



**HILTON HEAD ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE  
June 28, 2021 SPECIAL CALLED Meeting**



**6/25/21: SIC Chair Jenifer Fielding called a “Special SIC Meeting for June 28, 2021 for the reason stated below:**

From: **Jenifer Fielding** <jfielding@sc.rr.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 25, 2021 at 11:00 AM

**Subject: SIC Parents needed Monday 4 PM – JUNE 28, 2021**

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Appropriate use (timeliness included) of the Nov. 2019 Referendum funds that were approved by voters from Hilton Head is an area of focus for the SIC. It has been brought to my attention that one of the main projects approved, turf on our football field, has been delayed.

Please note that Beaufort and Whale Branch High Schools have already had their fields installed. This delay in our field installation has a major impact on our football team and Booster Club. The loss of home game revenue will impact all sports at our high school. All but the final 3 games were scheduled away to accommodate the project. This can not be changed. Now, due to a series of unclear events, the field project will not start this summer as promised.

**There is a meeting on Monday afternoon at 4PM in the media center with officials from the District Office** and we are encouraging SIC members, football team families and others to attend. Please forward this notice to anyone else who may be interested.

Thank you,

Jenifer Fielding  
Hilton Head High School SIC Chair

**Minutes-notes from June 28, 2021, Meeting**

**Meeting began at 4:05 pm**

**In Attendance:**

**At HHIHS’ request From Beaufort County School District Office:** Robert Oetting, PE (Professional Engineer) Director in Charge of Facilities and Tim Summers (HHI Area Construction Project Manager)  
**From HHI HS:**

Steven Schidrich, Jen Fielding, Joe Monmonier (Athletic Director), BJ Payne (Head Football Coach), BOE Member-Ingrid Boatright, Amber Clark, Jeanine Clark, Audrey Clayton, Jan Davis-Vater, Buck Edwards, Marisa Wagner, Sarah Beachkofsky and other parents

**Points of Discussion**

(1.) Day after HHI HS Graduation (6/18/21) – astro turf construction on football field was to start. Evening of actual graduation (6/17/21) – Head football coach was informed by BCSD Maintenance Dept. that Astro-turf construction project was delayed/to be postponed. WHY?

**Note:** Many hours/months already spent to reschedule “away” a number of HHI HS football games to accommodate construction schedule. Incurred cost to transport players to all away games, loss of \$\$ revenues; HHI HS ticket revenue, concessions sales \$\$, plus expenses for parents and fans to drive to additional “away games.”

**Points of Discussion (continued)**

(2.) What happened? Why did BCSD Custodial/Maintenance guy inform Joe Momonier & Coach Payne “relay the delay of Astro turf construction”? No official from BCSD informed HHIHS Principal, Athletic Director or Head Coach about this delay. Why?

**\*Oetting & Summers BCSD response:** “We got stopped by the State of SC”. Even though Nov-Dec 2020 Whale Branch High & Beaufort High were able to get their Astro-turf fields installed. – “using a “Maintenance Project” approach.

\*SIC Chair Jen Fielding: “Town of HHI said there was No formal approval made for the HHI HS Field.”

\*If interpreted as a Maintenance Project there is No Permit Process

\*BCSD reply: Jan-Feb 2021: Architect defined scop, get consultants & get price March 2021 – Architect came back with proposal and stated BCSD needs a Civil Engineer to get permit

\*Six-month process to get proper permit.

\*IF BCSD knew about this delay and would have informed HHI HS – HHI HS could have and would have rescheduled our football games.

\*HHI HS parents asked: Who was BCSD using as an engineering Group?

\***BCSD Answer:** Ward Edwards Engineering Group in Bluffton

\*HHI HS parents: “They failed us – you are telling us that Engineering Firm did not know that Special Permits were required by the State of SC??? There are 7 Storm Water Designated Counties in SC – and Beaufort is one of those seven.”

\*Joe Monmonier & Coach Payne: Why wasn’t HHIHS given a “head up” in March or April about the delay/need for SC State Permit?? Other schools wanted to come to HHIHS to play us vs us having to schedule to go to them since we could not play on our own home field under construction.

\*Why are we having to now go to SC DHEC to get a permit??

\* **BCSD Oetting said** “He would not touch the field at this point (June 28, 2021). Town of Bluffton Bill Baugher (town’s Storm Water Manager) went to DHEC to find out what permit needed.

\*Coach Payne- “So May River High will now be allowed to get their Astro turf 6 months to 1 year ahead of schedule? And HHI HS has no permit now?”

\*We researched/learned: HHI Jeff Buckalew is HHI Storm Water Manager.

\*We asked Oetting: “Who at DHEC is our application permit being sent to?”

\*Oetting/Summers to provide that info to Principal Steve Schidrich.

\***We informed Oetting and Summers:**

\*\*A number of SIC members have personal relationships with HHI Town Council members and our SC State Rep. from HHI and we will and can ask their help.

\*We also learned that HHI HS Track is to be resurfaced every 10 years. Other BCSD High school have has this done. HHI HS’ track has not had this done.

\*BCSD- since heavy equipment going to be used to insert astro-turf our track should also be resurfaced.

\*SIC Chair Jen Fielding asked Oetting – if some monetary \$\$ adjustment could be made directly to HHI HS due to lost revenue, Local businesses sponsorship \$\$, etc. incurred expense to travel for away games, for students and parents of players, etc.

\*Oetting – to look into this.

\***Info from SC DHEC-** it is taking 40 to 70 days to receive permits from the State.

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**OTHER HHI HS PLANNED THIS SUMMER ARCHITECTURE IMPROVEMENTS:**

**UPDATE:** Tim Summers (HHI Area Construction Project Manager)

\*Field House Drawing has been designed.

\*Front entrance security improvements – takes 3 weeks. 6/28/21: still under Architectural Review  
\*Design of HI HS school renovations OR new location on campus starts Spring 2022

\*Coach Payne comments: We have 8 weeks to get new field installed. Having problem with filed lights, too.

October 8, 2021 – is our FIRST scheduled home football game

\*BOE Mbr. Ingrid Boatright & SIC Members politely reminded Oetting and Summers that HHI residents and parents have high expectations --- and occurring issues and delays such as the above Astro turf will be detrimental when we are trying to get another Referendum passed in 2023.

**Meeting Adjourned:** at 5:30 pm.

\*Minutes/notes recorded and  
Respectfully submitted by:

*Jan Davis-Vater  
HHI HS School Improvement Council (SIC) Secretary 2020-2021*