



**Video Taping Board Meetings Workshop Minutes
Tuesday, August 15, 2006 – 6:00 p.m.
School Board Meeting Room
Stuart, FL 34994**

Members Present

Lorie Shekailo-Chair
Laurie Gaylord-Vice-Chair
Dr. David Anderson
Susan Hershey
Nancy Kline
Dr. Sara A. Wilcox, Superintendent

Members Absent

Doug Griffin, School Board Attorney

Staff Present

Hank Salzler, Ruth Pietruszewski, Cathleen Brennan, Kerry Lewis, Sean Lewis, Linda King, Ray Parrish, Steve Weil

Public

None

Press PBPost – No Representation

Stuart News – No Representation

MCEA – No representation

AFSCME – No representation

Call to order by the Chairman

1. Discussion of Video Taping Board Meetings

Nancy Kline stated that she had asked Tom Elfers, the former School Board Attorney, to do a survey on the number of school districts televising and videotaping board meetings. Board members reviewed the information Tom had provided. Steve Weil, MCSD Executive Director of Educational Technology, provided information on estimates received from four different firms. Prices on videotaping board meetings ranged from \$250.00 - \$650.00 per meeting, depending on the requirements. None of these estimates included wide captioning and an additional \$150.00 would be charged per meeting to capture documents overhead. Steve looked into options of doing the videotaping internally; consequently, he learned that a tremendous amount of capital would be required for the infrastructure to do the taping in-house. Nancy Kline discussed the options of live and delayed video taping. She mentioned that other boards do not video tape "open to the public," because they do not know ahead of time if children's names will be mentioned, so some do delayed video taping. Nancy asked Steve if there was any system that video taped and then turned minutes into type. Steve answered that the problem with those systems was voice recognition. First the systems recorded every sound, such as coughs and clearing throat sounds, and by the time a person redacted those they may as well spend the time typing. He explained that an electronic system would not be able to distinguish by the sound of a voice whom was speaking. The time it would take a person to correct these issues, they could have minutes typed. Board members discussed the news article written by the Martin County Taxpayer's Association (COPY ATTACHED) The article stated, "The Martin County School Board and the City Commission meetings should be aired on MCTV. The County Commission meetings have become too long and too costly." So on one hand, they wanted meetings televised, but they were concerned about the cost. Nancy Kline stated that if the public had no interest in video taping meetings, the idea would die due to lack of interest. Dr. David Anderson commented that so few people from the public have ever requested audio tapes of the meetings. Lorie Shekailo questioned where the money would come from to pay for the costs. Her opinion was not to move forward with the idea, since data (COPY ATTACHED) showed that only 7 individuals in two years had requested audio tapes. Laurie Gaylord informed Board members that the Realtors Association had asked about whether the Board could video tape the meetings to keep the community aware of issues. Laurie suggested airing a pre-recorded message for people who didn't know what's going on in the school district. Nancy Kline expressed her opinion that the meeting had been advertised and no one from the public, the Taxpayer's Association, or the Realtor's Association had shown up. She continued that the research showed that our neighboring school boards, St. Lucie County and Okeechobee County, did not video tape or televise their meetings. She reported that Palm Beach County, however, did video tape their meetings. Nancy suggested we

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look at the issue later, if the community showed interest. She felt obviously there was not much interest from the public, since no one showed up at the advertised workshop. Lorie Shekailo explained that the county's funding

1. Discussion of Video Taping Board Meetings (Con't)

system was so different, and stated that the County had the ability to raise millage, whereas the School Board did not have that option. She felt the Board's concern was spending in the classroom. She stated that Kelly Tyko, Stuart News journalist, did an excellent job keeping the community informed on events and School Board issues. Board members surmised that if individuals missed all the news articles then they may miss watching MCTV also. Nancy Kline concluded that the Board had offered this workshop and hoped to hear the public's opinion on the issue, but no one from the public showed any interest. Laurie Gaylord agreed that she felt the public had no interest in video taping School Board meetings. Dr. David Anderson remarked that the media didn't even come to the workshop. Nancy Kline asked Steve Weil to apprise the Board if any new minute-taking devices became available. Doug Griffin stated that if one ever read a verbatim transcript, they were sometimes embarrassing, reinforcing Steve Weil's opinion that just typing the minutes was better. Board members came to a consensus not to move forward with the issue at this time, since the public showed no interest in video taping the meetings, past history showed the public had little interest, and it would be an added expense.

2. Open to the Public

No one from the public requested to speak.

3. Open to the Board

Lorie Shekailo

Reported that Board members planned to attend the FSBA President's retreat at the Marriott in City Place in West Palm Beach, and the event coincided with the same time as the SFHS Homecoming Parade.

Laurie Gaylord

Announced that she was attending the FSBA event, but she would be returning for the SFHS Homecoming Parade.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

CHAIR (Lorie Shekailo)

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