

**DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**October 7, 2008**

The District School Board of Pasco County met in regular session at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 7, 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 and Allen Altman. Cathi Martin arrived later in the meeting. 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 Whaley and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Chairman asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Austin Carter, 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Pine View Elementary School and Anthony Granton, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Ridgewood High School.

The Chairman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting of September 16, 2008 and workshop of September 16, 2008. Member Altman called correction to page 4; under discussion section for items 3.0-14.0 to read that Kathy Browning was a nurse, not a teacher in the system. There being no further corrections, and on motion by Member Parker, seconded by Member Whaley the minutes, as corrected, were approved unanimously.

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

- Proclamation to Recognize Gulf High School's "Buccaneer Alumni Invasion" Event October 24 & 25, 2008
- Proclamation Recognizing the History of Sanders Elementary and Schrader Elementary Schools
- Recognition of the Thomas E. Weightman ABC Awards
- Resolution Recognizing the First Two Weeks in October 2008, as "Disability History and Awareness Weeks"

The Chairman called a brief break for pictures and the meeting resumed at 10:14 a.m.

The Chairman acknowledged the arrival of Member Martin to the dais.

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

Student Apology: Chad – Hudson High School – Trespassing

Vicki Paganus of Land O'Lakes discussed the success of the cookie dough fundraiser at Shady Hills Elementary School and presented information on the Varsity Gold cookies program for possible fundraisers throughout the district. Chairman Starkey referred her to Dr. Scanga for further research.

The Chairman asked if the United School Employees of Pasco had anything to present. Lynne Webb, President of the USEP, discussed item 3.1 on the promotion of Dr. Dave Scanga to Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools. She stated that this promotion and raise in salary is not being perceived well by union members due to current budget constraints and asked the Board to reconsider the recommendation. She requested the salary increase for Dr. Scanga and stated that USEP would like to go on record in objection of the promotion. Ms. Webb reassured the Board that she has never brought any item before them, which would put the Board in a compromising position. She then summarized the timeline of correspondence between the District and USEP officials throughout the summer and fall. Last evening, a bargaining session was held for School Related Personnel. Ms. Webb said that during the session the District's negotiator accused USEP of putting on a "dog and pony show". She felt that was an unfair way to characterize the union's effort to make contract proposals and noted that it is their duty and legal responsibility. She is also concerned that insurance open enrollment is being held at this time and employees are afraid to commit to benefits due to the uncertainty of monies available within the salary budget.

Individual Board members presented and discussed items.

Member Whaley participated in a school board mock election at Lake Myrtle Elementary School. She also attended an intensive reading program for students at Charles Rushe Middle School.

Member Altman attended the dedication ceremonies at Veterans Elementary School and Crews Lake Middle School. He remarked that student-attended dedications are more meaningful and should be considered for future events. He recently took a homeless adult education graduate and her teacher to lunch, where he found it interesting to learn of her life path, which took her from homelessness to her graduation. He stated

that he would like to see collaboration between the District and local businesses during these difficult economic times in our communities to assist teachers and staff with discounts, etc. Mrs. DuBose stated that a committee has been formed and is preparing to announce “employee perks” on the District’s website.

Chairman Starkey commented that she liked the format of the Southwest Water Management District’s Strategic Plan and shared a copy with the Board. She discussed head lice concerns throughout the county and asked for input from staff or fellow board members. Superintendent Fiorentino explained the head lice procedures, and noted that new attendance laws/truancy have contributed to challenges of controlling absences due to head lice. Lisa Kern, interim supervisor of school nurses explained that children with live head lice are sent home; however, students with nits are allowed in classrooms. Chairman Starkey requested data on other counties and their procedures. Chairman Starkey commented that the Head Start audit went very well and our program was complimented by the State.

(1.0) Reports, Information and Comments:

1.1 Monthly Report of the Pasco Education Foundation, by Chip Wichmanowski, Director of the Pasco Education Foundation

Superintendent Fiorentino announced that Wesley Chapel High School is hosting a Leadership Exploration event this evening. She remarked that feeder pattern meetings would be held at locations throughout the county, rather than one location, as in the past. A meeting with Athenian Academy Charter School was held recently and the Superintendent made note that it was a very positive meeting and Athenian is not in an emergency situation. Athenian will be going back to the auditor to clarify data as the district continues to work with them. The Superintendent commented on the need to employ Dr. Scanga as an Assistant Superintendent due to the high number of elementary schools and his inability at this time to supervise principals. It was also noted that his current position of Executive Director would not be filled at this time.

Mrs. Reilly remarked that the district would be proposing a pre-approval process for big competitive grants.

Dr. Scanga introduced Katie Lail, Principal at Mary Giella Elementary School and Ryan Thompson, Assistant Principal at West Zephyrhills Elementary School.

Mr. Gadd introduced Zachary Goodfield, GIS Analyst in the Planning Department. Mr. Gadd also remarked that three schools are currently under construction; Water Grass Elementary, Anclote High and Connerton Elementary, along with renovation projects at Pasco Middle and Pasco High schools.

Ms. Swinson pulled Purchase Order #90004048 to Bright Futures Learning, Inc.

Ms. DuBose remarked that we are in the process of soliciting names for schools on the Connerton and Water Grass sites. Also, the new communications guide and trainings for new procedures have now been implemented.

Ms. Tiede said Pine View Middle School’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary event was a huge success. She noted that they have been a model for many middle school programs over the years.

(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 Expulsion of Female Student (DOB 2/20/91) from River Ridge High School - **TABLED**
- 2.2 Expulsion of Female Student (DOB 5/6/93) from Hudson High School - **TABLED**
- 2.3 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 5/21/94) from River Ridge High School - **TABLED**
- 2.4 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 7/22/94) from Hudson High School - **TABLED**
- 2.5 Expulsion of Female Student (DOB 1/7/94) from Hudson High School - **TABLED**

Member Whaley moved that the Board approve to table the expulsions as recommended in items 2.1-2.5. Member Parker seconded the motion, and on vote the motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman asked Board members to identify the items on the scheduled agenda that they would like placed on the action agenda. There were no items on the **ACTION AGENDA**.

(3.0 – 14.0) The Chairman asked for a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda with the exception of Bid #90004048 to Bright Futures Learning, Inc. Member Parker so moved, seconded by Member Martin. Chairman Starkey discussed contracts and large numbers of paper used for duplicate contracts to different

vendors. Attorney Alfonso explained the legal need for the paper back up. 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
  - 3.3 2008-2009 Out-of-Field Personnel Recommendations
- 4.0 Students** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - 4.1 Student Transfer Requests
  - 4.2 Waiver of Student Progression Plan Requirements (Band, Art, World Languages)
  - 4.3 Seven Springs Middle School Students to Travel to Big Pine Key, Florida May 15-17, 2009 to Participate in Sea Camp – Funding: Fundraisers and Individual Students
  - 4.4 FFA Students from Pasco High, Pasco Middle, Centennial Middle and Pine View Middle Schools to Travel to the Sunbelt Agriculture Expo in Moultrie, Georgia on October 15 and 16, 2008, Funding: FFA Fundraisers and Individual Students
  - 4.5 J.W. Mitchell High School Winterguard Students to Travel to Dayton, Ohio April 1-4, 2009 to Compete in World Championships, Funding: Fundraisers
  - 4.6 Sunlake High School JSA-Debate Club to Travel to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida November 7-9, 2008 to Attend the JSA-Debate Club Convention, Funding: Student Contributions
  - 4.7 Sunlake High School Choral Students to Travel to Stetson University in Deland, Florida October 3-4, 2008 to Attend a Stetson Honors Choral Clinic, Funding: Student Contributions
  - 4.8 Zephyrhills High School FBLA Students to Travel to Tampa, Florida October 25-26, 2008 to Attend the FBLA Fall Leadership Conference, Funding: Student Contributions
  - 4.9 Zephyrhills High School Chorus Students to Attend the Stetson University Honors Clinic in Deland, Florida October 3-4, 2008, Funding: Internal Funds
  - 4.10 Wiregrass Ranch High School Model United Nations Club to Attend the Princeton Model UN Conference in East Brunswick, New Jersey November 20-23, 2008, Funding: Fundraisers
  - 4.11 Ridgewood High School Senior Class to Attend Grad Nite at Disney in Orlando April 17-18, 2009, Funding: Student Contributions
  - 4.12 Wiregrass Ranch High School Model United Nations Club to Attend the Model UN Conference at University of Central Florida in Orlando October 18-19, 2008, Funding: Student Contributions and Fundraisers
- 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 Easement for Ingress and Egress - Old Pasco Road Property
  - 6.2 Sidewalk Reimbursement Agreement with the Oakstead Community
- 7.0 Business/Finance** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - 7.1 Request for Approval of Payroll Expenditures for August 2008 and Authorization to Expend Funds for September 2008
  - 7.2 Final Lottery Report for 2007-2008
  - 7.3 1st Quarter Lottery Report for 2008-2009
  - 7.4 Surplus Equipment
  - 7.5 Surplus Transportation Motor Vehicles and Equipment
  - 7.6 Superintendent's Annual Financial Report
  - 7.7 Revision to APPROVED Concerning VMC 401(k) Loans
  - 7.8 Warrant Lists
  - 7.9 Requisitions and Related Contracts – **(Bid #90004048 Bright Futures Learning, Inc. – Pulled)**  
**Contracts:** At Tutoru; "A+" Advanced Learning Centers, Inc.; A to Z In-Home Tutoring; Academic Consulting and Tutoring Services, LLC; Freijo Tutoring Services, LLC; A++ At JFK Tutoring; All Things Through Learning; ATS Educational Consulting; Binet, Inc.; Eden Educational Services; Fundamentals Free Tutoring, LLC; Harmony Educational Services, LLC; Helps, LLC; Huntington Learning Center; Sylvan Learning Center; Applied Scholastic; Club Z!; Cool Kids Learn, Inc.; Supplemental Instructional Services, Inc.; Next Level Learning, LLC; Basic Learning Skills, Inc.
  - 7.10 Bids and Related Contracts  
**Contracts:** Tarpon Springs Police Department
- 8.0 Grant Proposals**
  - 8.1 Grant Approval Process Modification
  - 8.2 2008-2009 Title I School Improvement Initiative Grant
  - 8.3 Boys & Girls Club Grant Proposal (Project Learn)
  - 8.4 Best Buy Teach Award Program Application at River Ridge High School
- 9.0 Allocations** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - 9.1 Allocation Changes at Various Elementary, Middle, High Schools and Education Centers

- 9.2 After School Detention Program at R. B. Cox Elementary School, Funding: Lottery Funds
- 9.3 Allocation Changes at Various Middle and High Schools
- 10.0 Agreements/Contracts** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - 10.1 Agreement Between the Prekindergarten Services Department and the Student Services Department, Specifically the Students in Transition (SIT) Program
  - 10.2 Amendment to the Full Service Schools Contract and Consulting Agreement with the Pasco County Health Department
- 11.0 Pasco Education Foundation** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
  - 11.1 Advertising on Athletic Fields and in Gymnasiums
  - 11.2 Approval of New Member of the Board of Directors (P. Hutchinson Brock, II)
- 12.0 Plan for Services to English Language Learners (ELLs)** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
- 13.0 Revised Adult Education Fees for 2008-09** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)
- 14.0 District Add-on Program: Autism Endorsement Coverage** (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_\_.)

The Chairman asked for Board member committee reports.

Member Altman distributed a report he generated at the Board's request and initiated discussion pertaining to legal services and the attorney's contract. He received quotes from each of the outside attorneys that the district has utilized over the years and although no costs were available from the State, he was able to compare data from two other districts. He found that costs for services appear to be lower in our county. Mr. Altman felt that any miscommunications could be easily resolved and he asked that all legal information be shared with board attorney Dennis Alfonso. He received clarification on the selection of outside legal services and whether the Board is required to approve or give opinions before the use of other firms. Superintendent Fiorentino remarked that outside attorneys are used for areas such as ESE, labor disputes or land situations. It is her understanding of the contract that Mr. Alfonso would be conferred with prior to the hiring of outside legal services. Attorney Alfonso explained that his firm acts as counsel to the Board and sometimes there are circumstances where his contract would not allow him to sit on certain cases because of conflict of interest. Mr. Altman suggested that discussions be held on all of the issues at a future time after the Board has had time review the report.

Member Altman noted that employees have expressed an interest in having the Board's legal firm available to them through inservices, etc. He is also finding that employees are very appreciative when a board member speaks to their school and/or department. He would like to hear how Board members feel about this at a later time. Chairman Starkey agreed that further discussion was needed on these topics, possibly at the next Board meeting.

Chairman Starkey attended the Career Academy Council meeting which provides outside oversight from the business community. She plans to attend an upcoming Learning First Council meeting in Tallahassee. It was noted that NEOLA policy reviews would be recommencing soon with workshops beginning in early November. Ms. Starkey commented on a letter from a booster club parent and said she is concerned that we have made the process for fundraisers too difficult for parents and community businesses.

Attorney Alfonso remarked that he would be pleased to participate in legal in-services at various schools, as had been done in the past.

Attorney Alfonso presented an off agenda item for approval of the acquisition and swapping out of a piece of land for the school site in the Connerton development. Member Altman moved that the Board accept the off agenda item, seconded by Member Parker. On vote the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Gadd explained that there are bad soil conditions on the site that would add \$2-3 million to the cost of the school. The County Parks and Recreation has worked with the district and agreed to reconfigure the entire site. The County would also have to accept the agreement for the swap. Member Parker moved that the Board approve the reconfiguration of the Connerton site subject to additional approval by the County. Member Altman seconded the motion, and on vote the motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Alfonso stated that Joanne Hurley, School Board Member elect is now subject to Sunshine laws, but the Sunshine laws would not apply to Member Whaley and Ms. Hurley meeting as long as issues for board action are not discussed. He said he was very pleased with the concurrency verdict in Hillsborough County.

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 21, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

There was no further business to come before the Board; Chairman Starkey adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

**SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: October 7, 2008 11:45 a.m.**  
**TOPIC: State Budget Information – Florida School Boards Association**

The Board met for a workshop session on the *State Budget*, which was presented by Dr. Wayne Blanton, Executive Director of the Florida School Boards Association and Dr. Max Schmidt, Executive Director of Florida School Labor Relations Service. Present were Board Members Kathryn Starkey, Frank Parker, Allen Altman, Cathi Martin and Marge Whaley; 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 Curriculum and Instructional Services; Joanne Hurley, Board Member elect; Steve Donaldson, Superintendent Candidate; Lynne Webb and Jim Ciadella, USEP; Ronnie Blair, Tampa Tribune; Ashley Reams, The Laker and Jeff Solochek, St. Petersburg Times.

Dr. Blanton and Dr. Schmidt presented information on how the state budget for education works, trust funds, lottery dollars, legislative issues and mandates. Board members received information on tax revenue for public schools and how much money is actually in the state budget. Discussion was held on the general revenue history for economic and demographic research and financial outlook statements. A question and answer session followed.

The workshop concluded at 1:15 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD  
IN OPEN SESSION

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Chairman

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10/21/08

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Superintendent