

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA
July 24, 2012

The District School Board of Pasco County met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 24, 2012, in the Board Room, District Office Complex, Building 3, 7205 Land O' Lakes Boulevard, Land O' Lakes, Florida. Present were Chairman Joanne Hurley, Vice Chairman Cynthia Armstrong, and Board Members Allen Altman, Steve Luikart and Alison Crumbley. 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 Member Armstrong, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Chairman asked for a moment of silence to reflect on upcoming school year.

The Chairman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting of July 3, 2012 and workshop of July 3, 2012. There were none, and on motion by Member Altman, seconded by Member Armstrong, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Summer Romagnoli, Program Specialist for Communications and Governmental Relations, coordinated the special presentations as follows: **(See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)**

- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Level Certification

The Chairman called a break for pictures and the meeting came back to order at 6:11 p.m.

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

The Chairman asked if the United School Employees of Pasco had anything to present. Lynne Webb, President of the USEP, remarked that they had no comments this evening.

There were no Board Member Committee Reports.

(1.0) Reports, Information and Comments: **(See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)**

Superintendent Fiorentino:

- The Department of Education has corrected some FCAT scores and she was happy to report that six schools have improved their school grades. The District grade is a "B" again

John Mann:

- Introduced Angela Porterfield as the new Pre-K Supervisor
- Distributed and reviewed information requested by Board Members regarding Multi-Tiered System of Support **(See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)**

Dave Scanga:

- Introduced Wendy Lane as the new principal at West Zephyrhills Elementary School and Vaughnette Chandler as the new principal at Double Branch Elementary School

Olga Swinson:

- Pulled bids 13-004 and 13-007 from item 7.7 on the agenda
- Noted a minor change to the advertisement regarding Capital Outlay

Renalia DuBose:

- Noted addenda to item 13.1, first reading of NEOLA policies. The addenda deletes two items, as language is contained in the collective bargaining agreement

Beth Brown for Tina Tiede:

- Reviewed the new middle school administrative promotions and transfers as reflected in the board packet. She noted that any remaining changes will be brought before the Board at the next meeting
- Discussion held on error noted in the Instructional HR additions regarding Lori Mobley. For the record, it was clarified that the letter in the packet is correct stating Ms. Mobley is being transferred from Thomas E. Weightman Middle School to Gulf Middle. A corrected summary page will be submitted for the file.

(2.0) The Chairman announced that there were no expulsion recommendations.

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

- 8.7 Title II, Part A Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund 2012-2013
- 10.0 Agreements/Contracts
 - 10.1 AMI Kids Pasco
- 13.0 Policies
 - 13.1 First Reading of Revised DSBPC Policies
- 14.0 Resolutions
 - 14.1 Penny for Pasco Resolution

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve all other items on the consent agenda. Member Crumbley moved that the Board approve all items on the consent agenda with the exception of bids 13-004 and 13-007 from item 7.7, 8.7, 10.1 and including any addenda. Member Armstrong seconded the motion, 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 Noninstructional Personnel Recommendations
 - 3.2 Instructional and Administrative Personnel Recommendations
- 4.0 Students (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)**
 - 4.1 Change of Placement
 - 4.2 Requests for School Field Trips
- 5.0 Requests for use of Facilities (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)**
 - 5.1 Requests for Use of Facilities
- 6.0 Construction Services and Code Compliance/Planning/Facility Maintenance Services and Transportation - None Submitted**
- 7.0 Business/Finance (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)**
 - 7.1 Advertisement for 2012-2013 Proposed Tentative Budget (See Budget Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
 - 7.2 Surplus Non-Capitalized Furniture and Equipment
 - 7.3 Request for Approval of Payroll Expenditures for June 2012 and Authorization to Expend Funds for July 2012
 - 7.4 Surplus Equipment
 - 7.5 Warrant Lists
 - 7.6 Request for Approval of Purchase Orders and Associated Contracts
 - Contracts:** Charter Schools (Academy at the Farm, Athenian Academy of Pasco, Countryside Montessori, Dayspring Academy, Imagine School at Land O' Lakes); US Post Office; Seating Constructors USA, Inc.
 - 7.7 Request for Approval of Bid Recommendations, Bid Renewals, and Contracts (**Bids 13-004 and 13-007 – PULLED**)
 - Contracts:** Art Institute of Tampa; Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID); Pasco County Health Department; School Insurance of Florida; Suwannee Medical Personnel; The Red Apple Adult Training Center; University of South Florida
- 8.0 Grant Proposals (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)**
 - 8.1 Adults with Disabilities Grant 2012-2013
 - 8.2 School Improvement Grant Section 1003(g) 2012-2013 (non ARRA)
 - 8.3 School Improvement Grant Section 1003(g) ARRA 2012-2013
 - 8.4 Title I Part A 2012-2013 - Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
 - 8.5 Title I Part C 2012-2013 - Education of Migratory Children grant
 - 8.6 Title I Part D 2012-2013 - Neglected, Delinquent and At-Risk grant
 - 8.8 USDA Farm to School Grant
- 9.0 Allocations (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)**
 - 9.1 Allocation Changes (2012-2013)
 - 9.2 Allocation Changes - Bus Drivers
- 11.0 Instructional Negotiating Team for 2012-2013(See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)**
- 12.0 School Related Personnel (SRP) Negotiating Team for 2012-2013 (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)**

(8.7) The Chairman presented the request for approval of Title II, Part A Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund 2012-2013 (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.) Chairman Hurley received clarification that this request is for the grant only and the position is not being filled at this time. Chairman Hurley would like the Board to have an opportunity to read Dr. Mann's informational packet.

Member Luikart asked Dr. Mann about state information regarding decentralization, which was requested at the last meeting. There was no further discussion and Member Armstrong moved that the Board approve this item, seconded by Member Crumbley. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

(10.1) The Chairman presented the request for approval of AMI Kids Pasco agreement (**See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____**.) Member Altman moved that the Board approve the agreement, seconded by Member Luikart. Mr. Eric Hall, National Director of Educational Services of AMI Kids thanked the Board and administration for assisting their organization. He asked for consideration regarding the lease portion of the contract, requesting that the lease expense be reconsidered while undergoing the transition this year. Superintendent Fiorentino stated that the District will provide Class Size money, which is not in the contract. The lease amount offered is \$3,000.00 and is in the contract. The Superintendent's recommendation considers AMI School the same as a Pasco alternative school. Last year, the school received a DJJ supplement. Member Armstrong asked if AMI would assume liabilities of maintenance in exchange for rent money. Mr. Hall reiterated his request for reduction of the \$3,000 monthly rent. Mrs. Swinson explained that the lease amount is well below the market value. Member Armstrong asked if lowering the rent to \$1,500 would help. Mr. Hall stated that it would definitely assist with their budget. It was noted that there is a motion on the floor to agree to the contract as submitted. Member Altman withdrew his motion and Member Luikart withdrew the second. Member Armstrong made a new motion that the Board approve the AMI Kids Pasco agreement with the following changes: language added that AMI would receive Class Size reduction money (approximately \$50,000) and rent to be reduced to \$1,500 per month (from \$3,000). Member Crumbley seconded the motion. Member Altman reiterated that these are our students, and the district needs this program. He suggested that he might consider doing this at no cost for this year. Member Luikart agreed. Member Armstrong noted that the staff is not our employees. Attorney Alfonso stated that the contract is for one year, renewable annually by mutual agreement of parties. There was no further discussion and on vote the motion carried unanimously.

(13.1) The Chairman presented the request for approval of the First Reading of Revised DSBPC Policies (**See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____**.) Member Altman moved that the Board approve the first reading, seconded by Member Armstrong. Member Armstrong initiated discussion on policies 2510 and 2520 – adopting and selection of instructional material. She stated that lines 2, 3 and 4 from 2510 were not incorporated into 2520 and should be. In response to question by Chairman Hurley, Ms. DuBose remarked that 5464 was deleted, as it is included in the Student Progression Plan. Member Crumbley questioned 2423.01 and middle school career academy. It was explained that there is a new mandate and this upcoming year a robotics academy is planned at River Ridge Middle School. Ms. DuBose stated that we are trying to keep parallel language in the fitness for duty in both the SRP and Instructional policies and are using language in the bargaining agreement. There was no further discussion and on vote, the motion carried unanimously.

(14.1) The Chairman presented the request for approval of the Penny for Pasco Resolution (**See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____**.) Member Altman moved that the Board approve the resolution, seconded by Member Crumbley. Chris Williams, Director of Planning reviewed the potential renewal for the Penny for Pasco. He has been working with the County Attorney's office, which has passed their resolution. He referenced a project list given at a recent workshop and noted that the list has not changed and will go on the November ballot. Attorney Alfonso remarked that the resolution and list must be submitted by August 1 (hard deadline). There was no further discussion and on vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Individual Board member reports:

Member Armstrong

- Health & Wellness Incentive Meeting

Attorney Alfonso reported to the Board in response to remarks made by Barbara Munz, retired school based administrator to the Board during public comment at the July 3, 2012 Board meeting. She had raised concerns including: transfer/reassignment of a former supervisor, allegations of political campaign activities which might be in violation of Board policy, and general feeling of low morale and intimidation at district and school levels. Mr. Alfonso responded:

1. The identified administrator has resigned, and had not made any allegation that her reassignment was based on political motivation. Due to fact that the Superintendent has the authority to assign administrative staff (policies 1130 and 1130.01) subject to Board approval, Florida law states that the Board can only reject for good or just cause, this concern did not seem to warrant further investigation as a possible violation of policy.

2. Political campaign activities. Since the July 3, 2012 meeting, the Board chair has received several additional pieces of information claiming possible violations of policy 1232. These claims, if proven as true, would be possible violations of Board policy, and support further investigation.
3. Additionally, the claims of intimidation causing low morale, if proven to be true, would be possible violations of Board Policy 1380 regarding respect and civility. The scope of the inquiry between the last board meeting and this meeting, has not determined if allegations are true or false, only whether such allegations, if true, would constitute possible violations of Board Policy. He noted that report of these concerns implicated policy 1211, and proceeded to read language from that policy. Outside counsel can be secured if these do not include criminal allegations. He reiterated that, at this time, the information does not appear to involve criminal allegations, only violation of Board Policy. He summarized that information received supports a full investigation pursuant to Board Policy.

Member Luikart asked for the Board Attorney's recommendation for the next step. Mr. Alfonso recommended that the Board follow the procedures established by the proposed revisions to Board policy 1211, which authorizes and directs the hiring of outside counsel. He then explained the process. Member Armstrong asked about possible timeline involved in this investigation. Mr. Alfonso suggested that the investigation should be very specific and focused to the issues identified in the concerns raised. He suggested Attorney Tom Gonzalez, as he has been proposed to conduct similar investigations in other districts. Mr. Gonzalez is available at the rate of \$175 per hour. Member Armstrong questioned the whistleblower guidelines and the Board's ability to proceed. Mr. Alfonso referenced back to new policy 1211. Chairman Hurley suggested a whistleblower hotline in order to keep Board members from being involved in this investigation. Mr. Alfonso said he would require Board authorization to retain Mr. Gonzalez to proceed with the investigation. Member Luikart moved that the Board take this as an off agenda item, seconded by Member Altman. On vote, the motion carried unanimously to accept the off agenda item. Member Luikart moved that the Board adopt the procedure contained in proposed policy 1211 and direct Board counsel to follow procedure by engaging a qualified law firm to investigate and report to Mr. Alfonso and the Board. Member Crumbley seconded the motion. Board Members commented that the policy seems clear and the technical point to adopt procedure is outlined in the proposed new policy 1211. There was no further discussion and on vote, the motion carried unanimously. Attorney Alfonso remarked that special counsel will need to be able to access any relevant district information and should receive full cooperation from District staff related to the investigation. Chairman Hurley asked Attorney Alfonso to confirm and report individually that Mr. Gonzalez is secured. Mr. Alfonso made note that he did not intend to be actively participating in the investigation.

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

- Pat Connolly of Zephyrhills noted continued concerns with communication policies 1112, 3112, and 4112. He feels having to go through the Superintendent to speak with the Board is a breach of professional judgment. He also strongly objects to policies 1232, 3232 and 4232 regarding political activities of employees.
- Daniel Hamm of Hudson referenced past address by Barbara Munz to Board regarding possible harassment of employees. He feels that sitting Superintendent is being attacked politically.

The Chairman announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board and first hearing on the 2012-2013 budget is July 31, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

There was no further business to come before the Board, and upon motion by Member Altman, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

(Audio recording of the above proceeding is available and preserved as public document.)

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: July 24, 2012 3:30 p.m.

TOPICS: *AMI Kids Pasco/Common Core State Standards/Budget/Teacher Evaluation*

The Board met for a workshop session at the District Office Complex, Building 3 Studio. Present were Board Members Allen Altman, Joanne Hurley, Cynthia Armstrong, Steve Luikart, Alison Crumbley; Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent; Dennis Alfonso, School Board Attorney; Olga Swinson, Chief Finance Officer; Renalia DuBose, Assistant Superintendent for Administration; John Mann, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Services; Tina Tiede, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools; Dave Scanga, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools; Kevin Shibley, Director of Employee Relations; USEP; Various department representatives and Ronnie Blair, Tampa Tribune

AMI:

Board Members viewed a PowerPoint presentation giving background information on the AMIkids program, a local alternative school that recently lost its state funding. Eric Hall, National Director of Education Services with AMIkids discussed the program and need for a place to house the kids so the program can continue.

Common Core State Standards:

Board Members were given a comprehensive overview of the Common Core Standards, a state-led effort to develop a common set of standards in English language arts and mathematics. The CCSS will affect all public schools in adopted states. Implementation begins now and new state assessments in 2014-15. Question and answer session followed.

Teacher Evaluation Update:

An update on the new teacher evaluation program using Marsano teaching methods was shared with the Board including State expectations and rule making.

Budget:

Board Members received an update on the budget. There has been a slight drop in the property rate for 2012-13. Mrs. Swinson informed the Board that the District will have a balanced budget, but warned that they are anticipating a \$16 million revenue shortfall for next year because this year’s budget depends on some funding the will be eliminated. It was previously proposed that all employees take four unpaid furlough days in 2012-13 as one way to save money. Mrs. Swinson said the plan now brings it down to two furlough days.

The workshop sessions concluded at 5:45 p.m

APPROVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD
IN OPEN SESSION

Chairman

8/21/12

Superintendent