

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MONROE COUNTY

Workshop & Regular Meeting Minutes

Marathon High School Media Center

March 24, 2009 at 2:00 pm

PRESIDING: Andy Griffiths, Chair

PRESENT: Steven Pribramsky; Duncan Mathewson; John Dick; Debra Walker; Randy Acevedo, Superintendent and School Board Attorney Richard Collins and Dirk Smits.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Mr. Dick questioned the date the Board Chair was advised of the Audit Responses. Mr. Dick has also raised questions over the EvenStart Grant.

In compliance with the Board's direction at the March 12 meeting Mr. Griffiths presented Manual Garcia with GLSCCPA to the Board. Additionally, Mr. Richard Fechter of the firm Berkowitz Dick Pollack and Brant, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants, LLP presented to the Board. After a question and answer period by each firm; the Board selected the firm Mr. Fechter representing Berkowitz. Mr. Collins suggested the Board authorize the firm to begin phase I and costs not to exceed \$5,000 for planning purposes. The vote is to be added to this agenda.

The Board discussed the selection of an attorney to work with the forensic investigation firm. The Board desired experience with public entity, labor attorney, hiring of forensic accounting firm under their umbrella. A Special Meeting to hear presentations on the attorneys is to be held Tuesday, April 14th at 10am in Key West. Mr. Pribramsky would like to hire a firm with employment background. Mr. Collins stated to the Board there are other firms that may have expressed interest and suggested inviting those firms to future meeting to make a presentation to the Board. A special meeting can be scheduled to have their presentations heard and action at another meeting. The Board would like to craft an RFP for legal services. The hiring of an attorney is outside of the bid requirements. The Board discussed the particulars on what they'd like to see from the responding firms.

Presentation from Ombudsman – The Ombudsman group did agree to reduce their rate by 10%. An update was provided on the program by Sue Fila from Ombudsman.

Adult Education Update – Mr. Henriquez briefed the board on proposed changes to be implemented to keep the program operational. Mr. Dick is not in favor of continuing this program next year but rather passing it to Florida Keys Community College. Mr. Henriquez urged the Board to consider Co-Enrolled students who can be impacted. Mr. Pribramsky echoed Mr. Dick's sentiments about disbanding the program. Dr. Mathewson supports moving the program to FKCC. The Board is accepting of Mr. Arnott to keep the program maintained for the remainder of the year. Dr. Walker would like a systematic analysis and ensuring the same level

of GED support especially for what is working in the upper keys. Mr. Griffiths suggested a workshop item with FKCC representatives present to discuss this further. Mr. Pribramsky asked about changes in fees and whether money orders or credit cards and checks can be accepted in place of cash payments.

Mr. Acevedo stated that Dr. Boros and Dr. Genchi will propose a weight loss challenge with a local student and the City of Key West Mayor and himself.

Summer Band Camp – Mr. Acevedo advised the Board that through donations and grants the ECMC program can cover electrical, and transportation costs to keep this program in place for this summer.

A request for Closed Attorney/Client Session Concerning the Case Wilkoff v. the Monroe County School District was read into the record by Mr. Collins. The closed session will take place at the next regular business meeting of April 21, 2009.

Update on Contract Reductions replies were received from TerraMar and Edulog.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION Time Approximate 4:00 pm

The Board and Superintendent met to discuss collaborative bargaining.

REGULAR MEETING – 5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

ADOPT AGENDA AND FORMAT – Superintendent’s and/or School Board Members requests to amend the agenda or remove items from the consent agenda.

Agenda items pulled for discussion:

Consent Items 4, 13, 14, 15, 22 and 25 now become action items. Added for cause was the discussion and vote (Action Item) on shutting down Pcards.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Dr. Mathewson moved, Dr. Walker seconded the Board approve

Approve Board Minutes of February 24, 2009.

Motion passed without objection
(Copy in SMB 47, page 211)

RECOGNITION

The Board recognized the following
Music Appreciation Month

The Boy Scouts
Upper Keys Theater production of Willy Wonka
Key West High Schools Wind Ensemble
Coral Shores High School band
Key Largo School band

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was opened to hear the policies. No one from the public addressed the Board.

1. Internal Disputes within the Head Start Program's Executive Leadership Policy
2. Food from Home Policy Concerning the Head Start Program Policy
3. Code of Conduct/Ethics Concerning the Head Start Program Policy
4. Policy 1120 Employment of Administrators

Policy 7530.01V4 Wireless Communication Allowance and Staff Use of Wireless Communications Device Policy was not heard during the public hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Dr. Mathewson moved, Dr. Walker seconded the Board approve in bulk

Approve the Volunteers Throughout the District. Goal Area 4 (Copy in SMB 47, page 212)

Approve the Recommendations for Support Services Personnel Employed and Terminated for the 2008-2009 School Year. Goal Area 4 (Copy in SMB 47, page 213)

Approve Requests for Leave. Goal Area 4 Motion passed without objection. (Copy in SMB 47, page 214)

Approve the Recommendations for Administrative Personnel Employed for the 2008-2009 School Year. Goal Area 4 (Copy in SMB 47, page 215)

Approve Meeting Minutes of the Meeting Minutes for the Montessori Elementary Charter School of January 12, 2009. Goal Area 5 (Copy in SMB 47, page 216)

Approve Bank Reconciliation for the month of February, 2009. Goal Area 8 (Copy in SMB 47, page 217)

Approve Schedule of Investments for month ending February, 2009. Goal Area 8 (Copy in SMB 47, page 218)

Approve Warrant Registers for the month of February, 2009. Goal Area 8 (Copy in SMB 47, page 219)

Approve Overtime Report for month of February, 2009. Goal Area 8 (Copy in SMB 47, page 220)

Approve Financial Statements for the month of January 2009 for Montessori Elementary Charter School, Big Pine Elementary Academy, Treasure Village Montessori. Goal Area 8 (Copy in SMB 47, page 221)

Approve Tangible Personal Property Removal Report. Goal Area 8 (Copy in SMB 47, page 222)

Approve Contract Addendum with Y-net. Goal Area 7 (Copy in SMB 47, page 223)

Approve Contract Addendum with Vernis & Bowling for Non-Litigation. Goal Area 5 (Copy in SMB 47, page 224)

Approve Contract Addendum with Vernis & Bowling for Litigation. Goal Area 5 (Copy in SMB 47, page 225)

Approve Contract Addendum with Terramar Environmental Services, Inc. Goal Area 7 (Copy in SMB 47, page 226)

Approve Submittal of Grant Application: HP Innovations in Education Grant. Goal Area 7 (Copy in SMB 47, page 227)

Approve Contract for Services with the Bill of Rights Institute. Goal Area 4 (Copy in SMB 47, page 228)

Approve the Avid Planning Agreement and Related Contract. Goal Area 3 (Copy in SMB 47, page 229)

Approve Changes to the Head Start Program Plans. Goal Area 2 (Copy in SMB 47, page 230)

Approve Teaching American History Grant. Goal Area 4 (Copy in SMB 47, page 231)

SPECIAL ACTION ITEMS

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Mr. Pribramsky moved, Dr. Mathewson seconded the Board approve

Approve the Budget Amendments, #63-68 Resolution No. 719. Goal Area 4

In an effort to save money to help pay for the expenses of the auditors Mr. Dick suggested cutting contracts. One suggestion he had was to cut the contract with PLA. He was concerned about a possible conflict of interest with Mrs. St. James relationship with the NEOLA firm. Mr. Dick suggested striking the line item funding the remaining monies that would pay the Professional Leadership Associates. After discussion, it was suggested that all contracts contain a 30 day termination clause as it was noted that the PLA contract contained a 60 day termination clause. As this item was not added to the agenda, the Chairman suggested considering this item at the April 21, 2009 meeting. Mr. Dick would like to see other areas to amend the budget.

Additionally, Mr. Dick would like to see the monies that would pay for Adult Education be used to fund the auditor's costs.

At the April 21, 2009 meeting the Board will consider canceling the contract with PLA with 60 days notice, and also use the money from the Adult Education fund to pay for the forensic auditor.

Mr. Dick would like an amendment to the original recommendation to amend Budget Amendments to the budget line item by specifically eliminating any costs associated with the Professional LE contract with the 30 day contract clause with the passing of the remaining budget amendments.

Mr. Pribramsky moved the modified the amended motion and Dr. Mathewson seconded the amended motion with a modification contingent upon the most expeditious way to bring that contact to a close. This will be voted on at the end of the meeting to allow time to determine whether PLA has a 30 day cancellation clause or a 60 day cancellation clause.

Motion passed without objection
(Copy in SMB 47, page 232)

Mr. Dick questioned the response time concerning the audit. Ms. Reitzel clarified which replies were sent and with regards to which audit stage. Mr. Dick was apologetic for the confusion and understood the differences.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Mr. Dick moved, Dr. Mathewson seconded the Board approve

Approve Financial Statements for the Month of February 2009.

Mr. Pribramsky is uncertain that they actually reflect what is going in the district.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Dick No

Dr. Mathewson Yes

Mr. Pribramsky No

Dr. Walker Yes

Mr. Griffiths No

Motion failed.

Mr. Griffiths will meet with Mr. Collins to discuss the next step with regards to approving these financial statements. He will advise the Superintendent of their determinations.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Dr. Walker moved, Mr. Pribramsky seconded the Board approve in bulk

Adopt Internal Disputes within the Head Start Program's Executive Leadership Policy

Adopt Food from Home Policy Concerning the Head Start Program Policy

Adopt Code of Conduct/Ethics Concerning Head Start Program Policy

Adopt Policy 1120 Employment of Administrators

Motion Passed without objection

(Copy in SMB 47, page 233)

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Dr. Walker moved, Mr. Dick seconded the Board approve

The selection of the Firm of R. Pollack, Berkowitz, Dick, Pollack as the Forensic Auditor with a not to exceed amount of \$5,000.00 planning purposes. Mr. Collins will work with Mr. Fechter on a work plan.

Motion Passed without objection

(Copy in SMB 47, page 234)

CITIZEN INPUT

Barbara Rogers asked that Mr. Acevedo step down.

Eric Mackie asked that Mr. Acevedo resign.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Dr. Walker moved, Dr. Mathewson seconded the Board approve

Approve the Recommendations for Instructional Personnel Employed for the 2008-2009 School Year. Goal Area 4

Mr. Pribramsky voiced concern over Mr. Daniel Kolhage, City Commissioner being hired as a substitute teacher as he felt hiring him would send the wrong message. All the policies for hiring substitutes should be revisited at a future meeting.

Mr. Pribramsky wanted clarification that Mrs. Acevedo's resignation was with prejudice. It was confirmed that was so.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Dick Yes
Dr. Mathewson Yes
Mr. Pribramsky No
Dr. Walker Yes
Mr. Griffiths Yes

Motion Passed
(Copy in SMB 47, page 235)

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Mr. Dick moved, Dr. Walker seconded the Board approve

Approve Out of County Travel A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H
Approve After the Fact Travel: A

Mr. Dick commended Mr. Fabal's trip to New Orleans with students. Mr. Dick questioned the building inspector's travel and asked what the kick in was with FKCC as the district shares him. Mr. Pribramsky would like to see the credit cards shut down immediately.

Motion Passed without objection
(Copy in SMB 47, page 236)

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Mr. Dick moved, Dr. Mathewson seconded the Board approve

Consent Item 15 was pulled until the next meeting to allow time to research Mr. Dick's suggested amendments.

The BRPH for Architectural Services for Plantation Key School contract was pulled from consideration until the April 21, 2009. The contract will be fine tuned.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Dr. Mathewson moved, Mr. Dick seconded the Board approve

No. 22 - Approve Contract with AVID. Goal Area 3

Mr. Dick questioned the travel related costs, and he was concerned about the litigation venue stipulated in the contract. He'd like the venue to be changed to Florida. Mr. Acevedo stated this contract would not be executed until such time that the language in the contact concerning the venue is changed to Florida.

Motion Passed

(Copy in SMB 47, page 237)

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Dr. Mathewson moved, Mr. Dick seconded the Board approve

Approve Technology Plan for 2008-2009. Goal Area 7

Mr. Pribramsky would like to see a decrease the technology budget.

Motion Passed

(Copy in SMB 47, page 238)

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Dr. Mathewson moved, Mr. Pribramsky seconded the Board approve

ADDED FOR CAUSE –

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, modified motion

Dr. Mathewson moved, Mr. Pribramsky seconded the Board approve

Approval to shut down all 93 district purchasing cards by this Friday, March 27, 2009. Despite Ms. Reitzel's request to allow principals to retain their cards, all credit cards will be shut down.

Motion Passed

(Copy in SMB 47, page 239)

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Dr. Mathewson moved, Mr. Pribramsky seconded the Board approve

Termination of Contract with Professional Leadership Associates in compliance with the 60 day termination clause

The Board is directing Vernis & Bowling to show a 30 day cancellation on future contracts.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Dick Yes
Dr. Mathewson Yes
Mr. Pribramsky Yes
Dr. Walker No
Mr. Griffiths Yes

Motion Passed
(Copy in SMB 47, page 240)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Andy Griffiths
Andy Griffiths, Chair

Randy Acevedo
Randy Acevedo, Superintendent