

School Board Forum Q and A

Understand that the answers are not a consensus of the board as some issues are not agreed upon by our complete board. Some answers were only from 1-2 board members.

School Board Forum Questions must be submitted the Friday prior to the monthly board meeting to be brought to the board.

December 8th, 2025

1. What have you seen in regards to testing scores and student grades as class sizes increase and open enrollment increases? Any comments on our SD school report card score/s?

We have not seen a trend in grade levels with test scores, but we have seen a trend in various classes. Some classes have found great success, while other classes have struggled to meet benchmark. We have split classes that are bigger, but a big class size has not necessarily led to lower test scores. We have had bigger classes test well and smaller classes struggle in some cases. We do have a good plan together to help with struggling test scores, specifically in the middle school.

2. At what point would the district consider capping open enrollment now and in the future?

The board will accept open enrollment until our building is at capacity. We understand that in many classes, our current school environment is almost at capacity. With the master planning process, there are discussions about increasing the capacity in the future.

3. What resources are in place for those students who are excelling in their class to continue to do so?

Split Classes: When possible, we create split-level or flexible grouping opportunities that allow advanced students to work at an accelerated pace or engage with higher-level material.

Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Programs: Students can extend their learning beyond the classroom through activities such as academic clubs, fine arts, STEM opportunities, and other enrichment programs that match their interests and strengths.

Expanded Dual Credit Options: For high-school juniors and seniors, we are working to increase the number of dual-credit courses available, giving students the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school.

Genius Hour for High-Performing K–8 Students: Beginning this year, we are implementing a Genius Hour model for students who score at a high level on MAP testing. This will allow them to explore passion-based projects, conduct deeper learning, and build advanced problem-solving skills.

September 8th, 2025

1. A question was posed on the security of the building and possible emergency plans that the school has in place.

Student Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority. Last year, the district invested in a security communication app to assist with lockdown procedures and provide an immediate communication tool for staff during emergencies. This tool enhances our ability to respond swiftly and effectively in crises.

In addition, we have implemented a new emergency procedure protocol this year. This updated plan outlines various types of emergency responses and introduces consistent language and action steps across all buildings to ensure clarity and coordination during high-stress situations. We will place these documents online under the parent information tab for your viewing.

While the full details of these protocols are shared only with staff to protect the integrity and effectiveness of our procedures, please be assured that our team receives ongoing training and preparedness planning. This approach ensures that we are ready to act swiftly and appropriately in any emergency—keeping our students and staff as safe as possible.

April 13th, 2025

1. Why wasn't a deadline included in the Jan 9 proposal sent to Henry?

The school board felt that this was a matter that doesn't need to be rushed.

2. Is it fair to say Henry is 'dragging its feet' or not taking co-op discussions seriously in hopes the issue will just blow over?

No

3. Have the actions of Henry admin/school board since Nov 11 changed how you would have voted?

No

February 10th, 2025

1. Why is the CO-OP not going to a public vote as it affects everyone? I know the board is voted in as people we think will have the best interest but from what I can see is there are a couple out for themselves and that's it.

Cory thinks it may be a better plan to have people vote. Give people the chance. There was some discussion on how to do it and if it were legal. We discussed if it was fair to

just do in district or include out of district patrons as well. It needs to be understood that regardless of the route that is taken that people will not be happy about it.

2. Why are the 3 SO against the CO-OP? What is it affecting them personally that Henry is included in our sports program?

They are thinking that they are representing the people and that the people in this district would vote it down.

3. Why was my question not answered last month about the kid with 3 strikes not answered?

Personnel and Student matters cannot be discussed in an open forum. This may have been addressed but has to be done in a closed session.

January 14th 2025

Sports Coop

1. Why was the conflict of interest not brought up in any prior sports coop votes/discussions?

This concern was brought to a few board members and they did their due diligence to look into the matter. The question was asked to our school attorney and they brought the findings to the board.

2. What was the board's thoughts on when the proposal was delivered (two days before the vote).

Some board members felt that it would have been better to receive it earlier to help assess the state of the coop and review the new terms. One board member said it did not impact their thoughts on the state of the coop. It was mentioned that this should have been discussed with both boards to try and work it out.

3. What was the school board's reasoning for taking the Henry name off on the new proposal?

Some of the board members want to be associated with just Florence. It is a Florence pride thing. We want to associate with just our community and continue to grow that.

Miscellaneous Items

1. Does the board ever plan to livestream board meetings.

There is not an appetite for this at this time. When area schools were polled, 10 did not livestream board meetings and 4 did.

2. What does the strategic plan process look like for our school district?

We currently have a 5 year capital outlay plan and 2 year goals that are set to determine the needs of our school district. A board member did make a comment about possibly looking at 7-10 years out to discuss future growth and other things that are beyond that 2 year window. The school board will continue talks to address this.

December 9th 2024

Sports Coop

1. How is the school board responding to the negative publicity of breaking the coop?

This situation has both positive and negative publicity. The school board forum and superintendent notes clearly communicate this.

2. Could we get a short timeline of when the Florence School Board first met this fall with concerns about the coop and when the Henry School Board approved their proposal?

September 18th- Henry School notifies the public of a bullying incident.

September 23rd- Special board meeting to discuss bullying policies and sports coop.

October 14th—We discussed the sports coop in detail, examining the impacts of recent events and its future.

November 4th- The School Board hosted a special meeting to answer questions posed in the school board forum.

November 9th- Proposal was sent over to Florence from Henry

November 11th- A vote was taken to end the coop.

Enrollment/Splitting Classes

1. What happens if the 4th grade class with the highest enrollment—29 kids—has 30 students next year?

We will look at the number of students and different variables of each class (IEPs, behaviors, other factors). We are currently capped and are not taking out-of-school district students unless it is a special situation.

2. When looking at enrollment, are we basing the coop on having enough on our own? Are there plans to grow our school, and if so, how big? Does the board have a strategic plan in place for growth?

We are not interested in actively growing but are embracing the growth that we will encounter moving forward. The school district has a 5-year capital outlay plan as well as two-year goals that include our growth and how to navigate it.

3. What is the school's plan to build another elementary school? Once we have that, will we need another building for high school?

With our current state, we will struggle to build. We do not generate enough taxes to do that and believe a bond at this time is not wise either. The board is looking at some options, such as bringing in mobile classrooms to fulfill the need.

4. What is the board's policy on open enrollment? At what point do we determine how many class sections to run?

We currently have a policy JECB that discusses our open enrollment policy and how it all works. We are currently closed for the 2024-2025 school year.

Miscellaneous

1. Would the school board ever consider taking action to support property tax dollars following the student or the property owners being able to choose where their funds go?

This would be a legislative matter at this point.

2. Florence has one of the lowest tax bases in the state. Is there potential for rezoning in the future?

This would be a legislative matter at this point.

3. If we discuss transportation issues and growing our school, we will probably need more transportation. Then what if we don't have enough transportation?

We are currently working on different transportation options. This will be a fluid situation. We are currently staffed well and have purchased a new minibus to help with the burden.

4. When is the current bond up on the new gym?

2034

5. What office space was spoken about to be put into the bus barn?

A small area to be used more as a vestibule. Nothing spectacular.

November 11th, 2024

Sports Coop

1. If the co-op is ended, what happens if there is a year Florence doesn't have enough kids to field a team, whether football, basketball etc., and we have no options for a co-op then?

JV teams were discussed by a few board members.

2. With the clause below, was Florence School Board involved with the hiring of staff? New hiring, rehiring and termination will be decided collectively by the Florence and Henry administration and will be approved by the entire coop sports boards. In the event of a tie, a score will be set on the evaluation. If we cannot agree, we can move outside our district for assistance.

The Florence School Board approved the hiring of the head coach. The head coach helps to make his/her staff with general oversight by athletic directors.

3. With questionable morals and ethics being a prime issue with Florence's coop partner. How does the Florence faculty and administrators assure its students safety while practicing outside its facilities and in the facilities of a school where repeatedly serious issues keep coming up?

This school administration does not find this to be an issue as all schools, including our own, have things we are working through. We have hired good people to lead our teams and programs that will have the students best interest in mind.

November 4th, 2024

1. What is the main reason that you are using to decide the future of the coop with Henry?

We have not seen alignment in culture for 15 years that Kathy has sat on the board. She believes that ethics have been an issue and it is time to cut those ties. We have things in our district that need all of our attention, it is time to be done and start focusing on those things.

2. What are the benefits of ending the co-op?

We have great facilities here and we want to use them. More home games would build a better community here in Florence. We have issues filling bus drivers. With two athletic directors, communication issues and flexibility can be a struggle. Being able to do things in one building would make the process easier.

3. If going to class B is a sticking point, don't you believe that we will end up being class A by ourselves if we continue to grow?

If we continue to grow, we will be A at some point. Some of the board members are not concerned with going either A or B. We are worried about going 11 man if that would ever come to fruition. Without changes to alignment, It is shown that on 30/31 that 11 man will be inevitable.

4. Why do we bring up the coop every meeting? We are on a two year agreement.

The topic does come up from time to time in the board meeting. We tend to discuss the coop when issues or incidents arise.

5. If the coop breaks, are we looking at coaching shortages, participation in activities, practice facilities, playing facilities, and extended sports opportunities such as Golf?

The plan would be to keep our sports opportunities and even plan to add wrestling in the future. Coaching shortages is an issue that we are dealing with and will continue to deal with so breaking the coop will not help that. It is believed by some on the board that breaking the coop may add participants in a few sports. Gym space is an issue if breaking the coop as teams will have to practice in the morning and later in the evening.

6. Would it be an option for Florence/Henry Coop at the end of the current agreement to require Henry to come to Florence for all activities. Other schools Henry's size are in that boat.

Negotiating happened after the last contract was up and some of the issues discussed were turned down (1 AD, game share). The board would be open to a

proposal from the Henry board.

7. Why do you feel that attrition rate for youth to varsity sports is at 50%?

Many reasons are for this but the topics talked most about are lack of passion, way more opportunities for our students, students working, and too competitive.

8. Do you think the school would ever look for a 3rd school to coop with in football?

No one else around us to really go with at this time.

9. Because of recent events in Henry, has the Florence School lost any students?

No

10. When under contract in the coop, what happens to our schedules? Do we pay a penalty for leaving the contract? Is there a copy of the contract available to share with the public?

I will be posting the Articles of Cooperation at the bottom of this document.

11. What are both Florence and Henry Boards doing to promote the Sports COOP?

The boards meet 3 times a year, AD's work together to create the best environment.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H6yAM6uETyY9OKxw0Cs-qHfNmdQWV4sx/edit>