

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA
December 15, 2009

The District School Board of Pasco County met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 15, 2009, in the Board Room, District Office Complex, Building 3, 7205 Land O' Lakes Boulevard, Land O' Lakes, Florida. Present were Chairman Allen Altman, Vice Chairman Joanne Hurley, and Board Members Frank Parker, Kathryn Starkey 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 Member Parker and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Chairman asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Marcy Kohler (Grant Resource Teacher) and Karen O'Neal (Pasco Elementary School Teacher).

The Chairman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting of December 1, 2009 and executive session of December 1, 2009. There were none, and on motion by Member Parker, seconded by Member Martin, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Dr. John Mann, Director of Leadership Development, coordinated the special presentations as follows:

- Recognition of Matt Mooney, Land O'Lakes High School Student and the District School Board of Pasco County for Receiving the Governor's Serve to Preserve: Green Schools Awards
- ~~Recognition of Pasco High School National FFA Organization – First Place in the State – Food for America Award~~ – Rescheduled for February 16, 2010
- Recognition of Teachers Receiving the Florida Council for the Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award
- Recognition of Mr. Gary Bracken for Serving on the Pasco Education Foundation Board of Directors

The Chairman called a break for pictures and the meeting resumed at 6:28 p.m.

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

- Jennyfer, student, apologized for grabbing someone at Ridgewood High School
- Laura Semer of Hudson spoke regarding transportation issues her child and other students face who want to be in the IB program at Gulf High School. She expressed safety concerns with students having to walk to school and stated that in order to ride the bus her daughter would have to travel 3.8 miles to the bus stop and leave at 4:54 a.m. to catch the 6:10 a.m. bus. She believes that all children should have access to the program in order for them to meet their highest potential.
- Wendy Howard of Trinity and Chair for the Florida Chapter of the Coalition for Public School Options (NCPSO) spoke regarding Virtual School. She stated that while the district has gotten off to a very good start with virtual options the current set up does not allow for the continuity of a students education as each provider delivers its curriculum differently. They believe it is unfair for students who are succeeding with one provider be forced to switch to another provider in 6th grade just because the district hasn't approved the original provider for grades 6-12. She believes providing continuity of education for virtual students will give them the best chance to succeed.
- Kimberly Barbieri of Trinity voiced her concern with Virtual School options. She believes parents should have the choice of which Virtual School provider their children use, the same as students attending a brick and mortar school. She asked two questions: 1) Why are there limitations with curriculum providers in Pasco County? 2) Why are some providers limited to only certain grades?
- Jessica Howard, third grade Virtual School student was an advocate for every student having the opportunity to attend a virtual school and expressed her belief that there are too many restrictions, which do not allow for this to happen. She said she has met with lawmakers and obtained many signatures on a petition asking that legislators change the unfair laws so that every student has the opportunity to participate in virtual schools. The Board asked that district staff contact the family regarding their concerns.
- Kenny Blankenship, Land O'Lakes High School teacher spoke on the proposed Policy Manual regarding section 3310, Freedom of Speech. He expressed concern that the policy violates his rights as a citizen and teacher on speaking his mind. He would like the Board to review the policy again and remove the challenged sections.

- Robert Marsh of Masaryktown spoke to the proposed Policy Manual regarding his disagreement with section 3112(A), which he said implies he can not come and speak before the Board without first speaking with the Superintendent. He said it increases administrative burdens and costs and it goes against his constitutional rights. He feels it is unfair and un-American to stifle free speech. He commented on policy 3232 regarding employees seeking a political office. He feels the policy is written to ensure that no candidate emerges from the “rank and file” and they must reveal their intentions. He said it is another attempt at stifling free speech and he is disheartened by the lack of outrage over the clear attempts to circumvent and violate our Constitution. He asked the Board to reject these ideas.
- Pat Connolly of Zephyrhills agreed with the previous comments on the revised Policy Manual and spoke to the Board on section 3231 regarding outside activities of staff and tutoring. He voiced his concern that his rights as a citizen and Navy Veteran are being abridged. He said that the policy says that an employee cannot use their position as a teacher for their own personal profit. He believes that this is incorrect wording, as that would also mean the Department of Education would not allow him to be hired to write questions for the Physics exam, etc. He stated that further in the policy it states that the Board allows the Superintendent to authorize people to be paid for tutoring during work hours. He addressed 3231.01 regarding research and publishing and expressed his concern with the statement that the Board demands that teachers materials must be given to the District without royalties or copy write fees and they must be informed in advance. He believes the assumption is that teachers are unethical. He requested that the Board correct the policies.

The Board asked that Mrs. DuBose address the issues and revisit the policies before second reading in January.

The Chairman asked if the United School Employees of Pasco had anything to present.

- Jim Ciadella, Representative of the USEP, addressed the Board regarding concerns and suggestions with the proposed Board Policy revisions. USEP feels that teachers are the most appropriate people to remediate a student and they would like the Board to consider changing the policy, which disallows a teacher to tutor and he stated that this would require collective bargaining. He said USEP would like it put on record that staff members are not required to direct any questions through the Superintendent. He stated that the District has always given staff freedom of speech on public importance and they feel the policy must be revised to be more sensitive to that position. He also remarked that past practices of the District have allowed staff to support their political candidates by wearing buttons, etc. and if an employee chooses to run for office they are to notify their supervisor verbally only. It has never been required to be in writing, which the union feels would be an additional burden on the employee and discourage them from running for an office. USEP would like the policies reviewed further before second reading.
- Mr. Ciadella also remarked on the Race to the Top education funding. He stated that the union is not in favor of the idea as the federal dollars come with too many strings attached. He called the plan an attempt to roll back 30 years of collective bargaining progress. Part of the plan calls for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the evaluation system for teachers and pay for performance to be signed by the union and Board. Mr. Ciadella informed the Board that USEP is not interested in entering the process as it currently stands and will not sign the MOU as they feel it is not in the best interest of the District. He said the state version of the MOU is different from and more restrictive than the federal version that came from Washington. The union has several objections, including that a plan be negotiated within 90 days and it involves how layoffs would be handled. Seniority would no longer be a key factor. He noted that full award of the \$4 to \$8 million dollars has no guarantees of continuing the next year.

There were no Committee Reports by the Board.

(1.0) Reports, Information and Comments:

Superintendent Fiorentino:

- All eligible employees will receive bonus or supplement checks this Friday.
- Asked Board to pull Bridget Taylor’s resignation from the addendum to item 3.0.

Ruth Reilly:

- Introduced Shawn Graham and Allison Schooler with the Headstart Policy Council.

Olga Swinson:

- Will be issuing an 11 million dollar bond for the construction of a Culinary Arts Academy at Land O’Lakes High School.
- Received notice from Citibank that there are possibly two investors and they want to close tomorrow. We are looking at 1.75 percent all-inclusive, which is great news.

Renalia DuBose:

- Working with charter schools for better planning on enrollment. Next taskforce meeting scheduled for January 13. Working through issues at Imagine Charter School.

Tina Tiede:

- Pasco Middle School will be moving into their new building addition over the Holidays. The main building will be fenced off and demolition and rebuilding will begin soon.

(2.0) Mrs. Reilly presented the following expulsion recommendations. Board members have been provided with detailed information on which to base their decision.

- 2.1 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 6/26/94) from Ridgewood High School - **TABLED**
- 2.2 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 10/10/95) from Harry Schwettman Education Center - **TABLED**
- 2.3 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 4/12/93) from Hudson High School - **TABLED**
- 2.4 Expulsion of Male Student (DOB 10/21/95) from Gulf Middle School - **TABLED**

Member Parker moved that the Board approve the tabling of expulsions as recommended in items 2.1-2.4. Member Hurley seconded the motion, and on vote the motion carried unanimously.

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:

13.0 Memorandum of Understanding – Race To The Top Grant

14.0 Policies

- 14.1 First Reading – Revised DSBPC Policy Handbook

15.0 Naming of Elementary School “S”

(3.0 – 12.0) 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 3.1 addenda, resignation of Bridget Taylor and item 13.0. Member Martin 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 Instructional and Administrative Personnel Recommendations – (delete Bridget Taylor resignation)
- 3.2 Noninstructional Personnel Recommendations

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

- 4.1 Student Transfer Requests – **None Submitted**
- 4.2 Gulf High School Students to Participate in a Wrestling Tournament in Crawfordville, FL January 1-2, 2010, Funding: Internal Funds
- 4.3 Gulf High School Students to Participate in a Regional Wrestling Tournament in Palm Coast, FL February 11-13, 2010, Funding: Internal Funds
- 4.4 Hudson High School Students to Participate in the Florida State Raider JROTC Meet in Lake Wales, FL December 4-5, 2009, Funding: Internal Funds
- 4.5 Gulf High School Students to Participate in the Father Lopez Girls Varsity Basketball Tournament in Daytona Beach, FL December 28-31, 2009, Funding: Internal Funds
- 4.6 Land O’Lakes High School Students to Attend Cheerleading Competition in Daytona Beach January 15-17, 2010, Funding: Internal Funds
- 4.7 Land O’Lakes High School Students to Attend State Spanish Competition in Orlando April 15-17, 2010, Funding: Student Contributions

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 Castaldi Study for Richey Elementary School
- 6.2 Architectural Services – Academy of Culinary Arts at Land O’Lakes High School

7.0 Business/Finance (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

- 7.1 Approval of Payroll Expenditures for November, 2009 and Authorization to Expend Funds for December, 2009
- 7.2 Food & Nutrition Services – Vending Machine Business Plan
- 7.3 Amended Section 125 Cafeteria Plan
- 7.4 Surplus Equipment
- 7.5 Warrant Lists
- 7.6 Requisitions and Related Contracts

7.7 Bids and Related Contracts

Contracts: New Port Richey Police Department; The Cherry Tree; Early Achievers Academy; Just Kidz Preschool and Learning; Lighthouse Christian Academy; Baldomero Lopez Veterans' Nursing Home; Consulate Health Care of Bayonet Point; Florida Medical Clinic; HCR Manor Care; Life Care Center; Morton Plant Mease; Health Svc. dba Trinity Outpatient Center; Orchard Ridge Rehab & Nursing Center; Pasco Regional Medical Center; Premiere Community Health Care Group; Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point; Royal Oak Nursing Center; Trinity Regional Rehab Center; University Community Hospital, Inc.; All Children's Specialty Care of Pasco; Consulate Health; Trinity Surgery Center; Checkcare Systems

8.0 Grant Proposals

8.1 Florida Problem Solving/Response to Intervention (RtI) Statewide Project – Year 3

9.0 Allocations (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

9.1 Wesley Chapel High School Writing “Boot Camp” - Funding: School Improvement Funds

9.2 Gulf Middle and Charles S. Rushe Middle Schools – 2009-2010 Allocation Changes

9.3 New Allocation – Instructional Assistant/Bus Driver – CIS Department

9.4 Research & Evaluation Department - Unfreeze Supervisor Allocation

9.5 Paul R. Smith, Bayonet Point and Crews Lake Middle School – 2009-2010 Allocation Changes

10.0 Agreements/Contracts– None Submitted

11.0 Job Descriptions (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

11.1 Revised Job Description: *District Media Specialist, Production Services*

11.2 Deleted Job Description: *Instructional Assistant/Alternative School Bus Driver*

11.3 New Job Description: *Instructional Assistant/Bus Driver*

12.0 Supervisor, Title I Basic and Migrant to Attend the National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators 2010 Conference – ESEA in Washington, DC March 28-31, 2010, Funding: Title I, Part A Grant (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.)

(13.0) The Chairman presented the request for approval of the Memorandum of Understanding – Race to the Top Grant (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.) Superintendent Fiorentino initiated discussion and agreed that the changes being proposed for the grant are huge; however, the district could benefit from the \$4 to \$8 million during this time of financial crisis. She recommended the Board sign the letter of intent to participate, noting that the statement would not commit the Board to anything at this time. She remarked that as it seems to be the direction the state is heading, she did not want the district to be left having to follow the rules without receiving any of the money. Mrs. Reilly said although the plan is required in 90 days it could include a statement that we need another year to work out the details. She stated that all of this would need to be negotiated and a collaborative effort made. Chairman Altman remarked that he did not see any indication of options or flexibility in the program; therefore he thought it would be irresponsible to not move forward with it. Member Starkey stated that she believes this will be the future and she would not want to be required to do it without funding. She received clarification that the statement can be submitted with only the Board’s signature. Member Hurley moved that the Board approve the signing of the statement. Member Parker seconded the motion and on vote the motion carried unanimously.

(14.1) The Chairman presented the request for approval of the First Reading – Revised DSBPC Policy Handbook (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.) Member Parker moved that the Board approve the first reading, seconded by Member Starkey. On discussion, Member Hurley noted her appreciation of all the comments on the first reading and was pleased that specific sections were given, which will be helpful when researching. Member Starkey would like to readdress the research and publishing portion. Chairman Altman requested staff to review concerns raised by teachers for possible revision. There was no further discussion, and on vote the motion carried unanimously.

(15.0) The Chairman presented the request for approval of the Naming of Elementary School “S”. (See Miscellaneous Supplemental Minute Book _____, Page _____.) Board Members discussed several names and Member Parker moved that the school name be Flatwoods Elementary School. Member Starkey seconded the motion. The motion was defeated due to lack of a majority vote. After further discussion Member Starkey moved that the Board name the school *Odessa Elementary School*, seconded by Member Martin. On vote the motion carried unanimously.

Individual Board members presented and discussed items:

Member Starkey

- Discussed information from several sessions she attended at the recent Florida School Boards Association conference.

Member Hurley

- Visited Pasco Middle and Centennial Elementary Schools
- Thanked everyone who spoke today

- Acknowledged the Land O'Lakes High and Pine View Middle School Jazz Bands for their performances at the recent Traditions on the Green in Land O'Lakes.

Chairman Altman

- Spoke on several sessions he attended at the FSBA conference which he found very interesting
- Requested an update in January on the alternative education programs to make sure if money needs to be moved over to provide resources at those schools next year.

The Superintendent said the Commissioner of Education visited our schools last week. He listened to all the comments and suggestions from our administrators and will take them into consideration.

The Chairman asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Board. Pat Connolly from Zephyrhills spoke to the Board regarding his opposition to the Race to the Top grant. He stated that it not right to take the grant money just because we need it when it may not be there next year.

The Chairman announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is January 19, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

There was no further business to come before the Board, and the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: December 15, 2009 - 4:00 p.m.

TOPIC: Land O'Lakes High School Culinary Academy

The Board held a workshop session in the DIMC Studio at the District School Board Complex. Present were Board Members Kathryn Starkey, Frank Parker, Allen Altman, Cathi Martin and Joanne Hurley; 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; Dave Scanga, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools; Terry Rhum, Director of Employee Relations; Ric Mellin, Principal, LOLHS; Rob Aguis, Director of CTE; Planning, Construction Services and Maintenance Department Staff; Food and Nutrition Department Staff; Ted Williamson, Architect; Dennis Griesmer, Pasco Education Foundation; Jeff Solochek, St. Petersburg Times and Ronnie Blair, Tampa Tribune.

Presentation was given to the Board on the proposed Academy of Culinary Arts at Land O'Lakes High School, the long range plans for the school site on Old Pasco Road and the status of the wetlands. Information was also given to the Board on the capital outlay funding, as previously requested.

A question and answer session followed.

The workshop concluded at 5:25 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD
IN OPEN SESSION

Chairman

January 19, 2010

Superintendent