

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA
March 3, 2009

The District School Board of Pasco County met in regular session at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2009, in the Board Room, District Office Complex, Building 3, 7205 Land O' Lakes Boulevard, Land O' Lakes, Florida. Present were Chairman Frank Parker, Vice Chairman Allen Altman and Board Members Joanne Hurley and Kathryn Starkey. Cathi Martin was absent due to personal reasons. Also present were Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent, and Dennis Alfonso, Attorney for the Board.

The meeting was opened with the reading of the School Board's vision statement and was followed with the thought for the day by Chairman Parker and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Chairman asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Troy Keane, 11th grade student at River Ridge High School and Mrs. Mitty P. Locke, retired principal.

The Chairman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting and workshops of February 17, 2009 and Employee Appeal Hearing of February 10, 2009. There was none, and on motion by Member Starkey, seconded by Member Altman, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Chip Wichmanowski, Director of the Pasco Education Foundation, coordinated the special presentations as follows:

- Recognition of R.B. Stewart Middle School's Outstanding Design & Award of Merit – Williams Dacar and Associates, Architects and Peter Brown Construction, Construction Manager
- Recognition of Gulf Trace Elementary School's Award of Merit – Holmes Hepner Architects and Creative Contractors, Inc.

The Board recessed for pictures and the Chairman called the meeting back to order at 9:55 a.m.

The Chairman asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Board.

Student apologies:

- Tyler – Stealing iPod at Gulf High School (attends Schwettman Adult Ed. Center)
- Benjamin – Controlled substance at Hudson High School
- Kyle – Hit a staff member at Schwettman Adult Ed. Center

The Chairman asked if the United School Employees of Pasco had anything to present. Lynne Webb, President of the USEP, remarked that just under 100 Pasco people participated in a rally Saturday at the University of Central Florida arena. She noted that the district has done a good job on disseminating information to employees and parents on the results of all the budget cuts and she encouraged everyone to continue to communicate with legislators in supporting education. Another rally is scheduled in Tallahassee on March 18, 2009.

Individual Board members presented and discussed items.

Member Hurley visited Athenian Charter School and attended the Save Our Schools event and the Swamp Fest at Land O'Lakes High School.

Member Starkey attended the Special Olympics and a luncheon at Bayonet Point Middle School.

Member Starkey requested that Board member discussion be placed at the end of the agenda and the Board committee reports be placed at the beginning of the meeting.

At Member Starkey's request, there was consensus that Member Hurley replace her on the Charter School task force committee.

Member Altman met with Representative Weatherford on budget and road issues.

Chairman Parker attended the Bayonet Point Middle School luncheon.

(1.0) Reports, Information and Comments:

Superintendent Fiorentino commented that the new budget committee met and plans to meet again to share ideas. An email address has been set up to receive suggestions. Board members asked for a copy of the suggestions and/or minutes of the meetings.

Superintendent Fiorentino joined other district superintendents recently in Gainesville to meet with the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Discussions were held on the Federal Stimulus Plan. She noted that it will be mid April before we know what money, if any, will be received and the criteria for spending it. Information is being compiled in a one page format to help the Board with talking points on the budget.

Mrs. Reilly noted that the allocation guideline should be available at the next board meeting.

Board Members were shown the architectural drawings of the remodeling project for Pasco Middle School.

Mrs. Tiede said we are hoping for a great FCAT, which begins next week. She was pleased to note that there were 143 teams at the Odyssey of the Mind competition held last week.

(2.0) Lizette Alexander, Director of Student Services, presented the following expulsion recommendations. Board members have been provided with detailed information on which to base their decision.

- 2.1 Bus Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 9/8/93) from River Ridge High School
- 2.2 Bus Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 4/8/92) from River Ridge High School
- 2.3 Expulsion of Female Student (DOB 3/3/93) from Gulf High School - **TABLED**
- 2.4 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 12/17/92) from Land O'Lakes High School - **TABLED**
- 2.5 Bus Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 3/2/93) from River Ridge High School - **TABLED**
- 2.6 Expulsion of Female Student (DOB 1/30/93) from Ridgewood High School - **TABLED**
- 2.7 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 4/26/94) from Dr. John Long Middle School - **TABLED**
- 2.8 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 12/29/92) from Gulf High School - **TABLED**
- 2.9 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 11/5/96) from Gulf Middle School - **TABLED**
- 2.10 Expulsion of Female Student (DOB 5/16/94) from Ridgewood High School - **TABLED**
- 2.11 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 4/26/94) from Ridgewood High School - **TABLED**
- 2.12 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 7/30/92) from Wesley Chapel High School - **TABLED**
- 2.13 Expulsion of Female Student (DOB 11/24/96) from Chasco Middle School - **TABLED**

Member Hurley moved that the Board approve the bus expulsions as recommended in items 2.1 and 2.2. Member Altman seconded the motion, and on vote the motion carried unanimously.

Member Starkey moved that the Board approve to table expulsions as recommended in items 2.3-2.13. Member Altman seconded the motion. On discussion Member Starkey expressed her concern over the numerous serious offenses committed by students. Member Altman suggested that the district take advantage of the many buildings available now around the county to be used for placement of misbehaving and disruptive students who continue to interfere with students who are trying to learn. After further discussion, Members Altman and Starkey said they would like a workshop held to help the board understand the expulsion process. There was no further discussion and on vote the motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman distributed a letter for the record from River Ridge High School faculty regarding the removal of their principal and the transfer of him to principal at J.W. Mitchell High School. (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book ____, Page ____.) Attorney Alfonso clarified that the Superintendent recommends a transfer and the Board can only reject the recommendation if there is substantial good cause. Member Starkey expressed concern with the number of principals moving through Land O'Lakes High School in a short period of time and hoped for some continuity. The Superintendent remarked that as the district grows a lot of shifting takes place with the opening of new schools. She explained the process, emphasizing the desire to have experienced principals opening new schools.

The Chairman asked Board members to identify the items on the scheduled agenda that they would like placed on the action agenda. The items on the **ACTION AGENDA** are as follows:

- 14.0** First Addendum to Property Purchase Contract for Bus Maintenance Facility
- 15.0** Superintendent's Recommendation for Termination of Susan Gozo

(3.0 – 13.0) The Chairman asked for a motion to approve all other items on the consent agenda. Member Starkey moved that the Board approve all items on the consent agenda. Member Hurley seconded the motion. Member Starkey received clarification that principals would be at their current schools for graduation ceremonies. There was no further discussion, and on vote the motion carried unanimously to approve the **CONSENT AGENDA** as follows:

- 3.0 Human Resources** (See Personnel Supplemental Minute Book ____, Page ____.)

- 3.1 Instructional and Administrative Personnel Recommendations
- 3.2 Noninstructional Personnel Recommendations
- 4.0 Students** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
 - 4.1 Student Transfer Requests
 - 4.2 Land O’Lakes High School HOSA District IV Winners to Travel to Orlando, Florida April 2-5, 2009 to Attend the State Leadership Conference – Funding: School HOSA Chapter and CCTE Travel Funds
 - 4.3 Gulf High School Academic Team to Travel to Orlando, Florida April 20-22, 2009 to Attend the Commissioner’s Academic Challenge State competition. – Funding: Pasco Education Foundation Donation
 - 4.4 Zephyrhills High School JROTC Students to Participate in the State Drill Meet in Lakeland, Florida March 6-7, 2009 – Funding: Student Contributions
 - 4.5 Gulf High School JROTC Students to Participate in the State Championship in Oviedo, Florida March 6-7, 2009 – Funding: Student Contributions
 - 4.6 Zephyrhills High School Model United Nations (MUN) Students to Participate in the State Conference in Altamonte Springs, Florida March 27-30, 2009 – Funding: Student Contributions
 - 4.7 Land O’Lakes High School FBLA Students to Attend the FBLA State Competition in Orlando, Florida April 13-16, 2009. Funding: Student Donations and Fundraisers
 - 4.8 Sunlake High School Cheerleaders to participate in the State cheerleading Competition in Tallahassee, Florida March 12-13, 2009 – Funding: Student Contributions and Fundraising
 - 4.9 Longleaf Elementary & Seven Springs Elementary Students Completing the Sunshine State Reader Program to Travel to The Museum of Science and Industry for a Camp-In May 8-9, 2009
- 5.0 Requests for Use of Facilities** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- 6.0 Construction Services and Code Compliance/Planning/Facility Maintenance Services and Transportation** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
 - 6.1 Pasco Middle School Phase 1 - Amendment No. 1 - Guaranteed Maximum Price
- 7.0 Business/Finance** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
 - 7.1 Surplus Equipment
 - 7.2 2008-09 Budget Amendments #31-35 – January 2009 (See Budget Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
 - 7.3 Interim Financial Statements for All Fund Types 7/1/08-1/31/09
 - 7.4 Warrant Lists
 - 7.5 Requisitions and Related Contracts
 - 7.6 Bids and Related Contracts

Contracts: HCR Manor Care; Apple, Inc.
- 8.0 Grant Proposals**
 - 8.1 Collaborative Curriculum Challenge Grant – Pasco’s Gifted RtI Project
 - 8.2 Dr. John Long Middle School – NFL Play 60 Challenge Grant
 - 8.3 Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Grant
 - 8.4 2008-2009 IDEA, Part B, Preschool Entitlement Grant – Amendment #1
 - 8.5 2008-2009 IDEA, Part B, Preschool Entitlement Grant – Amendment #2
 - 8.6 Sprint Character Education Grant Program – Hudson Elementary School
 - 8.7 Florida Learn and Serve Grant Budget Amendment – Seven Springs Middle School
- 9.0 Allocations** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
 - 9.1 Chasco Elementary School – Instructional Assistant Allocation Change, Funding: Title I
 - 9.2 Transfer of one (1) Network Specialist Allocation to Community, Career and Technical Services from Instructional Media Services
- 10.0 Agreements/Contracts** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
 - 10.1 Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Host Agency Agreement
- 11.0 Middle School Course Adoption for 2009-2010**(See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- 12.0 Revision to the Foreign Exchange Program Requirements and Procedures** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- 13.0 School Board Meeting Date Change** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

The Chairman announced that there would be a 5-minute break before the action agenda.

(14.0) The Chairman called the meeting back to order and presented the request for approval of the First Addendum to the Property Purchase Contract for Bus Maintenance Facility (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.) Member Altman moved that the Board approve the first addendum, seconded by Member Hurley. On discussion Member Starkey stated that she had received comments from the community of possible cost savings with the sharing of facilities with the County. Member Altman said that issue is being discussed and investigated. Mr. Gadd stated that he has been in contact with the County on

sharing bus depots, but thus far they have not shown any interest. There was no further discussion and on vote the motion carried unanimously.

(15.0) Attorney Alfonso closed the regular board meeting to hold deliberations on the Superintendent's Recommendation for Termination of Susan Gozo. (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.) A court reporter was present for recording purposes. Member Hurley moved that the Board approve the termination recommendation, seconded by Member Altman. Board members expressed empathy for Ms. Gozo regarding her health problems, but felt attendance is a fundamental requirement of the job. Member Altman suggested that Ms. Gozo be offered the opportunity to substitute teach on days when her health would allow her to work. There was no further discussion and on vote the motion carried unanimously to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of termination. Member Starkey moved that Attorney Alfonso prepare an order adopting the findings of fact and conclusions of law submitted by Tammie Rattray, counsel for the District. Member Altman seconded the motion and on vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman called the regular meeting back to order at 11:04 and asked for Board member committee reports.

Member Hurley attended the Pre-K Policy Committee meeting, Reading Task Force meeting and Communication Committee meeting where they are looking at their portion of the strategic plan and working on increasing parental involvement.

Member Starkey attended the Cinderella Ball wrap-up and noted that they may need to look at a different venue in the near future as the room is getting quite full.

Member Altman missed the Insurance Committee due to illness, but noted that utilization continues to increase and is being monitored now around 87%.

Chairman Parker said the exit audit went well last week.

Attorney Alfonso said he will share information on claims bills he received during a recent School Board Attorney Association conference he attended. He met with Mr. Gadd and the Director of Planning on concurrency issues on off-site improvement. It was noted that there has been discussion of a possible joint workshop with the County commission in the near future.

The Chairman asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Board. No one came forward.

The Chairman announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is Monday, March 16 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

There was no further business to come before the Board, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: March 3, 2009 11:30 a.m.
TOPIC: NEOLA

The Board met for a workshop session on NEOLA Board policies. Present were Board Members Kathryn Starkey, Frank Parker, Allen Altman and Joanne Hurley. Member Martin was absent due to personal reasons. Also present were Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent; Dennis Alfonso, School Board Attorney; Olga Swinson, Chief Finance Officer; Renalia DuBose, Assistant Superintendent for Administration; Ruth Reilly, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Services; Jim Davis, Assistant Superintendent for High, Adult and Alternative Schools; Tina Tiede, Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools; Ray Gadd, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services; Dave Scanga, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools; Student Services Staff; Members of U.S.E.P., NEOLA staff consultants Tom Young and Dick Clapp; Jeff Solocheck, St. Petersburg Times; Ronnie Blair, Tampa Tribune and Ashley Reams, The Laker.

Board members reviewed the 5000 and 9000 policies with suggested changes from district staff and NEOLA. The Board made revisions and/or approved each individual policy.

The workshop concluded at 12:25 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: March 3, 2009 12:30 p.m.

TOPIC: Budget

The Board met for a workshop session on the district's budget, which was presented by Chief Finance Officer, Olga Swinson. Present were Board Members Kathryn Starkey, Frank Parker, Allen Altman and Joanne Hurley. Member Martin was absent due to personal illness. Also present were Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent; Dennis Alfonso, School Board Attorney; Olga Swinson, Chief Finance Officer; Renalia DuBose, Assistant Superintendent for Administration; Ruth Reilly, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Services; Jim Davis, Assistant Superintendent for High, Adult and Alternative Schools; Tina Tiede, Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools; Ray Gadd, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services; Dave Scanga, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools; U.S.E.P.; Finance Department staff; Jeff Solocheck, St. Petersburg Times and Ronnie Blair, Tampa Tribune.

Board Members learned that it is estimated the district may need to cut \$72.7 million from the general fund in 2009-2010, though the Federal Stimulus Package and proposed change in the use of some capital funds could help offset some cuts. Planning is very difficult as details about the use of the stimulus money will not be known until April and Mrs. Swinson noted that we would be restricted on how the money is used. School Boards could also levy a tax to raise funds for capital improvements such as building renovations or purchase of portable classrooms, but the money cannot be used for day-to-day operations of the schools. The Legislature is considering allowing school districts to transfer a portion of the capital improvement money to the general fund. Mrs. Swinson commented that could hurt us because the capital improvement fund would be left underfunded.

The workshop concluded at 1:25 p.m.

EMPLOYEE APPEAL HEARING: March 3, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

The Board met for an employee appeal hearing on the termination of Jeff Bush, teacher at James Irvin Education Center. The hearing was held in the Board Room, District Office Complex, Building #3. Present were Board Members Kathryn Starkey, Frank Parker, Allen Altman and Joanne Hurley. Member Martin was absent due to personal illness. Also present were Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent; Dennis Alfonso, School Board Attorney and Facilitator; Brian Ussery, counsel for the district; Mark Herdman and Larry Hart, counsel for Mr. Bush; witnesses and court reporter.

Member Altman recused himself based upon his knowledge and personal relationship with the teacher. The hearing was continued with a new date to be determined at the March 16, 2009 Board meeting.

APPROVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD
IN OPEN SESSION

Chairman

3/16/09

Superintendent