

HORRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES – Board Meeting

August 17, 2009

The following persons were present:

Board Members:	David Cox Joe DeFeo Harvey Eisner Will Garland	MaryEllen Greene Trent Hardee Paul Hudson Kay Loftus	Paul Peterson John Poston Pam Timms
Superintendent	Cindy Elsberry		
District Office Staff:	Gretchen Almeida Cindy Ambrose Edward Boyd James Bradley Teal Britton Dottie Brown Carolyn Chestnut Edi Cox Ed Curlee	Wanda Fulwood John Gardner Kenny Generette Buddy George Ben Hardee Barbara Harrelson Paul Hickman Mollie Laut H.T. Lee	Rick Maxey Gail Moss Boone Myrick Bobby Nalley Beverly Pilkey Jeff Riddle Brian Roessler Judy Stall
Media:	Heather Gale, Myrtle Beach Herald, Horry Independent Claudia Lauer, Sun News		
Meeting Notification:	As required by SC Law §30-4-80, all local news media were informed of the date, time, and purpose of this meeting, and copies of the agenda were posted at the district office. Agenda copies were also distributed to all schools for posting.		

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. The North Myrtle Beach Navy JROTC presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. John Poston offered the invocation.

AGENDA

ACTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Greene, second by Mr. Poston, the Board unanimously approved the agenda with the following revisions/additions:

- ***Add new Business Item: 5.1. City of Conway TIF***
- ***Add new Business Item: 5.2. Nomination for North Myrtle Beach Area Advisory Board Position***
- ***Renumber Nomination for Loris Advisory Board Position (Business 5.3.)***
- ***Renumber Proclamation for Constitution Week (Business 5.4.)***
- ***Renumber Consideration of Implementation of the Latin Honor System (Business 5.5.)***

RECOGNITION

The Board recognized Board Member Trent Hardee for having reached Level 1 of the South Carolina School Boards Association Boardmanship Institute.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen McIlrath – Ms. McIlrath expressed concern regarding the Latin Honor System vs. the current Valedictorian/Salutatorian honor system. She asked the Board to consider a test pilot program with both systems in place to monitor the amount of scholarship money received by students over the next two years.

Cynthia Jones – Ms. Jones asked the Board to reconsider her son's assignment to the Alternative School.

Abdullah Mustafa – Mr. Mustafa expressed his opinion that there is disparity in the district in regards to student discipline, employee matters, and student teacher requirements.

Damian Fowler – Mr. Fowler expressed his desire for a parent-teacher policy reform group/ advocacy group/think tank that will deal specifically with issues of race, hiring practices, and disciplinary action against students. He also wants the group to work as a research think tank that will study areas such as labeling for learning disabilities, curriculum development, school nutrition, etc. This group would inform the public about their findings and advocate the school system for change if needed.

INFORMATION

Board Effectiveness Feedback – Board members reviewed the results of the June 1 Board Effectiveness Feedback and were asked to complete the feedback forms for the meeting in progress.

SCSBA Update – Mrs. Greene informed the Board that the SCSBA School Law training session is coming up and she will provide an update for the board at the next meeting.

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Elsberry reported that most certified staff that was part of the reduction in force have been reassigned. There are five who were on that list who have resigned; other than those, all except for 2-3 people have been reassigned.
- Additional information was provided regarding new hires. Columns were added to the report that showed whether or not the recommended employees are new to the district and their years of experience.
- Board members also received a list of district-wide meetings scheduled in each attendance area. These meetings will involve all district employees and are intended to welcome the staff back and to kick off the new school year. Board members were invited to attend.
- Dr. Elsberry encouraged all audience members to share information with neighbors and friends about the district's registration process and encourage them to register prior to the first day of school.
- Board members received a South Carolina School Health Report. This report provides information regarding steps being taken by the state and by Horry County Schools to address health issues for students.

BUSINESS

City of Conway TIF

ACTION: Mr. DeFeo moved that the Board approve the TIF proposal with the changes the Board of Education requested (in April 2009) integrated into the proposal. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Greene and was approved 10-0-1, with Mr. Poston recusing himself because his firm may be involved with the project.

Chairman Garland reminded Board members that the Board had asked the City of Conway to insert a statement that the Board's approval is contingent upon the Horry County Council's approval. If the County Council doesn't approve the project, the Board's vote is null and void.

Nomination of North Myrtle Beach Area Advisory Board Member

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Eisner, second by Mrs. Greene, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Doug Walters to replace Tony Gore on the North Myrtle Beach Area Advisory Board.

Nomination of Loris Area Advisory Board Member

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cox, second by Mrs. Loftus, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Laura Powers to the Loris Area Advisory Board to replace Neal Rogers, who was unable to serve.

Proclamation for Constitution Week

ACTION: Upon motion by Dr. Peterson, second by Mrs. Loftus, the Board unanimously approved the proclamation by the Board naming September 17-23, 2009 as Constitution Week in Horry County Schools.

Consideration of Implementation of the Latin Honor System

ACTION: *Mrs. Greene moved to approve the proposed Latin Honor System. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eisner.*

ACTION: *Dr. Peterson made a motion to amend the previous motion, implementing the Latin Honor System but retaining the valedictorians and salutatorians. Mr. Hardee seconded the motion for the amendment. The amended motion was approved 7-4, with Eisner, Greene, Hudson, and Cox voting in opposition.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ACTION: *At 7:28 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. Loftus, second by Mr. Hudson, the Board reconvened in Executive Session, following a 10-minute break, to discuss a student appeal.*

OPEN SESSION

ACTION: *At 8:26 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. Greene, second by Mrs. Loftus, the Board reconvened in Open Session.*

BUSINESS

Action Regarding Student Appeal

ACTION: *Upon motion by Mr. Eisner, second by Mrs. Greene, the Board unanimously approved upholding the Appeal Board's decision to send the student to the alternative school for the first quarter of the 2009-10 school year.*

CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION: *Upon motion by Mrs. Greene, second by Mr. Hudson, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Agenda items:*

8.1. Home Schooling Requests

8.2. Personnel Recommendations Required by Law

8.3. Board Meeting Minutes – 04/20/09, 05/04/09, 05/18/09, 06/01/09, 06/24/09

DEBRIEFING

All Board members agreed that they adhered to the principles of Coherent Governance during the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: *At 8:27 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. Loftus, second by Ms. Timms, the meeting was adjourned.*

Wanda J. Fulwood
Exec. Asst. to the Board and Superintendent

Approved: September 21, 2009