

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA
September 16, 2008

The District School Board of Pasco County met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 16, 2008, in the Board Room, District Office Complex, Building 3, 7205 Land O' Lakes Boulevard, Land O' Lakes, Florida. Present were Chairman Kathryn Starkey, Vice Chairman Frank Parker and Board Members Marge Whaley, Allen Altman and Cathi Martin. 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 Starkey and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Chairman announced that the order of the meeting agenda would be changed this evening.

The Chairman asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mev Lough, teacher at Pasco Middle School and Haleigh Stalter, Pre-K student at Shady Hills Elementary School.

The Chairman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting and workshop of August 26, 2008 and regular meeting, workshops and executive session of September 2, 2008. There being none, and on motion by Member Martin seconded by Member Parker, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Maureen Moore, Director, Pasco Education Foundation, coordinated the special presentations as follows:

- Recognition of Sand Pine and Longleaf Elementary Schools for Receiving the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) "You Make a Difference" Award presented by Debra Dowds of the Florida Development Disabilities Council.

There was a short break for pictures and the Chairman called the meeting back to order at 6:15 p.m.

The Chairman recognized students in the audience from Renalia DuBose's School Law class.

The Chairman asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Board, other than those speaking on the budget.

Student Apologies:

- Joseph – False 911 call – River Ridge Middle School
- Ashley – Simple Battery – Hudson Middle School
- Alexander – Distribution of stolen goods
- Dennis – Trespassing on school property – Gulf High School
- Aaron – Trespassing on school property – Gulf High School

The Chairman announced the Final Hearing on the Proposed Annual Budget 2008-2009. Olga Swinson, Chief Finance Officer presented a slide presentation on the budget and highlighted several areas. She noted that we are about 1,000 students below projections, which could cost the district about \$4 million and another \$4 million cut is anticipated to come from the State in December. The Chairman opened the floor for public comment on the budget.

Lynne Webb, President of the USEP urged the Board to do the right thing and reprioritize pet projects, use reserves and find dollars to pay the employees. She remarked that many organizations around the State have invested time and energy and put up money to fight the amendments that the State has passed. She said teachers and school related personnel are there for the education of children and she asked the Board to cover their contractual obligations and honor employees by giving the step increases and modest raises.

Before the meeting about 200 people held a rally in front of the district office complex to let the public know about their effort to seek raises. Many instructional, school related personnel and others addressed the Board regarding budget cuts, emphasizing the need for retaining step increases. Board Members were urged to reject the budget and work harder to find money for raises and step increases. Suggestions were made to look into using the district's reserve fund to pay for the step increases and raises. Some spoke of taking second jobs and the difficulties of paying their mortgages or sending their children to college. The following is a list of all speakers:

- Angela Lewis-Bennett, Dade City – Teacher
- Ronald Eckstein, Spring Hill – Teacher
- Shelley Kappeler, Land O'Lakes – Parent

- Sandy Mullins, Port Richey – Teacher
- Gregory Smith, San Antonio
- Tracy Turner, Dade City – Teacher
- Carolyn Frances, Wesley Chapel – Teacher
- Joan Nordin, Land O’Lakes – Previous Non-instructional Employee
- Jerome Leavy, Land O’Lakes – Teacher
- Heidi Sullivan, New Port Richey – Teacher
- Annie Register, Dade City – Teacher
- Robert Moore, Hudson – Non-instructional Employee
- Ken Blankenship, Land O’Lakes – Teacher
- Ed Garza, Land O’Lakes – Instructional Assistant
- Robert Benjamin, New Port Richey – Individual
- Robert Marsh, Masaryktown - Teacher

The Chairman called a break and the meeting came back to order at 7:42 p.m.

Speakers on the budget continued as follows:

- John Russell, Dade City – Individual
- Elizabeth Williams – Student
- Margaret Berry, Zephyrhills – Teacher
- Sharon Thomas, Trilby – Instructional Assistant
- Glenda McCallister, Zephyrhills – Teacher
- Linda Ferris, Port Richey – Teacher
- Kristen Hillstrom, Land O’Lakes – Teacher
- Christina Page, Dade City – Teacher
- Frank Roder, Tampa – Individual
- Patrick Connolly, Zephyrhills – Teacher
- Fai Fai Ho, Holiday – Individual
- Peggy Belrose, Land O’Lakes – Teacher
- Vivian Garner, Hudson – Teacher
- Lorena Ortiz, Wesley Chapel – Teacher
- Dragostav Kirjas, Spring Hill – Teacher
- Cole Duffy, Zephyrhills – Teacher
- Eleanor Habeeb, Spring Hill – Teacher
- Linda Himebaugh, Hudson – Bus Driver
- Annette Jacome, Port Richey - Transportation Assistant
- Sherry Helfand, Tampa – Guidance Counselor

The Chairman stated at this final hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2008-2009 the following approvals are requested: (See Budget Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

1. The Chairman read the statements listed below, as per Section 200.065(2)(d), Florida Statutes, prior to the adoption of the millage-levy resolution:

The District School Board of Pasco County
The rolled back rate is 7.4106 mills.
The millage rate to be levied for 2008-2009 is 7.208 mills

Member Parker moved that the Board approve the above as stated by Chairman Starkey. Member Whaley seconded the motion. On vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Adopt the Resolution Determining the Revenues and Millages Levied

Member Whaley moved that the Board approve the resolution. Member Martin seconded the motion. On vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Adopt the Final Budget Resolution

Member Parker moved that the Board approve the resolution adopting the final budget for 2008-2009. Member Whaley seconded the motion. Board Members thanked everyone for coming and speaking tonight. Member Whaley commented that the Board by law has to approve a balanced budget tonight and noted that the budget

can be amended. Chairman Starkey remarked that these are emotional times for everyone and the Board's priority has been to maintain employee health benefits and save jobs. With more cuts coming, she hopes this will still be possible. Member Parker said many hours were spent looking at the budget and the Board will do what they can to assure that benefits are in place and there are no lay offs. Member Martin commented that although the budget is being voted on tonight it will need to be addressed again when more cuts come. Member Altman reminded employees that information coming from Tallahassee indicates more cuts are coming and he assured everyone that the Board continues to explore options and have done research and independent analysis on the budget. There being no further discussion and on vote, the motion carried with the ayes being Starkey, Parker, Altman and Whaley and the nay vote being Martin.

The Chairman declared the final hearing on the 2008-2009 budget closed.

The Board took a short break and the meeting resumed at 8:52 p.m.

The Chairman announced the public hearing on the School District Facilities Five-Year Work Plan and asked if anyone wished to speak. (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.) No one came forward. Member Whaley moved that the Board approve the five-year plan. Member Parker seconded the motion. It was noted for the record that only four board members were present for the vote. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman declared the public hearing closed on the district facilities work program.

The Chairman asked if the United School Employees of Pasco had anything to present. Lynne Webb, President of the USEP, thanked the Board for listening to each person that wanted to speak this evening.

(1.0) Reports, Information and Comments:

1.1 Life in Our Wetlands Programs 2008-2009

Mrs. Reilly gave a brief overview of the Life in Our Wetlands Programs.

Mr. Gadd gave an update on the elementary school being built in the Connerton development. The land is being cleared and the opening has been moved to January 2010. The new school will take all of Sanders Elementary School students during the time Sanders is being renovated.

Mrs. Swinson pulled item 7.1, Superintendents Annual Financial Report, from the agenda. She also shared QZAB information for capital funds for the health academies.

Mrs. DuBose expressed her desire to schedule a reception for 5-STAR schools at 5:00 p.m. on October 21.

Mr. Davis commented that the career academies plan has been submitted to the State and a summary sheet was given to the Board. The Superintendent requested that in the future career academies be referred to as vocational education.

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

The Chairman asked Board members to identify the items on the scheduled agenda that they would like placed on the action agenda. She announced that there were no action agenda items this evening.

(3.0 – 14.0) The Chairman asked for a motion to approve all other items on the consent agenda. Member Parker moved that the Board approve all items on the consent agenda with the exception of item 7.1, Superintendent's Annual Financial Report. Member Whaley seconded the motion. Member Altman described communications with Kathy Browning, a former Pasco County school nurse who is now in the Health Department at the State level in Tallahassee. Member Whaley introduced Lisa Kern, interim Supervisor of Health Services. There being 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

Addenda: Rates for Ticket Sellers, Takers, Clock Operators, Supervision and Score Bookkeepers

Addenda: Instructional Supplements

4.0 Students (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

4.1 Student Transfer Requests

4.2 Waiver of Student Progression Plan Requirements (Vocational Wheel)

- 4.3 J.W. Mitchell High School Senior Class and Sponsors to Attend Grad Nite at Disney in Orlando April 25-26, 2009 – Funding: Student Contributions
- 4.4 Sunlake High School Band and Chorus to Travel to Washington, D.C. March 31-April 4, 2009 – Funding: Student Contributions
- 4.5 J.W. Mitchell High School NJROTC Students to Travel to Parris Island, South Carolina February 26-28, 2009 – Funding: Cadet/Parent Organization
- 4.6 Ridgewood High School NJROTC Students to Travel to Mayport and St. Augustine, Florida September 23-25, 2008 to Participate in Naval Station Exploration and Training – Funding: U.S. Navy and Cadets
- 4.7 Wiregrass Ranch High School Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams to Travel to Titusville, Florida October 3-4, 2008 to Compete in the FLrunners.com Invitational – Funding: Booster Club and Students
- 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 Energy Management Program (EMP) Performance Report for 2007-2008
- 7.0 Business/Finance** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
 - 7.1 Superintendent’s Annual Financial Report – **PULLED**
 - 7.2 Donation of Equipment to Tender Time Daycare and Wee Wisdom Preschool
 - 7.3 Surplus Transportation Motor Vehicles and Equipment
 - 7.4 Warrant Lists
 - 7.5 Requisitions and Related Contracts
 - 7.6 Bids and Related Contracts

Contracts: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay, Inc.; Carlton Palms Education Center; Discovery Education; Land Use Attorney Legal Services with Richard E. Davis, P.A.; Premier Community Health Care Group; University of West Florida
- 8.0 Grant Proposals**
 - 8.1 Carl D. Perkins Grant Section 131 for 2008-2008 – Amendment #1
 - 8.2 Learning Florida’s Environment (LIFE) Program Grant
 - 8.3 Water Resources Education Programs 2008-2009 Grant
- 9.0 Allocations** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
 - 9.1 J.W. Mitchell High School – Continuance of the Anger Management Class for the 2008-2009 School Year - Funding: Internal Accounts
 - 9.2 Ridgewood High School Campus Patrol August 18, 2008 – June 3, 2009 – Funding: Lottery Funds
- 10.0 Agreements/Contracts** – None Submitted
- 11.0 Charter Schools** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
 - 11.1 2007-2008 Annual Reviews for Academy at the Farm, Countryside Montessori and Dayspring Academy
 - 11.2 2008-2009 Capital Outlay Plans for Academy at the Farm, Countryside Montessori and Dayspring Academy
- 12.0 Pasco Education Foundation** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
 - 12.1 Approval of Advertising Vendors for Assigned Locations on Athletic Fields and in Gymnasiums
- 13.0 Hurricane Waiver Day – August 19, 2008** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)
- 14.0 School Health Services Plan 2008-2010** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

The Chairman asked for Board member committee reports.

Member Martin attended the High School Task Force meeting on career academies.

Chairman Starkey attended the State School Board meeting.

Member Altman shared information that Dr. Wayne Blanton and Dr. Max Schmidt of the Florida School Boards Association have been visiting districts and discussing information on the state budget. He suggested that they be invited to conduct a workshop in our district to help prepare for the upcoming year.

Member Whaley would like discussions to begin on which positions can be eliminated due to attrition. The Superintendent remarked that more accurate FTE numbers would be available in October and we should have a clearer view of frozen allocations at that time.

Chairman Starkey asked that the October 21 Board meeting time be changed from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. Board members will be polled and notified of the result.

Attorney Alfonso presented an off agenda item relative to the Connerton site. Member Whaley moved that the Board accept the off agenda item, seconded by Member Martin. On vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Alfonso explained that the item before them was a first addendum to the school siting agreement previously approved by the Board. Member Whaley moved that the Board approve the addendum, seconded by Member Martin. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Alfonso addressed information on school pools. He has received some responses and is now waiting for other counties. He believes the district has a minimal role in those projects. The information manual has been forwarded to Mrs. Reilly.

Attorney Alfonso noted that a QZAB closing will be held on Monday. He recently received notification from bond council of a potential conflict of interest, but he does not feel there should be legal concerns regarding this issue. Mrs. Swinson stated that the district is already dealing with the bank. Consensus of the Board was that they are comfortable with the situation.

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 October 7, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

There was no further business to come before the Board, and upon motion by Member Whaley the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: September 16, 2008 4:00 p.m.

TOPIC: Reading Evaluation

The Board met for a workshop session on *Reading Evaluation*, which was held in the District Office DIMC Studio, Building 3. Present were Board Members Kathryn Starkey, Frank Parker, Allen Altman and Marge Whaley. Member Martin was not in attendance. Also present were Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent; Dennis Alfonso, School Board Attorney; Ruth Reilly, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Services; Olga Swinson, Chief Finance Officer; Renalia DuBose, Assistant Superintendent for Administration; 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, Executive Director for Elementary Schools; Joanne Hurley, Board member elect; Representatives of the Curriculum and Instructional Services Department; Representatives of the Research and Evaluation Department and Ronnie Blair, Tampa Tribune.

Kathy Steiner, Supervisor of the Curriculum and Instructional Services presented an overview of the reading program and provided a data and progress report on how the district is meeting student needs. The Board also heard a presentation of the reading programs and resources at the elementary, middle and high school levels from Rachel Powers, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instructional Services.

A question and answer session followed.

The workshop concluded at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD
IN OPEN SESSION

Chairman

10/7/08

Superintendent