

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES – Board Meeting

District Office

February 10, 2014

The following persons were present:

Board Members:

Joe DeFeo
Jeffrey Garland
Janet Graham

Neil James
Kay Loftus
Karen McIlrath
Janice Morreale

John Poston
Jimmy Washington

Superintendent:

Cindy Elsberry

District Office Staff:

Velna Allen
Mary Anderson
Edward Boyd
Daryl Brown
Dottie Brown
Carolyn Chestnut
Matt Dean
Laura Farmer
Wanda Fulwood
John Gardner

Kenny Generette
Sie Gilbert
Traci Hogan
Charles Hucks
Leann Hill
Mollie Laut
H.T. Lee
Rick Maxey
Boone Myrick
Beverly Pilkey

Lucas Richardson
Angela Rush
Heather Sheehan
Judy Stall
Addie Swinney

Principals:

Janice Christy
Beth Selander

Media:

Heather Gale, *Horry
Independent*
Vicki Grooms, *Sun News*

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

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

Mr. DeFeo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Washington said the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION: Upon motion by Neil James, second by Janice Morreale, the Board accepted the agenda with the following change: move Committee of the Whole to follow public comments

1/27/14 Minutes

ACTION: Upon motion by Neil James, second by Janice Morreale, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the January 27, 2014 meeting.

Public Comments

Pastor Bellah addressed the Board with concerns of capacity issues at Seaside Elementary School.

Committee of the Whole

Conceptual Design Meeting #1

ACTION: Upon motion by Neil James, second by Jeffrey Garland, the Board unanimously approved opening the Committee of the Whole.

Dr. Maxey introduced Bill Bradley of SHW Group who shared ideas about the conceptual design process.

Mr. DeFeo asked for clarification on the design process, raising concerns of “reinventing the wheel” and noting that what defines a 21st century school is not the outside façade.

There was discussion with regard to relevance of site visits, functionality of floor plans, multi-use space, and the need to find a plan that will adapt over time.

Dr. Elsberry emphasized the importance of reviewing components of the building such as the dwindling need for lockers, media center modifications, charging stations for devices in the cafeteria, ESOL and robotics space.

Mr. Bradley addressed concerns about suggested site visits, assuring the Board that all factors would be considered when developing a plan for Horry County. He noted that each site will

have factors that dictate certain aspects of the build such as landscape, or sun direction. He stated that the goal of SHW group is to meet today and tomorrow's needs in a plan by building on the successes of other districts.

Mr. DeFeo discussed the importance of regular communication between the Board and the Steering Committee. Dr. Elsberry agreed that communication is critical as well as moving forward in a timely manner. Mr. DeFeo suggested that meetings of the Steering Committee should be held in the evenings to assure attendance by the Board members appointed: J. Garland, J. Morreale, H. Eisner, N. James.

ACTION: Upon motion by Neil James, second by Jimmy Washington, the Board unanimously approved to close Committee of the Whole.

Discussion

Budget Development Status - John Gardner

Mr. Gardner briefly updated the Board on the budget process. He noted that the legislature was unable to address budget issues as they have been dealing with weather related issues. He reminded the Board that there would be a Budget Workshop the following Monday. Dr. Elsberry suggested that it be a working dinner meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. DeFeo asked about the district's ability to borrow funds and expressed a concern that the figures be extended out to 2020. Mr. Gardner explained that the amount the district is allowed to borrow depends on the ability to pay it back.

Proposed Revised Short-Term Capital Plan - Matt Dean

Mr. Dean reviewed the Revised Short-Term Capital Plan with the Board. Mrs. McIlrath questioned the \$4.7mil designated for the Horry County Education Center. Mr. Dean explained that the cost per square foot was low due to the simplicity of the building.

Mr. Garland asked for the timeframe of when the utilization of Seaside Elementary would be reviewed. Dr. Elsberry answered that a team was being developed to perform an educational audit so that the information could be provided to the Steering Committee.

Mrs. Graham inquired about the feasibility of obtaining grants due to the district's commitment to "green" buildings and possibly solar power. Mr. Dean answered that he would look into grants, and noted that we see continuous savings by building efficient buildings.

Mr. James questioned Myrtle Beach Learning and how it factors into the plan. Mr. Dean noted that it would be the site of a future plan but more discussion is needed regarding the location of programs currently housed there.

There was discussion regarding use of portables at several schools. It was agreed that an assessment of how each school utilizes portables should be conducted. Ms. Timms noted that there are 8 portables at Forestbrook Middle School which has seen an influx of students, with more to come with the new housing development planned for the area. She stressed the need to look at capacity projections for years to come.

Sustainment/Renovation Projects and Other Matters - Matt Dean

Mr. Dean reviewed the Sustainment/Renovation Projects with the Board. Mr. James questioned the HVAC project as he believed it was scheduled to begin this summer. Mr. Dean noted that the plan was not approved until September and then the planning of these projects has delayed them due to the renovation it will create. Mr. James noted his disapproval with this timeframe. Dr. Elsberry assured the Board that the process will start this year but completion will be in 2015 due to the time needed to redesign the system. Mr. Dean added that the whole system needed to be redesigned and that the project as a whole was quite large which may require a shut-down of part of the school.

Palmetto Academy for Learning Motorsports Amendment to Contract

Dr. Elsberry informed the Board that Palmetto Academy for Learning Motorsports has asked for two amendments to their contract as detailed in the attached letter. This item will be on the next agenda as a business item.

Superintendent's Report

Staff Make-Up for Inclement Weather Days

Dr. Elsberry explained that due to the recent ice storm school and office closures, make-up days have been scheduled for June 10 & 11 for 220 day or less employees and June 13th for 12 month employees.

FIRST Robotics

Dr. Elsberry discussed the importance of college and career readiness; technology initiatives; and life skills. Teams like the robotics teams help develop life skills. The video that would be shown to the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation at their upcoming meeting was played for the Board.

Mr. James complemented the district on the excellent decision to cancel school with the recent ice storm. Dr. Elsberry noted that safety is always a priority and noted how helpful the emergency management team has been this winter.

Executive Session - for the Discussion of Personnel Matters

ACTION: Upon motion by Neil James and second by Jimmy Washington, the Board unanimously agreed to enter executive session.

ACTION: Upon motion by Neil James and second by Janice Morreale, the Board unanimously agreed to re-enter regular session.

Business

Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law

Dr. Elsberry recommended Dr. Addie Swinney be named Chief Officer of Human Resources and John Gardner be named Chief Officer of Finance.

ACTION: Upon motion by Neil James and second by Karen McIlrath, the Board unanimously approved all Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law including Chief Officer appointments of Addie Swinney and John Gardner.

Resolution Requesting the General Assembly Waive Make-up Days Due to Inclement Weather

Mr. Generette reviewed the waiver that will be sent to the legislature pending approval.

ACTION: Upon motion by John Poston and second by Neil James, the Board unanimously approved the waiver request be sent to the legislature.

Consent Agenda

Monitoring Report; Literacy - Cindy Ambrose

Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law - Addie Swinney

ACTION: Upon motion by Jimmy Washington, second by John Poston, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

Adjournment

ACTION: Upon motion by Karen McIlrath, second by Pam Timms, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Leann Hill
Exec. Asst. to the Board and Superintendent

Approved: