

Horry County Board of Education



Finance Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, April 15, 2024

Board Members Present:

James Edwards, Finance Committee Chairman
Howard Barnard, Human Resources Committee Chairman & Finance Committee Member
David Cox, Board Chairman
Pam Dawson, Finance Committee Member
Neil James, Finance Committee Member
Debbie Edmonds, Human Resources Committee Member
Wendy Hodges, Human Resources Committee Member
Shanda Allen, Human Resources Committee Member
Janet Graham
Melanie Wellons
David Koch
Tracy Winters

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Rick Maxey, Superintendent	Crystal Gerald
Mary Anderson	Merri Durant
Velna Allen	Russell Tyler
Daryl Brown	Dustin Bishop
John Gardner	Candace Lane
Kenneth Generette	Mark Porter
Boone Myrick	April Scott
Lisa Bourcier	

Others Present:

Darrell Ricketts, Community Member	Frannie Heizer, Burr Forman
Brian Nurick, Compass Municipal	

Media Present:

Nicole Ziege, Post and Courier
Eric Richards, WMBF News entered during Discussion, Item g

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.

Welcome and Introductions

Finance Committee Chairman, James Edwards, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Edwards requested the agenda be amended to reverse Item E and Item H. Item E will now be D&O Insurance and Item H will be Payroll Frequency.

Mr. Barnard moved to approve the amended agenda. Ms. Allen seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Allen moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024 Finance Committee meeting as presented. Mr. James seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Ms. Edmonds moved to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024 Human Resources Committee meeting as presented. Ms. Hodges seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion

a. Funding overview for the 2024 – 2029 Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Nurick reviewed the Building Program Funding Report handout.

b. Issuance of \$225 million General Obligation Bonds for the 2024 – 2029 Capital Improvement Plan

Ms. Heizer shared that she plans to attend the next scheduled Board meeting with two resolutions. One will be to authorize not to exceed \$225 million in General Obligation Bonds and the other will be a Reimbursement resolution.

c. Teacher Salary Increase

Mr. Gardner reviewed the following handouts – Proposed State Minimum Salary Analysis, Select Teacher Salary Information, and Teacher Salary Increases Options.

Mr. Barnard asked what the staff recommendation is. Mr. Gardner stated it all depends on available funding and what the Board would like to do. Mr. James asked Mr. Gardner if we could afford the \$17.6 million. Mr. Gardner replied that he does not think we can afford it based upon the information he has today. He replied he is comfortable that we can afford the \$4.7 million. Mr. Gardner suggested we have another discussion at the next meeting.

d. Teacher Attrition

Ms. Anderson reviewed the handout provided regarding teacher attrition information for a five-year period from 2018 through 2023 to reflect the numbers prior to COVID and after COVID. The first-year numbers include first-year teachers that are new to the district as well as teachers who have previous experience elsewhere but are new to our system. For the 2023-24 school year, nine of the 11 new teachers who have left employment had 25 or more years of teaching experience. Human Resources can provide more detailed information including specific reasons employees provided for leaving employment if requested.

HCS attrition rate is approximately 6.9%. Ms. Anderson will research the attrition rates in other SC districts and relay the information to the Committee. HCS does have an agreement with Coastal Carolina University to provide reduced tuition to teachers.

e. D&O Insurance

Mr. Gardner reviewed the Directors & Officers Liability handout.

Ms. Dawson asked how many underwriters we got quotes from. Mr. Tyler responded that we reached out to seven companies and only two gave us a quote. Mr. Gardner asked the committees if they would like to recommend putting this as a Business Item on the April 29, 2024 Board agenda.

Ms. Hodges moved to add this item to the April 29, 2024 Board agenda. Ms. Dawson seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Gardner stated he would like to have a vote to add Ms. Heizer as a Business item on the April 29, 2024 Board agenda for the resolution to issue \$225 million General Obligation Bonds and the reimbursement resolution.

Mr. Barnard moved to add these items to the April 29, 2024 Board agenda. Ms. Allen seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

f. General Fund – Fund Balance Analysis

Mr. Gardner reviewed the Preliminary Fund Balance 2023 – 24 handout and the Fund Balance Analysis handout. Mr. Gardner recommended the minimum fund balance remain at 15% of the prior year's expenditures. Ms. Graham asked if the 15% helps with our bond rating. Mr. Gardner agreed that it does. Ms. Dawson questioned if we know what Greenville and Charleston's required fund balances are. Mr. Gardner replied that he would share a survey of other school districts.

g. Review of 2024 – 2025 General Fund Budget

(Eric Richards – WMBF news entered the meeting during discussion of Item g)

Mr. Gardner reviewed the Tax Collections handouts from February 12, 2024 and April 15, 2024. He then reviewed the 2024 – 25 General Fund Budget update handout.

Ms. Dawson asked Mr. Gardner to provide backup sheets with each presentation even if you have sent them in the past for cohesion.

Mr. Barnard asked Ms. Anderson to extend an invitation to the head of the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce to come speak with them. He would like her to speak with them about their program for non-English-speaking children. Ms. Anderson agreed.

h. Payroll Frequency Issue – SPED Paraprofessionals

Ms. Dawson questioned if there is a reason we can't pay these employees over 9 months versus 12 months. Mr. Gardner replied that it can be done but there is a process we would have to work through.

Ms. Dawson suggested we defer and talk about it later. She said she would like to know what the associated payroll costs would be.

i. Next Meeting

Mr. Edwards stated he would try to work out a time for the next meeting on 4/29/2024 that does not conflict with other scheduled meetings.

Adjourn

Mr. Barnard moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Dawson; all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Crystal Gerald
Administrative Asst. – Fiscal Services

Approved: _____



Merri DuRant
Administrative Assistant to the Chief Human Resources Officer

Approved: _____