

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES ***BOARD WORK SESSION/SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING*** ***District Office*** ***April 16, 2018***

The following persons were present:

Board of Education

Joe DeFeo, Board Chairman	Janet Graham	Pam Timms
Neil James, Vice-Chairman	Chris Hardwick	Ray Winters
Shanda Allen	Holly Heniford	
David Cox	Janice Morreale	

Horry County Schools' Staff

Velna Allen	Ashley Gasperson	Tonya Pickett
Mary Anderson	Kenny Generette	Mark Porter
Lisa Bourcier	Ryan Gerald	Lucas Richardson
Edward Boyd	Ben Hardee	Buffy Roberts
Teal Britton	Judy Hunger	April Scott
Daryl Brown	Kim Johnson	Heather Sheehan
Joe Burch	H.T. Lee	Rhonda Snowden
Edi Cox	Cindy Magrath	Kristin Wilson
Stephen Driscoll	Rick Maxey	Mark Wolfe
John Gardner	Boone Myrick	

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.

1. OPENING APRIL 16, 2018, AT 6:00 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Invocation

Ms. Allen offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approval of Agenda

Board Action: A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. Hardwick to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

C. Approval of Minutes

Board Action: A motion was made by Mr. Winters and seconded by Mr. Hardwick to approve the March 19, 2018, Board Minutes as presented. The motion carried. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

2. DISCUSSION

A. Finance Committee Report

Ms. Graham gave a report from the Finance Committee meeting held on April 12, 2018, at which time the Committee discussed funding for the Five-Year Capital Plan. Brian Nurick and Frannie Heizer were in attendance, and discussed funding options available for the District's consideration. The Committee is bringing this item to the full Board tonight during a Committee of the Whole to allow input from the full Board on how the Board desires to move forward with the Five-Year Capital Plan. An update on EFA funding was provided, as was a report on the condition of the Charter Schools, namely Bridgewater Academy, Academy of Hope, and Palmetto Academy of Learning Motorsports, all of which are under fiscal caution.

B. Human Resources Committee Report

Mr. Cox gave a report from the Human Resources Committee meeting held earlier today. The salary study was the topic of discussion. The Committee implored upon the company conducting the salary study to provide the requested information to the District by Friday of this week, which should include data, rather than recommendations.

C. Budget Update

Mr. Gardner shared information on the status of the budget from the State and indicated that a full presentation will come before the Board at their May 7, 2018, meeting.

D. Change Orders for Modulares – AES and CFES

Mr. Wolfe noted this is a change order for modular classrooms from last summer and is being brought to the Board at this time because the change orders necessary to complete the contracts for the modular classrooms installed last summer at CFES and AES exceed the OE-13 change order threshold of 5% for the Superintendent's approval. The change order amount for AES is \$63,829.90, or 11.9%. The change order amount for CFES is \$49,011.30, or 9.8%.

E. Purchasing Modulares for 2018-19 School Year

Mr. Wolfe stated this is a request for approval of twelve modular classrooms, with four for Pee Dee Elementary and eight for River Oaks Elementary, at an estimated cost of \$1,935,368. This request is due to continued student population growth with overcrowding having reached a critical point at these two schools. The identified funding source for this request shall be from the unassigned fund balance.

F. HVAC Filter Contract Proposal

Mr. Wolfe shared that due to the number of HVAC units in our District and the employee time involved to change out the more than 13,000 filters on a regular basis, as well as the large amount of space required to stock the filters for replacement, it is being recommended that the District contract this service with an outside vendor. This item will be included in the budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year.

G. Committee of the Whole: Five-Year Capital Plan

A Committee of the Whole was called by the Board Chair to allow discussion of this item by the full Board.

1) Facility Construction Needs

Mr. James addressed this item, asking for input from the full Board as to the priorities of the Board for the most pressing needs, whether it be items that have been deferred, high growth areas, or whatever the Board determines is the priority(ies) to be addressed by the Board. During discussion, a Board member asked if there is a way to get a higher utilization rate from our facilities, which then may allow more to be accomplished by way of renovations in this building cycle. Mr. James asked for input regarding two previously deferred projects, namely, Horry County Education Center and Aynor Middle School. Following

much discussion, Mr. James noted there seems to be an emerging theme that the Board desires to give first priority to those projects that have been deferred. It was asked that administration separate out the athletic component of the projects identified in the Five-Year Capital Plan and to provide revised numbers that reflect the educational facility needs. Mr. James added that the Board also needs to consider some of the renovation or replacement facilities due to condition and age, for example, Whittemore Park Middle School. Ms. Morreale addressed athletic needs, suggesting that the District might consider designating a certain amount of funds each year to address athletic needs and where projects could be placed on a list and addressed on a rotating basis to allow schools to get what they need in the way of athletics. Ms. Heniford stated that she would like for Angie Jones to come before the Board and share information about school investments and the basis point being received for those funds, suggesting we might consider designating those investments for athletics.

2) Funding Options

Mr. Gardner explained three funding options available for the Board's consideration to fund the Five-Year Capital Plan. Scenario 1 maintains our current debt service of 10 mills and offers three mutually exclusive options, "Pay as We Go," "Utilize Current 8% Debt Capacity of \$53 Million," and "Request \$150 Million Bond Referendum." Scenario 2 increases our current debt service from 10 mills to 12 mills and offers three mutually exclusive options, "Pay as We Go," "Utilize Current 8% Debt Capacity of \$53 Million," and "Request \$225 Million Bond Referendum." Scenario 3 increases our current debt service from 10 mills to 14 mills and offers three mutually exclusive options, "Pay as We Go," "Utilize Current 8% Debt Capacity of \$53 Million," and "Request \$325 Million Bond Referendum." Mr. James noted that while the District has limited financial means available, we also have great facilities needs. The Facilities Committee would like to know the wishes of the full Board as relates to funding the Five-Year Capital Plan and what avenue the Board wants to go to provide the funding. Determining the funding option the Board desires to utilize will then allow the Facilities Committee to make recommendations regarding future projects.

Mr. DeFeo requested that information be provided at the next meeting that sets forth the funding that is brought in from the 1% sales tax and the 10 mills so the Board can look at where that money is going. Mr. Poston offered that the Board might consider having a reserve rate somewhere between 10% and 15% as a possible means of freeing up some funds. Mr. Poston stated that this Board has lowered the millage rate by 12% since he came onto the Board in 2008, adding that this Board has been good stewards of taxpayer's money, and should the Board need to visit the subject of raising millage, he is comfortable with that conversation. Mr. Poston stated he is not opposed to a bond referendum; however, he wants to be certain the list of projects has been pared down to absolute necessities versus a wish list so the public can be assured the Board has done its due diligence to determine needs versus wants. Mr. DeFeo added that since he has been on the Board, the Board has lowered the millage rate by 18 mills. Mr. DeFeo also shared that he does not want to finance a bond referendum for anything except new construction, whether new schools or additions. Ms. Heniford shared that she agrees that 15% in reserves is too much.

Mr. Poston joined the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Mr. DeFeo shared that the Board will continue convening a Committee of the Whole until the Board is able to begin resolving these issues.

H. Monitoring Report: OE-9 Communicating with the Public

Mr. Boyd noted this report sets forth the various efforts of the District to communicate with the public. Mr. Poston asked if the District had received any feedback regarding the District's new website. Mr. Boyd noted that the District has not conducted a formal survey; however, the anecdotal information he has

received has been very positive. Mr. Poston asked if the District could seek feedback from its users prior to this item coming back before the Board for a vote. Mr. Boyd's office will seek feedback from the District's website users and will share that information with the Board. Mr. DeFeo noted that previously it was set up for a different Board member to be interviewed each month. He asked that this be restarted and for the spotlight to be included on the District's website to allow the public to get to know their Board members. Mr. DeFeo will develop a schedule for this purpose and get it to Mr. Boyd.

I. Patrol Officers: Internet Access and Lunch

Dr. Maxey noted that this item was discussed previously as a possible community relations piece involving law enforcement. Mr. David Beaty, the District's Coordinator for School Safety, contacted the law enforcement entities within the County, including the municipalities, Horry County Police, Sheriff's Department, and the Highway Patrol, and extended to all of these an invitation to visit our schools at any time and we will provide them with internet access and lunch. We look forward to seeing more law enforcement visiting our schools and hope they will take advantage of this opportunity.

J. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Ashley Gasperson provided an overview of the Horry County Schools Technology Fair held at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. This was the ninth year of the Technology Fair, with 52 schools participating and approximately 700 entries. For the coming year, which will be the 10th year of this event, it will be held on April 10, 2019. Soon after the Technology Fair, the Palmetto Regional First Robotics Competition was held. Sixty-four teams from across the country and two from outside of the country participated, as did a team from each of our high schools.

3. ADJOURN BOARD WORK SESSION/CONVENE SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING

Mr. Hardwick announced publicly that he will recuse himself from discussion of Item 4.B. under Executive Session, citing a conflict of interest.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Discussion of Personnel Recommendations

B. Discussion of Proposed Purchase of Property

Board Action: A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. James to enter into Executive Session for discussion of the above items. The motion carried and the Board moved into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.

Board Action: A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Ms. Heniford to enter into Business Session. The motion carried and the Board moved into Business Session at 8:01 p.m.

5. BUSINESS

A. Consider Ratification of Contract for Purchase of Property

The Board Chair reiterated that Mr. Hardwick recused himself from the discussion on this topic by removing himself from the room.

Board Action: A motion was made by Mr. Cox to approve ratification of an agreement to purchase approximately 1.5 acres of land currently owned by Harold L. and Sylvia H. Chestnut, and is commonly known as the “Stevens Oyster Roast,” located off of Sea Mountain Highway for the purchase price of \$425,000, with the source of the funding to come from the Fund Balance. The motion was seconded by Ms. Heniford. Upon a vote, the motion carried as follows: James, Allen, Cox, Graham, Heniford, Morreale, Timms, and Winters – in favor; Hardwick – recused. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

B. Request to Name Loris High School Weight Room After Mrs. Carolyn Boyd Grainger

Board Action: A motion was made by Mr. Hardwick and seconded by Mr. James to rename the Loris High School Weight Room after Mrs. Carolyn Boyd Grainger in consideration of her generous monetary gift. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

C. Consider Recommended Modular Purchases for the 2018-19 School Year

Board Action: A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Mr. Hardwick to approve the utilization of the Unassigned Fund Balance in the amount of \$1,935,368 to purchase twelve modular classrooms and associated components, with four being for Pee Dee Elementary and eight being for River Oaks Elementary. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Personnel Recommendations as Required by Law

B. Education Fund Distribution – District 2

Board Action: A motion was made by Mr. Winters and seconded by Mr. Hardwick to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Board Action: A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. James to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The Board Chair did not cast a vote on this item.

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS

A summary of the responses follows.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhonda Snowden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rhonda Snowden
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and

Horry County Board of Education

Approved: _____

Board Performance Indicators - 7 Responses

4/16/18

5 = strongly agree, 4 = agree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 2 = disagree, 1 = strongly disagree

Date

Agenda

Reports are clear, well prepared and provide adequate information for decision making.

31 / 4.43

The majority of agenda items focus on our core purpose.

32 / 4.58

Meetings

Our meetings are businesslike, results-oriented and we function like a team.

33 / 4.72

Our discussions are cordial and well balanced (not dominated by just a few members.)

32 / 4.58

Community

Board members make reasonable efforts to inform themselves about education through school visits, professional meetings and outside reading.

31 / 4.43

Board members meet reasonable expectations of involvement by participating in school and other public meetings as representatives of the Board.

33 / 4.72

Board members efficiently address issues and concerns brought to them by the public.

34 / 4.86

Superintendent Relationship

The Board seeks and values the input of the Superintendent as issues are discussed and decisions are made.

33 / 4.72

Work / Policies

Board decisions are based on thoughtful analysis of available information.

33 / 4.72

Board members balance the issues of their district with the needs of the entire school district.

32 / 4.58

The Board places emphasis on building consensus among members through open and honest communication.

32 / 4.58

Comments:

There were no comments.