

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 9, 2003 – 7:00 p.m.
School Board Meeting Room
Stuart, FL 34994

Members Present

Dr. David Anderson
Vicki Davis, Chair
Susan Hershey, Vice-Chair
Laurie Gaylord
Lorie Shekailo
Dr. Sara A. Wilcox, Superintendent
Johnathan Ferguson, Interim Board Attorney
Matt Rudling, Student Representative (SFHS)

Members Absent

Tom Elfers, School Board Attorney

Staff Present

Hank Salzler, Lori McWilliams, Stacey Chados, Rae Hollenbeck, Dr. Joyce Holmes, John Klatt, Darrell Miller, Darla Miloszewski, Deana Newson, Leighton O'Connor, Rodger Osborne, Louise Piper, Dr. Frank Raffone, Marshall Skinner, Joan Hunt, Gail Newman, Pat Schmoyer, Dan Alley, Virginia Wardle, Mike Lindgren, Kerry Lucas, Brad Costello, Tom Prestopnik, Oscar Sura, Susan Barsness, Ruth Pietruski, Dana Stipo, Mary Slaven, Vicky Alley, Celeste Nora, Debbie Brown, Amy Robertson, Mark Thompson

Public

Peg Nott, Chuck Reid, Robert Burman, Wayne Slope, Amy Alpert, Ivan Chosneck, Tom Baird, Donald Dunn, Rob Wright

Press PBPost – Rani Gupta Stuart News – Kelly Tyko

MCEA – Dianne Falvo **AFSCME** – No Representation

Call to Order by the Chairman and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

1. Adoption of the Agenda:*

A. Additions, Deletions or Amendments to the Agenda

Dr. Wilcox asked to remove Items 8-E-3 and 11-H from the agenda, and add 10-M- “Lowest Quote to Blythe Environmental for Work to Meet Requirements of South Florida Water Management Permit for Jensen Beach High School”, and a modification to Item 10-A Exhibit B.

B. Approval of the Agenda

Mrs. Hershey moved approval of the Agenda as modified, Mrs. Gaylord seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of the Minutes:* 11/18/03 Board Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Gaylord moved approval of the 11/18/03 Board Meeting Minutes, Mrs. Shekailo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Recognitions:*

A. Recognition of the Martin County High School Girls’ Golf State Champions and the Boys’ Golf State Runners-up

Mr. Lindgren, Martin County High School Athletic Director, introduced Kerry Lukas who recognized the girls’ golf team on their championship. Mr. Lindgren then introduced Brad Costello who recognized the boys’ golf team.

B. Recognition of Tom Prestopnik, South Fork High School Art Teacher as the Florida Art Education Association High School Art Educator of the Year

Ms. Pat Schmoyer spoke of Tom’s ability to instill the passion and appreciation of art in his students. He is currently serving his 31st year as a teacher in Martin County. Mrs. Davis and Dr. Wilcox presented Mr. Prestopnik with a recognition plaque.

C. Recognition of Martin County High School Instructor, Oscar Sura, as N.A.P.A. Southeastern Region ASE Technician of the Year

Mr. Skinner recognized Oscar Sura as the N.A.P.A. Southeastern Region ASE Technician of the Year. Robert Burman and Wayne Slope of the local NAPA presented Mr. Sura with a recognition plaque.

4. Presentations:*

A. Presentations of Cove Road Property as potential School Site

Tom Baird, representing Mr. Chosneck, explained the approval of a planned unit development is on the table with the County. He explained the district has an agreement with his client that if Martin County approves this development, a 31 acre site on Cove Road would be donated to the district for a school facility or administrative offices. Recent dialogue with the County has necessitated slight revisions to the site plan, thereby reducing the acreage to 29 acres. He explained this land is net acreage with no wetlands on site, and a drainage system would be incorporated into the system serving the development. The district, in order to develop, would need to obtain the required building permits and build. The change to the contract is a change in an exhibit containing the legal description and acreage, with no other substantive changes to the document; and would be the 4th amendment to the contract.

He asked that the Board direct their attorney to work with his client to ensure the document is properly prepared and authorize the chair or Superintendent to execute the document.

There have been questions as to whether the district has a use for the site and asked the Board to authorize the Superintendent to forward a letter to the County outlining an interest in the property and that there is the potential to develop the site after going through the appropriate school siting process.

Mrs. Hershey commended Mr. Chosneck for offering the site. She asked if the company is exchanging the land for a waiver of the impact fees or if it is an outright land donation and was advised the agreement is not tied to impact fees as an exchange or credit. It is an agreement stating that if they receive the PUD approval, the school district receives the 29 acres and if they do not receive PUD approval, the district is given the option to purchase the property. She commented on this being an example of responsible growth, however asked for assurance that this would not be in exchange for impact fees. She asked how many of total acres are available for buildable development and was advised 274.15 acres.

Dr. Wilcox discussed being previously offered an option and accepting one on Cove Road and feels this is a wonderful opportunity for the school district, however wishes to stress the district would like to accept the land but the land would have to go through the TAC committee and would have to abide by the Interlocal Agreement. She cannot confirm the findings TAC might make with respect to the property and spoke of the importance of banking land. Mrs. Davis asked to add a statement regarding the impact fee concern. Mr. Baird stated that is acceptable. Mrs. Davis pointed out this is Item 10-A under construction.

5. Open to the Public:*

- **Susan Barsness, a Sandy Pines teacher, spoke about the trials and tribulations of being a teacher at Sandy Pines, and how the Sandy Pines teacher salary, lack of stipends or funds to cover the extra distance involved.**
- **Dana Stipo, a Hidden Oaks Middle School guidance counselor, addressed the board regarding steps 12-17 on the salary schedule; which has approximately 300 teachers with experience from 12 – 21 years who have helped earn all A and B schools. She explained this group is within the 24% of Martin County teachers who would receive a 0% salary increase with the latest proposal and a good portion of employees within this group who are on combined steps would not receive a step increase. She asked for equality in the final decision.**
- **Celeste Nora thanked Mrs. Shekailo for attending recent negotiation sessions. She discussed oversized classes, high FCAT scores, teachers with students with disabilities and having to continuously monitor these children, and teachers having to carry Epipen's in case of an emergency. She is concerned with the risks presented to students since teachers are not medical professionals.**
- **Mary Slaven feels teachers are not trained to provide the medical procedures they are sometimes required to perform.**
- **Vicky Alley discussed salary steps and the need to retain professionals and keep them from going to other districts. She asked that the salary schedule be equaled out and suggested the board members donate their increases until the employees receive their increases. Dr. Anderson stated the board members would not receive a salary increase until the employees receive their raises.**
- **Rob Wright discussed the small difference between his wife's salary as a twelve year teacher and that of a beginning teacher. He questioned how teacher salaries are fair compared to those of firefighters and police officers and what is being done for the teachers; the most valuable resource.**
- **Debbie Brown feels her responsibilities as a teacher increases every year and asked for "Just Cause" to language be placed within the contract in order to be treated fairly in discipline matters. She discussed being advised that the St. Lucie County teachers settled their contract and found information to the contrary. She asked for equality and does not feel it is fair to offer only the employees at the top and the employees at the bottom a raise.**

- Amy Robertson finds it disturbing that negotiations are once again stalled. She discussed the B.E.S.T. (Better Educated Student and Teacher) Act; which requires all school districts to implement salary career ladders. She feels the board is showing little concern for teacher retention at the middle of the salary schedule. She questions why she should stay in the district.
- Mark Thompson, a first year teacher in Martin County with a fourteen year teaching record, is lucky to have found a house in Martin County on the salaries provided. He feels teachers hold the highest value in the county and challenged the board to show them their value. He believes it is the responsibility of the Board to impress upon the community the value of teachers and find the money to retain them.
- Peg Nott asked if the addition of 10-M is over and above the \$46 million for the high school and was advised yes. She questioned the costs of the new schools, which is currently \$22 million over budget. She commented on having non-medical professionals providing medical services, and believes it places both the students and teachers at risk.

6. Removal of Items from the Consent Agenda:*

Mrs. Davis reminded the Board that 8-E-3 has been removed from the agenda.

7. Approve Consent Agenda:*

Mrs. Hershey moved approval of the Consent Agenda as modified, Mrs. Shekailo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **03/04 FY Attendance Zones:*** - NONE
- B. **Requests:***
 - 1. **Use of Facilities:*** (COPY ATTACHED)
 - 2. **Field Trips / Use of Buses / Vehicles:*** (COPY ATTACHED)
- C. **New Agreements:***
 - 1. **Approve Classroom Walk-Through Agreement between the Martin County School District and Learning 24/7** (COPY ATTACHED)
 - 2. **Approve Cooperative Agreement between Florida Atlantic University and the School Board of Martin County for Interns in Nursing** (COPY ATTACHED)
- D. **Disposal of Surplus Equipment:*** (COPY ATTACHED)
- E. **Personnel Items:***
 - 1. **Schedule of Personnel Recommendations** (COPY ATTACHED)
 - 2. **Leaves Authorized by the Superintendent** (COPY ATTACHED)
 - 3. ~~**Revised Job Description**~~ ~~Lead/Utility Bus Operator~~ ~~Deana Newson~~

9. Items Removed from the Agenda:* None

10. Construction:*

Mrs. Shekailo moved approval of Item 10-A through 10-L with the modification to 10-A as discussed in the presentation and Mrs. Hershey seconded, and asked for assurance that the covered play area is still in the plans for Hobe Sound Elementary School and was advised it is. The motion to approve carried unanimously.

- A. **Consider Revised Agreement for Acquisition of School Property - Cove Road Property** (COPY ATTACHED)
- B. **Approve Energy Consulting and Engineering Professional Services Contract per RFQ #03-0522 to Hanson Professional Services, Inc.** (COPY ATTACHED)
- C. **Approve Energy Consulting and Engineering Professional Services Contract per RFQ #03-0522 to TLC Engineering** (COPY ATTACHED)
- D. **Approve Contract Amendment with Song & Associates, Inc. for Professional Services on Hobe Sound Elementary Replacement School** (COPY ATTACHED)
- E. **Approve Contract Amendment with Harvard Jolly Clees Toope Architects, P.A. for Professional Services on J. D. Parker School of Science, Math and Technology Replacement School** (COPY ATTACHED)
- F. **Approve Request for Timeline Change from 60 Days after the School Board Resolution Number 2003-01 to 120 Days for the TAC Report –** (COPY ATTACHED)
- G. **Approve Elementary School Facilities List** (COPY ATTACHED)
- H. **Approve Supplemental Spot Survey for Hobe Sound Elementary** (COPY ATTACHED)
- I. **Approve Supplemental Spot Survey for J. D. Parker School of Science, Math and Technology** (COPY ATTACHED)

- J. Approve Castaldi Report for J. D. Parker School of Science, Math and Technology (COPY ATTACHED)
- K. Approve Castaldi Report for Hobe Sound Elementary (COPY ATTACHED)
- L. Final Payments
 - 1. Approve Final Payment to Britt-Britt Constructors on the Renovation Project at Old Port Salerno School House Head Start (COPY ATTACHED)
 - 2. Approve Project and Final Payment to Britt-Britt Constructors, Inc. for the Instructional Center Women's Restroom Renovation Project (COPY ATTACHED)
- +M. Approve Lowest Quote of \$94,192.72 from Blythe Environmental for Work to meet Requirements of South Florida Water Management Permit for Jensen Beach High School - (COPY ATTACHED)

Mr. Osborne provided an overview, which is the removal of exotic plants and in accordance with the permit issued by the South Florida Water Management District, the School Board is on a tight timeline due to contracting issues. The wetlands are fairly wet and the details have been worked out with the South Florida Water Management District. This item has been put together in order to meet the next reporting date. Dr. Anderson asked if the scope of this work was included in the original total package and Mr. Osborne stated it was in the total package as anticipated numbers, however they were not part of the GMP, but were part of the total budget. The district knew these would be forthcoming and money was set aside to fund this. Mrs. Hershey moved approval of Item 10-M, Mrs. Shekailo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Finance:*

Mrs. Shekailo moved approval of Item 11-A through 11-J, Mrs. Hershey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approve Purchase Orders in Excess of \$25,000 (COPY ATTACHED)
- B. Approve Non-Expendable Trust Fund Budget Amendment #04-002 (COPY ATTACHED)
- C. Approve General Fund Budget Amendment #04-104 (COPY ATTACHED)
- D. Approve Capital Fund Budget Amendment #04-304 (COPY ATTACHED)
- E. Approve Food Service Fund Budget Amendment #04-4103 (COPY ATTACHED)
- F. Approve Special Revenue Fund Budget Amendment #04-4204 (COPY ATTACHED)
- G. Approve ~~Permanent~~ Expendable Trust Fund Budget Amendment #04-8201 (COPY ATTACHED)
- H. ~~Approve Purchase of Point of Sale and Back of the House Software and Hardware for School Center Cafeterias and District Office - Leighton O'Connor (Ex. 11-H)~~
- *I. Approve November 2003 Monthly Financial Statement - (COPY ATTACHED)
- *J. Approve Petty Cash Custodian for SeaWind Elementary School from Delores Calloway to Deborah Vanover (COPY ATTACHED)

12. Rule Revisions:*

Dr. Anderson reiterated the school board did not opt to set their own salary and it is mandated by state that a salary is approved at this meeting and the Board choose to approve the minimum recommended salary. Mrs. Shekailo moved approval of Item 12-A-1, Mrs. Gaylord seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. First Review Workshop and Approve Advertising of School Board Rules
 - 1. 6Gx43-9.171 – Salary, Administrative (COPY ATTACHED)
- B. Public Hearing on School Board Rules

Mrs. Davis opened the meeting to a public hearing. There being no input it was closed to the public and opened for board discussion. There being no discussion, Mrs. Hershey moved approval of Item 12-B-1, Mrs. Gaylord seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

- 1. 6Gx43-7.10 – Bid Protests (COPY ATTACHED)

13. Approve Fee Support Price Increase for Community Education and Motorcycle Programs:*
(COPY ATTACHED)

Mrs. Gaylord moved approval of Item 13, Mrs. Hershey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

14. Approve 2003-2006 Strategic Plan:* (COPY ATTACHED)

Mrs. Davis is pleased to see the technology adjustments that were made and Mrs. Shekailo voiced satisfaction with her requested changes being implemented. Mrs. Hershey asked to add the following wording to the "Business Improvement Team's role" section:

- Recommend four business processes for improvement "and/or evaluation" and
- Review and approve four project plans "and submit to the board before the work is done",

and to the "Project Team Leader's Role" section:

- Provide monthly progress reports to the Cabinet "and Board".

Mrs. Hershey moved approval of the Strategic Plan with the requested modifications, Mrs. Gaylord seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

15. Approve Legislative Agenda:* (COPY ATTACHED)

Dr. Anderson moved approval of Item 15, Mrs. Gaylord seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Hershey pointed out that at the FSBA Annual Conference the association voted unanimously to uphold the Constitution of Florida and to hold the Class Size Amendment as it is at its present time and not change it.

16. Approve School Board Member Salaries of \$29,039 for the 2003/2004 School Year Per F.S. 1001.395:* (COPY ATTACHED)

Mrs. Davis explained the Board decided to approve the minimum salary increase and hold their raises until after negotiations. Mrs. Hershey moved to approve the board member salaries and hold the salary increases until negotiations are completed, Mrs. Shekailo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Dr. Wilcox called to the Board's attention the percentage change for the recommended board salaries as well as a copy of the proposed offer to MCEA on the table. She further explained the School Board has always, as past practice, held their raises until after settling with the unions. Dr. Anderson commented on distorting public view during the negotiation process and stated the board members how what is happening in negotiations because they have made the directions to staff. Detailed discussion ensued on the high costs of living in Martin and St. Lucie Counties.

Mrs. Shekailo stated the school board has no control over raising the millage to provide operating dollars and the capital dollars being spent on the new schools have absolutely no bearing on salary increases. She feels the Board has a commitment to the district, teachers and students and is outlined in the Legislative Agenda.

Dr. Anderson stated the Board Members all know about Sandy Pines and that he has a relative that works there and he has visited the facility.

Mrs. Hershey suggested the community start thinking how they can assist bettering the teachers, firemen, and police officers. She stated there is a Statute on the books that allows, with commission approval, the waiver of impact fees for this group of employees and there are small interest loans available. There is not, however, everything put in one package and suggested business partnerships be formed and a package formulated. Mrs. Davis asked to have this idea placed on the next Joint Meeting with the City and County and do some ground work until that time. The Board agreed to be creative and find solutions to include all educational employees. Dr. Anderson suggested inviting teachers and community into the brainstorming process for input. Mrs. Hershey feels it needs to be bigger than the school system.

17. Open to the Board:*

A. Discuss and Approve Committee Appointments (COPY ATTACHED)

Committee appointments were designated by Mrs. Davis.

Matt Rudling

Martin County High School News

- Commented on the excitement surrounding Martin County High School's new sign.
- December 11, 2003 will be the band and choral holiday concert.
- December 18, 2003 will be the Opus holiday concert.
- Girls' basketball team and soccer teams are getting off to good starts
- The school is participating in White Doves and Toys for Tots. They decorate their doors and have a competition.
- Pat Beonde and Connie Dahn received National Board Certifications.

South Fork High School

- Showcase performed in the Macy's Day parade.
- Showcase choral concert is December 16.
- Paul Catano, Patience Shufu and Ellen Higgins received National Board Certification.
- Boys' basketball is currently undefeated.
- The school has adopted 28 families through White Doves and 2 private family adoptions, and 100 children through Head Start.
- ACT is December 13.
- He discussed upcoming athletic events.

Mrs. Shekailo

Thanked the Superintendent for the attendance information provided for Thanksgiving week and was pleased with the student and employee attendance. She congratulated the new National Board Certified Teachers. She enjoyed the Board Member Holiday Bus and thanked Dr. Anderson for playing Santa Clause and Mrs. Davis for preparing the "goodie baskets". She mentioned the FSBA conference and is proud to be represented by Senator Pruitt.

Mrs. Gaylord

Complimented South Fork High School on their production of FAME. She reminded the Board of Delores Calloway's "Send Off" on Friday evening at SeaWind Elementary School. She discussed Santa visiting Head Start and Pre-K and the impression it made on the children. She reported her son won the Geography Bee again at school this year.

Regular School Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2003 – 7:00 p.m.
Page 6 of 6

Mrs. Hershey

Stated the Board Members did a Geography Bee in the car on their way to Tampa. She commented on the National Board Certification additional dollars are in jeopardy and the Board is lobbying to have the funds included in the budget. She asked staff to alert the Union that this is occurring. Senator Pruitt was phenomenal and again received the Legislator of the Year Award.

Dr. Wilcox

Followed up on Senator Pruitt's support for education and stated he also received the Superintendents' Association Legislator of the Year Award as well. During the FADSS meeting, they heard, not definitely, that there would possibly be a proration of FTE and a hold-back of funding. She is not aware of the magnitude of the impact on the operating budget; however this is yet another consideration. She is proud of the schools for their adoption of the White Doves families. She informed the Chair that there needs to be a third appointee to the Engineering / Architect Selection Committee and Mrs. Shekailo volunteered and Mrs. Gaylord as well.

Mrs. Davis

Reminded the board that this is the last board meeting until January and that the technology training is scheduled for January 12, 2004. She congratulated Matt on his FAME performance and the high schools on their Pathfinder nominations. She thanked Johnathan Ferguson for filling in this evening.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

CHAIR (Vicki Davis)

SECRETARY (Sara A. Wilcox, Ph.D.)