

Pinellas County Schools

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Regular School Board Meeting

September 26, 2006

Tuesday, 05:00 PM

School Administration Building

301 Fourth Street SW

Largo, FL 33997

Attendees

Lanse Johansen, Chief Business Officer	<i>non-voting</i>
Deborah Beaty, Adm. Assistant	<i>non-voting</i>
Clayton Wilcox, Supt. & Ex- Officio Sec.	<i>non-voting</i>
Mary L. Russell, Board Member	
Julie Janssen, Deputy Superintendent	<i>non-voting</i>
James Robinson, School Board Attorney	<i>non-voting</i>
Mary L. Tyus Brown, Board Member	
Jane Gallucci, Board Member	
Linda S. Lerner, Board Member	
Janet R. Clark, Board Member	
Carol J. Cook, Board Member	
Nancy N. Bostock, Chairman	

Meeting Minutes

A. Invocation

1. Invocation by Pastor Ronald E. Williams, Sr., Mt. Olive AME Church, 600 Jones Street, Clearwater

Minutes

Pastor Williams was unable to attend this meeting as scheduled. Dr. Ronald Stone, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources and Public Affairs, presented a Thought for the Day. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

1. National Anthem Project Video

Minutes

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a video was shown of the All County High School Orchestra & Chorus performing the National Anthem.

2. Azalea Middle School Video

Minutes

A video was shown to highlight the students, staff, and programs at Azalea Middle School.

C. Introduction of Professional and Community Organization Reps

1. Introduction of Representatives of Professional and Community Organizations by Dr. Ron Stone, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources and Public Affairs

Minutes

Dr. Stone introduced the following representatives: Michelle Dennard, PCTA; Mayme Hodges, North Pinellas Retired Teachers Association; Amy McAuley, PCCPTA; Kyle Futch and Lauren Growney, Students Rights & Responsibilities Representatives; St. Petersburg High School; Maria Cantonis, Pinellas Arts for a Complete Education Coalition; Bob McIntyre, Terry Boehm, and Steve Shepard, Pinellas Education Foundation; Bernadette Craig, Bank of America Market President; Dr. Barbara Hires, Oscar Robinson, and Michael Bessette, Operations Team; Birgit Van Hout, the Tampa Bay Community Organization; Tom Tobin, The St. Petersburg Times.

D. Explanation of Process for Signing up to Speak

1. Meeting Procedures

Minutes

Mrs. Brown reviewed the process to be followed by the audience for participation at School Board meetings and guidelines to be followed for all members of the audience during these proceedings.

E. Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Gallucci and seconded by Mrs. Brown to adopt the agenda.

Dr. Wilcox requested that the Board add an item to the Special Order Agenda as Item F, a legal opinion by the School Board Attorney on the legal requirements regarding racial ratios in subsequent student assignment plans.

Dr. Wilcox reminded the Board Members that they had received a substitution for page 15, the Job Description for the Chief Operating Officer, Pinellas Technical Education Centers.

PULL: CONSENT #1, page 12, pages 14-16 and pages 34-43; and,#9

Mrs. Bostock reminded the Board that they had received updated language for Consent #3 - Revised Interagency Agreement with Local Law Enforcement Agencies.

The motion to adopt the agenda, as amended, was carried with a 7-0 vote.

F. Special Order Agenda

1. Presentation by Student Rights and Responsibilities - St. Petersburg High School

Minutes

Kyle Futch and Lauren Growney, Students Rights & Responsibilities Committee representatives from St. Petersburg High School, addressed the Board to share information regarding activities and achievements taking place at their school.

2. Presentation by Ms. Bernadette Craig, Bank of America Market President, and Mr. Terry Boehm, President, Pinellas Education Foundation

Minutes

Mr. Boehm introduced Ms. Craig who, in turn, introduced the 2006-07 Bank of America Incubator Grant eight finalists as follows, presenting each with a certificate and a check for \$250.00:

John Flint, PTEC - St. Petersburg

Beth Griffin, Lakeview Fundamental Elementary School
Ann Hunt, Dunedin High School
Michael Meilak, Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School
Michael Feeney, Forest Lakes Elementary School
Lucinda Parramore, Osceola Middle School
Holly Roush, Pinellas Park Middle School
Kathy Zell, Skyview Elementary School

These individuals were greeted and congratulated by Dr. Wilcox and the School Board Members.

Ms. Craig announced the following winners and the amounts that they will be awarded to fund their projects:

Beth Griffin, \$9000.00
Michael Meilak, \$9000.00
Holly Roush, \$10,000

Ms. Craig invited the Board Members to the awards ceremony on October 20 at the Stavros Institute.

Dr. Wilcox thanked Ms. Craig, Bank of America, and the Education Foundation for their support.

3. Introduction of Newly Appointed Administrators

Minutes

Dr. Wilcox introduced the following Newly Appointed Administrators:
Ms. Constance I. Kolosey, Supervisor, Secondary Reading & Language Arts
Mr. Jerry D. Ditty, Supervisor, Industrial Technology & Agribusiness Education
Dr. Herman Allen, Principal, Palm Harbor University High School
Ms. Gwendolyn B. Anderson, Principal, Norwood Secondary School
Mr. Albert C. Bennett, Principal, St. Petersburg High
Ms. Antelia Campbell, Principal, Gibbs High
Ms. Marilyn K. Cromwell, Principal, Sutherland Elementary
Ms. Mary Jane Dann, Principal, Doug Jamerson Elementary
Dr. Dallas C. Jackson, Principal, Thurgood Marshall Middle School
Ms. Patricia E. LaVoy, Principal, Bayside High
Mr. Keith M. Mastorides, Principal, Clearwater High
Ms. Paulagene D. Nelson, Principal, Boca Ciega High
Ms. Sharon Porter, Principal, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Elementary
Mr. Robert W. Poth, Jr., Principal, Cypress Woods Elementary
Mr. David B. Rosenberger, Principal, Coachman Fundamental Middle
Ms. Karen L. Russell, Principal, Clearwater Avenue Elementary
Mr. Philip H. Wirth, Principal, Riviera Middle

These individuals were greeted and congratulated by the School Board Members.

4. Presentation by Mr. James Robinson, School Board Attorney: Legal Requirements Regarding Racial Ratios for the 2007-08 and Subsequent Student Assignment Plans.

Minutes

Mrs. Cook read the following statement: "Prior to this evenings meeting, the Board Members participated in a workshop to discuss our Unitary Status Agreement on which our Choice Plan is based. We wanted to build common understanding about some of the issues related to our plan. The Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, and members of our Choice Office met with School Board Attorney, Jim Robinson. Mr. Robinson offered a legal opinion to guide the Board in future conversations and actions. We have asked him to share that opinion with you this evening as it will likely appear in the media tomorrow morning. Today's workshop is part of a larger effort by the Board. During the next school year the Board intends to receive information from the community at large and the Choice Task Force. The Choice Task Force is looking at multiple issues, including student transportation, participation in activities, diversity, and student achievement. The Board Members have agreed to withhold further comment this evening so as not to turn

the Board meeting into an extension of this afternoon's workshop."

Mr. Robinson stated that in formulating his opinion, he looked at two documents that arose from the Bradley law suit: the December 17, 1999 "Stipulation for Unitary Status in the Areas of Extracurricular Activities, Faculty Assignment, Student Assignment, Relative Quality of Education, and Mandatory Injunction"; and, the August 16, 2000 "Amended Final Order Withdrawing Federal Supervision and Granting Unitary Status to the Public Schools of Pinellas County, Florida". Mr. Robinson stated that the following two issues were raised during the Board's recent workshop: 1) What is the student assignment plan that must be in place for the 2007-08 and subsequent school years? and 2) To what extent, if any, do these two documents remain in effect and bind the School Board following the 2007-08 school year? In conclusion, Mr. Robinson stated that racial ratios no longer exist after the 2006-07 school year; that an extension would be subject to challenge on constitutional grounds, and, based upon applicable case law, it is unlikely that the court would grant an extension; that, except for the elimination of racial ratios, no new or modified student assignment plan is required to be in place in 2007-08; and, in accordance with the parties' intent that the general principles would then no longer apply, the School Board may choose to adopt through rulemaking whatever student assignment plans it chooses, and such plans shall be governed only by constitutional principles and other applicable law. Mr. Robinson's complete opinion was presented to the Board in writing.

G. Unfinished Business

1. Request Approval of the Recommendation to Accept the Stipulation to Suspend Ms. Tawney Taylor, Physical Education Teacher Assistant, 74th Street Elementary School, for Ten (10) Days Without pay and to Attend Remedial Crisis Prevention Intervention Training

Minutes

It was moved Mrs. Gallucci and seconded by Mrs. Brown to accept the Stipulation to Suspend Ms. Tawney Taylor for ten (10) days without pay and to require her attendance at Remedial Crisis Prevention Intervention Training.

Mrs. Lerner questioned whether the Stipulation could have been done any sooner. Ms. Laurie Dart, Staff Attorney, responded.

The motion was carried with a 7-0 vote to accept the Stipulation to Suspend Ms. Tawney Taylor for ten (10) days without pay and to require her attendance at Remedial Crisis Prevention Intervention Training. (Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #113.)

H. Consent

It was moved by Mrs. Gallucci, seconded by Mrs. Brown, and carried with a 7-0 vote to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended.

1. Request Approval of Personnel Recommendations: Personnel Actions as Recommended by the superintendent

Minutes

The following portions of the Personnel Actions were pulled for discussion by Mrs. Russell. Page 12 -- Coordinator, Communications & Marketing -- It was moved by Mrs. Bostock and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve Page 12, as submitted. Mrs. Russell questioned what the responsibilities will be for this position and whether this person will provide assistance to magnet programs and attractors to our schools. Andrea Zahn, Director of Communications, stated that this is a replacement for the position she held prior to becoming the Director of Communications and gave a brief description of the responsibilities.

Ms. Zahn stated that magnet programs and attractors will be a part of the Choice portion of the Communications Plan and, therefore, included in these responsibilities. The motion to approve page 12, as submitted, was carried with a 7-0 vote.

Pages 14-15-16 -- Chief Operating Officer, PTEC --It was moved by Mrs. Bostock and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the Personnel Actions contained on these pages, as submitted. Mrs. Russell stated that

she pulled these pages in order to vote against them, commenting that she feels it is an "inappropriate position." Ms. Clark stated that she would prefer that the position require the minimum of a Masters degree.

Mrs. Lerner stated that she had put forth some suggested language to indicate that the person should be one who has developed and directed a model vocational program. Dr. Wilcox stated that staff thought they had captured Mrs. Lerner's intention in the added language that appears on the revised job description under "PREFERRED." Mrs. Lerner stated that she would prefer that this added language appear under "MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS." Discussion followed by Board Members and Dr. Wilcox.

It was moved by Ms. Clark and seconded by Mrs. Russell to amend the job description to state that a Masters Degree is part of the minimum qualifications. Discussion followed. This motion failed with a 2-5 vote, Ms. Clark and Mrs. Russell being the only affirmative votes.

It was moved by Mrs. Lerner, seconded by Mrs. Gallucci, and carried with a 6-1 vote, Mrs. Russell voting against, to move the following language from "PREFERRED" to "MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS" following "United States Military rank": "...or experience leading a career education technical team center or vocational post secondary school...."

The original motion to approve pages 14,15 and 16, as amended, was carried with a 5-2 vote, Ms. Clark and Mrs. Russell voting against.

Pages 34-43 - "Reading Endorsement" and "Teachers to Teach Out-of-Field" -- It was moved by Mrs. Bostock and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve pages 34-43 of the Personnel Actions, as submitted.

Mrs. Russell questioned what the district plans to do for teachers teaching out-of-field in the area of reading to bring them into compliance. Both Dr. Wilcox and Dr. Harry Brown, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum Services, responded to Mrs. Russell's question. Mrs. Russell stated her desire that these teachers receive a stipend during their effort to achieve their reading endorsement. The motion to approve pages 34-43, as submitted, was carried with a 6-1 vote, Mrs. Russell voting against. (Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #113.)

2. Request Approval of Staffing Agreement with Juvenile Welfare Board

Minutes

Approved as submitted.(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #113.)

3. Approval of Interagency Agreement by and Among The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, and The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the Cities of Belleair, Belleair Beach, Clearwater, Gulfport, Indian Shores, Kenneth City, Largo, Pinellas Park, Pinellas County Schools Police Department, St. Petersburg, St. Pete Beach, Tarpon Springs, and Treasure Island

Minutes

Approved as submitted, with updated language.(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #113.)

4. Request Approval of Legal Services Agreements with Law Firms Identified in Attachment "A"

Minutes

Approved as submitted.(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #113.)

5. District Monitoring and Advisory Committee (DMAC) Recommendations

Minutes

Mrs. Cook informed the Board that she had received Speaker Request Forms for both Item #5 and Item #11. It was moved by Mrs. Gallucci, seconded by Mrs. Brown, and carried with a 7-0 vote to reconsider their action on these two items.

Item #5 - Pulled to allow the following member of the audience to addressed the Board -- It was moved by Mrs. Gallucci and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the DMAC Recommendations as indicated on pages 93-95.

Michelle Dennard, PCTA -- Addressed the Board to state that her organization is very interested in working collaboratively with the Superintendent and the Board regarding the Quality of Education section of the recommendations. Ms. Dennard also requested that the Board give consideration to the research on how students learn, specifically the starting times for middle and high school students. Ms. Dennard stated that the "hold harmless provision" for teachers is being worked on at the collaborative bargaining table and that "we need to come full circle and work together in a coordinated effort to look at student achievement."

The motion was carried with a 7-0 vote to approve the DMAC Recommendations as indicated on pages 93-95.

6. Request Approval of the Following Special Projects: a) Renewal of Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Entitlement Grant: \$419,564.21 b) Agreement with Consortium for Social Responsibility and Character in Education: \$30,000 c) Agreement with Community Tampa Bay: \$40,000

Minutes

Approved as submitted.(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #113.)

7. Request Approval of the Financial Statements for Month Ending July 31, 2006 for Fiscal Year 2006-2007

Minutes

Approved as submitted.

8. Request Approval of the Annual Financial Report (05/06) (Report will be submitted to School Board under separate cover.)

Minutes

Approved as submitted.

9. Request Approval to Renew the Agreement With the Florida Holocaust Museum for the 2006-07 School Year

Minutes

This item was pulled by Mrs. Gallucci.

It was moved by Mrs. Gallucci and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the Renewal of the Agreement with the Florida Holocaust Museum for the 2006-07 School Year.

Mrs. Gallucci stated that both Mrs. Bostock and she have received calls from Dr. Cheslock who expressed his concern that other ethnic groups be included in the curriculum presented at the Holocaust Museum, specifically those from Poland. Dr. Cheslock shared with Mrs. Gallucci and Mrs. Bostock that six million people from Poland lost their lives during the Holocaust and he has requested that this part of history be included in the curriculum presented to the students by the museum. Both Mrs. Bostock and Mrs. Gallucci requested that Administration ensure that the museum's curriculum recognize all ethnic groups impacted by the Holocaust and that the curriculum be accurate. Mrs. Cook requested that Dr. Wilcox and his staff follow up on this request. Mrs. Lerner spoke of her experience while serving on the Holocaust Museum's education committee. Dr. Wilcox assured the Board that Dr. Brown and he have begun to look at the curriculum offered at the museum. The motion to approve the Renewal of the Agreement was carried with a 7-0 vote. (Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #113.)

10. Request Approval of Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) Certification of Facilities Data

Minutes

Approved as submitted.

11. Request Approval of a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$15,769,219 for an Energy Retrofitting and Renovation Project at Osceola High School

Minutes

Item #11 - Pulled to allow the following member of the audience to address the Board. It was moved by Mrs. Gallucci and seconded by Mrs. Brown to approve the GMP of \$15,769,219 for the Osceola High School project.

The following member of the audience addressed the Board:

Mark Klutho -- Addressed the Board to say that this effort is too late and that the district is "throwing good dollars after bad."

Ms. Clark questioned when the energy management report will be presented. Dr. Wilcox stated that he is not sure but that Dr. Tomalesky is working on that report.

The motion was carried with a 7-0 vote to approve a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$15,769,219 for an Energy Retrofitting and Renovation Project at Osceola High School.

Following this item, the Board recessed at 6:35 p.m. and reconvened at 6:47 p.m.

12. Request Approval of Bids to Vendors at Prices in Bid Documents in Accordance with Bid Policies and Statutes

Minutes

Approved as submitted.(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #113.)

I. Nonconsent

J. Presentations from the Audience

1. Presentation by Ms. Sheila Nahmias

Minutes

Ms. Nahmias did not attend this meeting.

2. Presentation by Ms. Suzette Rich

Minutes

Ms. Rich, owner of a piece of property in the area that is being acquired in order to expand Largo High School, addressed the Board to ask that the Board direct Jim Miller to accept the counter offer presented to him by her attorney. Dr. Wilcox and Mr. Miller, Director of Real Property, stated that it is not as simple as just directing Mr. Miller to accept the offer and that the district feels the offer made is a fair one, based on appraisal value. Mr. Miller stated that he will continue to work with the owner.

3. The following individuals signed up to speak to the Board under Presentations from the Audience, following Ms. Rich's presentation:

Lenore Faulkner -- Addressed the Board to say that she is the advocate for a world-class technology school at Pinellas Park Middle.

Mark Klutho -- Addressed the Board to say that the district is building stupid schools that "belch carbon into the atmosphere."

Arlene Hamlin -- Addressed the Board to state that she has a child with special needs and requested that the child be placed in a different school. Dr. Wilcox requested that Mr. Michael Bessette, Area Superintendent, meet with the parent to discuss her concerns.

Suzanne Charneski -- Addressed the Board to express her concern with the process she is going through in

order to place her child in a school after moving from Area A to Area B. Dr. Wilcox requested that Dr. Janssen meet with the parent to discuss her concern.

K. New Business

1. Items Introduced by Board Members

Minutes

Mrs. Cook -- Reminded everyone that the Support Employee of the Year applications are due by October 4 and that the applications may be found on the district's website.

2. Items Introduced by Superintendent

Minutes

Dr. Wilcox stated that he had no report.

3. Items Introduced by Attorney

Minutes

Mr. Robinson stated that he had no report.

4. Board Reports

Minutes

Ms. Clark -- 1) Thanked Dr. Wilcox for having the link for Special Olympics placed on the district's website.

Ms. Clark reminded people that volunteers are needed for the Area 6 Special Olympic bowling competition this coming Saturday and that those interested may receive further information by visiting that link.

Mrs. Brown -- 1) Encouraged parents to join their child's school PTA and SAC organizations and become involved in their schools.

Mrs. Lerner -- 1) Stated that she missed the item presented to the Board previously regarding the district's agreement with the Boy Scouts, that she does not want to ask for reconsideration of that item at this time, but wanted to reiterate her feelings at this time. Mrs. Lerner stated that this organization produces a Learning for Life curriculum which is purchased through state dollars for use with our students. Mrs. Lerner stated that she disagrees with this organization for their policy that discriminates against gay, lesbian, and transgender children and adults; and, that she will send a large donation to the Boy Scouts of America when they change that policy. Mrs. Lerner read a portion of a letter from the President of the organization, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, who speaks against the use of the Boy Scouts Learning for Life curriculum in our public schools.

Mrs. Gallucci -- 1) Urged Board Members to contact their Federal Legislators to encourage continued and increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. 2) Urged the Board Members to watch with vigilance the panel that is reevaluating the NCLB law which is being considered for reauthorization.

Mrs. Cook -- 1) Stated that the Board met with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) yesterday (9/25/06) and that the BCC talked about scheduling a joint meeting between the School Board, the BCC, and the local Legislators. Mrs. Cook stated that December 12 is being considered but that the exact date and time will be identified and forwarded to the School Board Members. 2) Stated that the Board had previously talked about scheduling the topic of "Affordable Housing" on a future workshop agenda and questioned whether the Board is still interested in doing so. The Board Members agreed and this topic will be placed on a future workshop, as soon as possible, without bumping topics already scheduled. 3) Stated that she has been hearing much about the program from USF, "Positive Behavior System" and requested that Dr. Wilcox acquire additional information and share that with the Board. Dr. Wilcox agreed to do so.

5. School Board Meeting Evaluation

Minutes

Not applicable.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, this meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

1. The above listed recommendations to the School Board of Pinellas County are submitted for consideration and approval at the meeting of September 26, 2006.

Superintendent of Schools

Minutes

Board Chairman

Superintendent