committee has made.

Short-Term Facility Plan

Funding for Board Approved (9/30/13) Short-Term Capital Plan

(Funding for Board Approved Short-Term Capital Plan)

(Board Approved Short-Term Plan adjusted for 10 Years)

Mr. Gardner reviewed with the Board the funding options of the Short-Term Capital Plan. Chairman DeFeo questioned borrowing funds over a 10-year span. Mr. Gardner noted that as a general rule, it would cost \$10 million for every \$50 million borrowed.

Mrs. McIlrath asked about funding the items not listed in Mr. Gardner's information. Mr. Gardner explained that funds would have to be taken out of the \$72 million additional funds secured by extending the seven year plan to a ten year plan.

Chairman DeFeo asked how much the 1 cent sales tax generates in revenue. Mr. Gardner answered that penny sales tax generates approximately \$46 million annually. Chairman DeFeo then stated that the practice of using two attorneys for a bond referendum should be reviewed. He also feels that a referendum would not change the plans established for the next 6 months and advocates moving forward.

Mr. Eisner added that given the commitments already voted on, the addition to Midland Elementary, and North Myrtle Beach Middle, the Board needs to address the future needs and funding options. Chairman DeFeo added that building at \$225 per square foot is not affordable.

Mrs. McIlrath expressed concern that there were several years when no improvements would be made and asked Mr. Gardner what position the Board will be in regarding funding and potential tax increases. Mr. Gardner answered that that if we continue to grow there will be no option but to increase taxes. He added that there is projected cash flow to help address potential needs.

Mrs. Graham asked why some budgeted items remain constant like support space and building modifications. Mr. Gardner explained that the amounts listed are not remaining constant but rather that is all that is available for those areas.

Mr. Garland reviewed the pay-as-you-go funding options that were distributed to the Board at the last meeting. He addressed some concerns about the project timeline and clarified some items such as St. James intermediate School's timeframe.

Mr. Eisner commended Mr. Garland on his efforts but was concerned that 10 years may be too long for accurate projections.

Ms. Timms expressed concern with a shared Carolina Forest/Socastee middle school. She suggested a St. James/Socastee middle school as those communities had been one attendance area previously.

Mrs. McIlrath agreed that combining attendance areas may be a cost savings. Chairman DeFeo agreed that a combination may be necessary. Mr. Eisner added that the site selection would be critical.

Mr. Garland added that this four to five year fix would be better than additions at Ocean Bay Middle School or Forestbrook Middle Schools, which would only be temporary fixes.

Mrs. McIlrath cautioned the Board to be mindful of operational costs that will increase with the addition of facilities.

Chairman DeFeo voiced concern that discussions have been going on too long and a tough decision needs to be made. He suggested the Board consider a referendum so the public can decide the direction the Board should take. He again noted that the Board's short-term plan would not be affected by a referendum; however, it would have an impact on the long-term plan. The item will continue to be on the agenda until a decision is made.

[Board Approved \(9/30/13\) Short-Term Capital Plan Project List \(Board Approved Short-Term Capital Plan Project List \(9/30/13\)\)](#)

Dr. Maxey reviewed the previously approved Short-Term Capital Plan Project List. There was discussion on the necessity of building a new alternative education center which was built around 1955. Dr. Elsberry informed the Board that she has met with staff and the consensus was that a new facility would help to re-envision the Horry County Education Center. She noted that while there would always be a place for alternative education students, a new center could offer other much needed programs targeting at-risk students.

Chairman DeFeo summarized his views by suggesting approval of Jeffrey Garland's plan with minor modifications and a referendum in November.

[Monitoring Report: Operational Expectations 1 - Global Operational Expectation \(Operational Expectations 1 - Global Operational Expectations\)](#)

Dr. Elsberry delivered the report on Global Operational Expectations pointing out the steps taken to demonstrate compliance. Mr. Poston asked what avenues the staff has to help formulate procedures. Dr. Elsberry answered that she holds meetings with principals, support staff and teachers where there is opportunity for direct feedback.

[Staff Make-up Days Plan](#)

Mr. Gardner and Mrs. Ambrose informed the Board of the plan for staff make-up of days lost due to inclement weather this year. The flexible plan would allow principals to schedule time that fits best with their school and staff. The staff would be required to document hours on a form, as had been previously used by the district. Mrs. McIlrath asked if staff could use a personal day, to which Ms. Ambrose answered yes.

[Superintendent's Report](#)

[Library Media Centers](#)

Mrs. Ambrose introduced Melanie Gentzler and Lisa Trimby of Forestbrook Middle School. Ms. Gentzler and Ms. Trimby gave an overview of improvements they have made in the media center. They showcased the transition from library to a technology-based media center.

[Tech Fair April 9th - Ashley Gasperson](#)

Mrs. Gasperson first commended Ms. Gentzler and Ms. Trimby on their excellent work in the media center. Then she gave the Board an overview of the upcoming Technology Fair. The fair showcases the work of 800 students ranging from elementary through high school as well as demonstrations from robotics teams. Ms. Gasperson encouraged the Board members to volunteer as judges at the event.

[Executive Session - Receipt of Legal Advice Incident to the Possible Sale of Property.](#)

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Garland, second by Ms. Timms, the Board unanimously approved going into Executive Session at 8:26pm.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Washington, second by Mrs. Morreale, the Board unanimously reconvened regular session.

[Business](#)

[Proposed 2014-15 BOE Meeting Dates \(2014-15 BOE Meeting Dates\)](#)

Chairman DeFeo opened the discussion of the proposed meeting dates by suggesting the Board development retreat be held in January or sooner. Mr. Eisner noted that it is usually after the election. Chairman DeFeo commented that this Board would work well together to establish future plans. After brief discussion, it was decided to switch the two retreat dates.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cox, second by Mr. Garland, the Board unanimously approved the 2014-15 Meeting Dates with the revision that the Budget Retreat will be held on January 5th and the Board Development Retreat will be held on September 29th.

Consent Agenda

Monitoring Report: Results 2; Numeracy - Cindy Ambrose ([Results 2; Numeracy](#))

Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law - Addie Swinney

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

Adjournment

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Garland, second by Mr. Poston, the Board unanimously approved the adjournment at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Leann Hill

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

Approved: