

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 3, 2004 – 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
Tom Elfers, Board Attorney
Matt Rudling, Student Representative (SFHS)

Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Hank Salzler, Lori McWilliams, Helene Baxter, Delores Calloway, Stacey Chados, Dr. Joyce Holmes, John Klatt, Darrell Miller, Darla Miloszewski, Louise Piper, Dr. Frank Raffone, Al Fabrizio, Jane Buss, Molly Kisse, Peggy Mannering, Dan Alley, Vicki Alley, Missy Campbell, Mary Slavin, Mark Thompson, Jim McCombs, Mike Dailey, Stan Kemp, Bonnie Barnard, Ginger Featherstone, Nancy Marin, Mike Chatham, John Wakeman, Mary Giandalone

Public

June Britt, Peter Rausch, Priscilla Hitchcock, Morgan Duran, Nicholas LaConte, Carol Agrow, Katie Agrow

Press PBPost – Rani Gupta Stuart News – Kelly Tyko

MCEA – Jeanette Phillips / Dianne Falvo **AFSCME** – No Representation

Call to Order by the Chairman at 7:00 p.m. and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

1. Adoption of the Agenda:*

A. Additions, Deletions or Amendments to the Agenda

Mrs. Davis pointed out Item 16 has been stricken from the agenda; there were no other addition, deletions or amendments.

B. Approval of the Agenda

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

2. Approval of the Minutes:* 1/20/04 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Hershey moved approval of the 1/20/04 Regular Meeting Minutes, Mrs. Gaylord seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Recognitions:* None

4. Presentations:*

A. Presentation of Appreciation to June Britt of the Treasure Coast Square

Mr. Mike Dailey presented Ms. June Britt of the Treasure Coast Square with a recognition plaque for their support and assistance with the adult education center at the mall.

5. Open to the Public:*

- **Bonnie Barnard, a SeaWind Elementary School teacher, presented the School Board Members and Superintendent with Steven Covey's book "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People". She discussed the concept by Mr. Covey where he refers to an old fable, "The Goose that Laid the Golden Egg". He suggests that employers approach their employees with tender loving care and provided them with every comfort and consideration possible due to the high value of their ability to produce. Teachers are the geese that produce the golden eggs – the students, who year after year out perform almost every other Florida County. She questioned why the teachers have to fight every year to receive an equitable pay increase.**
- **Missy Campbell, teacher at Crystal Lake Elementary, discussed teaching as a chosen profession and spoke of the lack of respect and accolades given teachers for a job well done.**

- Debbie Brown, teacher at Palm City Elementary, discussed the MCEA website survey.
- Vicky Alley invited the Board and Superintendent to look at their website, www.themcea.org and spoke of the sentiments being made to their survey.
- Tom Higgins, a South Fork High School teacher, stated that MCEA, through research, has determined there are additional available funds to be placed into teacher salaries and asked the Board to reconsider and settle the contract. Secondly, he asked the Board to participate in the negotiation process next year if permissible.
- Debbie Hutchins, Warfield Elementary teacher, voiced concern that the instructional aides can not settle until after the teacher's union settles. She provided an example of how students perform based on their current attitudes and paralleled it to how teachers perform when they feel respected.
- Amy Marszewski, a new teacher in the district with her Masters Degree, spoke of her past experience and how she is unable to afford to live in Martin County.
- Nicholas LaConte, a Crystal Lake Elementary student, addressed the School Board about teacher salaries.
- Priscilla Hitchcock, a Martin County High School parent, asked the School Board to allow her son to remain at Martin County High School rather than attend Jensen Beach High School due to the new school not offering the Air Force ROTC program. Her son's driving force is to attend the Air Force Academy or Emory Riddle University to pursue a career in aviation.
- Morgan Duran, elementary SAC parent at Hobe Sound Elementary, became aware that their school hosts ESOL and Adult Ed programs during school hours and voiced concern with adults being allowed on campus during school hours. She does not want these students interacting with her children.
- Carol Agrow, a parent, discussed teacher salaries and feels teachers should be compensated for the high test scores and "A" schools.
- Katie Agrow, a Hidden Oaks Middle School student asked, "Who taught doctors to be doctors, who taught lawyers to be lawyers: teachers did." She asked the Board to give credit where credit is due and provide the teachers with an appropriate salary increase.

6. Removal of Items from the Consent Agenda:* None

7. Approve Consent Agenda:*

Dr. Anderson moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Mrs. Hershey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

A. 03/04 FY Attendance Zones:* (COPY ATTACHED)

B. Requests:*

1. Use of Facilities:* (COPY ATTACHED)

2. Field Trips / Use of Buses / Vehicles:* (COPY ATTACHED)

C. New Agreements:*

1. Approve Cooperative Financial Agreement between the School Board of Martin County and Tri-County TEC to provide a professional development training system for the establishment of Micro-Enterprises for adults with disabilities - Marshall Skinner (Ex. 8-C-1)

D. Renewal Agreements:*

1. Approve Agreement between the School Board of Martin County and Chapman School of Seamanship (COPY ATTACHED)

2. Approve Interlocal Agreement between the Martin County Commission and the School Board of Martin County for shared use of the Martin County Community Pool (COPY ATTACHED)

E. Renewal Grants:*

1. Approve 2004 Camp W.E.T. Grant (COPY ATTACHED)

F. Accept Head Start Policy Council Minutes:* (COPY ATTACHED)

G. Approve Disposal of Surplus Equipment:* (COPY ATTACHED)

H. Personnel Items:*

1. **Schedule of Personnel Recommendations (COPY ATTACHED)**
2. **Leaves Authorized by the Superintendent (COPY ATTACHED)**

9. Items Removed from the Agenda:* None

10. Construction:*

A. Change Orders

1. **Approve Change Order #1 to reduce Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to the Morganti Group, Inc. by \$11,552,840 as a result of Direct Material Purchases for Jensen Beach High School (COPY ATTACHED)**

Dr. Anderson moved approval of Item 10-A-1, Mrs. Gaylord seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Dr. Anderson commented on the savings to the district as a result of this Change Order. Mrs. Davis clarified that it has actually saved the district \$600,000 in tax savings and would be used towards the athletic fields and concession stands at the new high school.

11. Finance:*

Mrs. Gaylord moved approval of Item 11, Dr. Anderson seconded, and the item was opened for discussion. Mrs. Shekailo asked Ms. Miloszewski if the projected “Ending Fund Balance” is \$3,587,371.29 and asked if the “Class Size Reduction” money that has not yet been spent on hiring teachers, has been appropriated to go towards the salary proposal currently on the table; Ms. Miloszewski advised that is correct. She further asked if the “Ending Fund Balance” would be decreased if the salary proposal was increased and was advised that is correct and is not reoccurring dollars. She asked what the recommendation is for an “Ending Fund Balance” and Ms. Miloszewski explained the Auditor General highly recommended districts maintain at least 5%, but since the State cut two years ago, they have let this go a little but not much. Ms. Shekailo noted that the district is below the recommended 5%. Ms. Miloszewski explained the fund balance helps to prevent lay offs should there need to be cuts. Ms. Shekailo asked if there is any funding, either increases or decreases, in revenue coming forward and Ms. Miloszewski stated the property tax collection usually yields a little extra money (1%) and are not included at this time because they are told not to budget the extra as a normal item because it can increase or decrease based on tax collector discounts and the Value Adjustment Board.

Mrs. Davis reviewed the Auditor General’s comparisons throughout the counties and stated there would be a proposal before the Legislature recommending at least a 4% - 5% statewide/districtwide during this session and Ms. Miloszewski agreed. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. **Approve Purchase Orders / Contracts (COPY ATTACHED)**
- B. **Approve General Fund Budget Amendment #04-106 (COPY ATTACHED)**
- C. **Approve Capital Fund Budget Amendment #04-306 (COPY ATTACHED)**
- D. **Approve Food Service Fund Budget Amendment #04-4105 (COPY ATTACHED)**
- E. **Approve Special Revenue Fund Budget Amendment #04-4206 (COPY ATTACHED)**

12. Bid Recommendations:*

A. Authorize Renewal of Bid

1. **MCSB Bid #96707 – Uniform Rental Laundry Service (COPY ATTACHED)**

Mrs. Hershey moved approval of Item 12-A-1, Mrs. Gaylord seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Approve School District’s Internal Funds Audit Report for Year Ended June 30, 2003:*
(COPY ATTACHED)

Dr. Anderson moved approval of Item 13, Mrs. Hershey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Shekailo thanked Ms. Chados for her hard work and appreciates her guidance.

14. Approve Martin County Add-On Reading Endorsement Plan:* (COPY ATTACHED)

Mrs. Davis asked about the timeline and stated this is being completed as a three county consortium, with Martin partnering with St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. Dr. Raffone explained the legislative requirement is that districts satisfy the statutory regulation by July, 2006; to date no district’s plan has been approved. Once this is approved, he will submit the plan to the State and does not know what their timeline is. Mrs. Davis asked to be kept updated on the timeline for implementation. Mrs. Gaylord moved approval of Item 14, Mrs. Hershey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

15. Approve Addendum to Master In-Service Plan:* (COPY ATTACHED)

Mrs. Hershey moved approval of Item 15, Mrs. Gaylord seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

16. Update on Strategic Plan Goal III:* Dr. Frank Raffone (Ex. to follow)

17. Open to the Board:*

A. Cancel the April 6, 2004 School Board Meeting (falls during Spring Break)

Dr. Anderson moved approval of 17-, Mrs. Gaylord seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Wilcox

Announced that the district settled the contract with AFSCME this evening and clarified that the instructional aides will receive their increases.

She introduced Al Fabrizio as the new Assistant Principal at Jensen Beach High School and Peter Rausch as the new football coach at Jensen Beach High School.

Mrs. Featherstone

Stated she is excited to have Mr. Rausch on board and reviewed his impressive credentials. Mr. Rausch commented on his new position and voiced his excitement.

Matt Rudling

Updated the Board on upcoming high school activities and events. He announced Matt Jones, of South Fork High School, received the Governor's All Star Award, which requires a high GPA, strong involvement in sports, and a great deal of community service. He will have lunch with the Governor at the Governor's Mansion. He thanked the teachers for the hard work they do and stated it does reflect within the community.

Dr. Wilcox

Announced she received a call from the Commissioner of Education Friday announcing that Matt would be recognized at the State meeting in Orlando as our Region's Youth Volunteer. She further announced that Lisa Rhodes of Palm City Elementary would be recognized as the Adult Volunteer for the Region. Ms. Rhodes worked diligently to get the defibrillator in Palm City Elementary.

Mrs. Shekailo

Congratulated Matt on his honor and reminded the Board that Matt will be honored at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon as Student of the Month. She thanked Ms. Miloszewski and Betty Hickox for working her through the budget information and taking her with them to the Florida Finance Officers Association Roundtable.

Mrs. Gaylord

Congratulated Matt and welcomed Mr. Rausch aboard. She attended the Literacy Conference at Florida Atlantic University with the Superintendent. She stated they did not get much direction regarding "No Child Left Behind" and that is what they were looking to achieve from the conference. The Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce is holding their Arts Fest this weekend.

Mrs. Hershey

Attended the Federal Relations Network Conference for the National School Board Association. She discussed the focus was on No Child Left Behind, IDEA, Medicaid, and School Lunch Reauthorization. The biggest hot buttons were the high quality paraprofessionals and teacher certification and the inconsistency in state plans. They did have an opportunity to meet with Senator Nelson, Congressman Foley's staff and the Speaker of the House and attempted to get one plan adopted, preferably the Florida Plan due to its advancement, however doesn't feel it would happen. On the horizon, they are anticipating getting rid of the Medicaid Administrative Fees and districts would have to continue the administration of Medicaid, however would not receive any funding for it. At Mrs. Davis' request, Mrs. Hershey advised this is coming from the President's budget. Under the School Lunch Reauthorization, presently you have a 3% audit requirement and they want to increase this to a 12% audit requirement. She discussed IDEA and how the government was to fund 40% and the States would pick up the rest, however they are only funding 12% - 14% and locally having to pick up the rest.

Mrs. Davis asked if our Senators and Congressman are supportive of the elimination of these Medicaid funds and Mrs. Hershey explained Congressman Foley and Senator Nelson are supportive of not eliminating the funds.

Dr. Wilcox commented that when the school lunch audit is done, one thing they look for is to ensure that Federal funds are not used for any other purpose other than for food service and they are not dollars that have flexibility. Dr. Wilcox feels all the No Child Left Behind Plans should be changed and should be consistent in order to have comparability among states and would like the Florida Plan modified to allow for more numbers in the sub-groups. Mrs. Hershey stated there are currently 30 sub-groups with considerations being made for 50; Dr. Wilcox would like them to look at the proficiency levels. She discussed the ESE students with disabilities being

another area of concern and looking at the expectations of having to meet the same criteria, but also district-wide you can only test 1% of the students at every grade level on an alternative assessment. If you test more than 1% and those students are proficient, they will be considered “not proficient” as far as No Child Left Behind is concerned.

Dr. Wilcox

Advised the district received notification, that on appeal, an additional four schools that made AYP bringing the total of seven schools meeting AYP.

Dr. Anderson

Congratulated Mr. Fabrizio and Mr. Rausch on their new appointments. He was impressed with the two students that spoke before the Board. He voiced concern with inadequate statements being made about the Board regarding teacher negotiations and spoke of his high respect for teachers. He stated the Board must do the right thing for the right reason.

Dr. Wilcox

Discussed how the School Board lobbied the Legislature to distribute the Class Size Reduction monies equitably rather than based on need so districts that addressed lower class sizes prior to the amendment would not be penalized. She spoke about her interview with the Home Town News and explained the district supports the equity of the distribution of the funding so that eventually the district would create a better balance and more funds would go into salaries for employees. This will take a few years for that to happen. She informed the Board that in their packet there is a statement from the Department of Education stating the Class Size Reduction funds have been used appropriately and within the legal use of Class Size Reduction funding. Also, there is a survey the Department of Education prepared in December on how each county spent their Class Size Reduction money. Further included in the packet of information is a State ranking of teacher salaries (2002-2003 Florida Average Teacher Salary Ranked by County – 13 counties have yet to settle 2003-2004 contracts). She explained Martin County ranked 12th in the State in Florida average teacher salaries ranked by County. Staff would be preparing a fact sheet to provide additional information.

Mrs. Davis

Will be in Washington, DC for a SERVE Board of Director meeting and will follow up with the items Mrs. Hershey brought forward. She had positive feedback from the Concurrency Workshop. Thanked Mrs. Barnard for her gift and stated the issue is not being taken lightly. She complimented Nicholas on his comments to the Board.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

CHAIR (Vicki Davis)

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