

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MONROE COUNTY

Workshop and Special Meeting Minutes
Coral Shores High School Media Center
January 13, 2009 at 10:00 am

PRESIDING: Andy Griffiths, Chair

PRESENT: Steven Pribramsky; Duncan Mathewson; John Dick; Debra Walker; Randy Acevedo, Superintendent and School Board Attorney Richard Collins, Scott Black, Esquire attended to hold the Closed Session.

CLOSED ATTORNEY SESSION Time Certain 10:00 am - The Board, Superintendent, Mr. Black, Mr. Collins and a court reporter met to discuss the Anthony Pabon v. the Monroe County School District case. Mr. Pribramsky recused himself from the Closed Session and announced Mr. Pabon is now an active client of his personal accounting firm.

WORKSHOP AGENDA - Time approximate immediately upon completion of the closed session.

Energy Conservation - Dr. Walker discussed options available to reduce our energy costs. It was the consensus of the Board to create an RFP for an Energy Audit. The Superintendent has taken the lead and created a district Green Team to brainstorm conservation efforts. Mr. Acevedo also stated that he had a positive meeting with Waste Management and they will be collaboratively working with the district by providing recycling bins to the lower keys schools.

Key West Montessori Elementary Charter School Amendments - The Charter School submitted a request to amend to their Charter concerning creating a sixth grade. Mr. Fraga informed the Board on their request. Mr. Fraga requested for direction from the Board on the formation of middle school grades for charter schools. Currently, we follow statute. Mr. Henriquez spoke regarding implications concerning credit retrieval. Mr. Pribramsky asked if 6th graders could remain at their elementary school to allow for phased-in construction at Horace O'Bryant and to see if there is also a cost savings, but more so to relieve the building. Dr. Walker stated that there is an issue currently with funding the construction. She suggested working out a construction plan ready and waiting for the availability of federal funding. Mr. Dick stated the driving force is not cost savings for him, but rather construction of a new facility at HOB. Mr. Acevedo mentioned that he did speak to Sigsbee and stated that if the financial outlook mandated the school would need to close. He didn't seem it fair to add a grade. Mr. Acevedo asked to consider what would be academically sound. The consensus of the Board was supportive of the 6/8 component paralleling the state component. Mr. Acevedo will bring back a layout for the next meeting. Moving the 6th graders curriculum shall be considered. The plan would be a short term plan with a decision to be made as soon as feasible. Health and safety of students is paramount. A report on 6th grade curriculum from Montessori will be brought forward for the next meeting. Mr. Fraga has no problem with Montessori's request but he wants them to be sure they understand potential issues that may arise. Mr. Acevedo asked for the Board members to poll their constituents and the teachers are Horace O'Bryant.

POLICIES ON DROP - Mr. Acevedo presented two draft policies regarding the retirement program. Mr. Dick feels use of the DROP is considered double dipping. Mr. Dick suggested bringing these employees back at their base pay and not their current salary. Mr. Fowler reviewed the Union's contract for payment of experience for teachers who were retired. The consensus of the Board is to create a draft policy to bring exceptions to the Board. Mr. Collins suggested providing an excerpt of this discussion for NEOLA to get a true feel of how the Board wishes to handle this policy.

STRATEGIC PLAN - Mr. Henriquez discussed the strategic plan and recapped the agenda for the DPT meeting tomorrow at the district. He encouraged the board to review the agenda and he could make amendments as necessary.

BUDGET UPDATE - Mr. Acevedo stated the state reduction is 1.93% but raised it to 2% in total. He thanked Representative Saunders and Bullard for keeping education in forefront. He recapped the tax collection figures County-Wide. He reviewed legislative changes in the use of the budgets. Mr. Henriquez discussed text book adoption and costs. Mr. Pribramsky stated the budget should be tightened for example by reducing substitute teacher costs and reducing contract costs for vendors. Mr. Griffiths volunteered to call vendors personally if it comes to that point. Mr. Acevedo suggested looking systematically at all the contracts to see which ones which ones would pose a problem to the students and not cut it across the Board. Mr. Pribramsky suggested drafting a policy asking for administrators to fill in as substitute teachers. The list of contracted vendors will be provided to the Board to discuss it at the next meeting. Mr. Pribramsky asked for a list of how much monies each department and school returned. Mr. Fowler reminded the Board that the district is in a better financial position than most.

FEBRUARY 10, 2009 BOARD MEETING - The meeting was moved back to 10:30 am to accommodate the FCAT testing without disturbance.

CITIZEN INPUT

Ms. Marysia Wronka spoke about Virtual Schooling k-12 program for the 2009-2010 school year and understands that the MCSD has not yet selected a program yet. She found Florida Virtual Academy for 2-8th grade. She also spoke about the ECMC Camp and praised the Ballroom Dance program.

SPECIAL ACTION ITEMS

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Action Items 1 thru13 except #4 was pulled for discussion and #5 (was deleted).

Deleted: #5. Approve Standard Form Agreement Between Owner and Architect, BRPH for Architectural Services for Plantation Key School and General Conditions of the Contract.

Expulsion Hearing #1 08-09-2S is now Special Action Item #13 and Expulsion Hearing 08-09-3S was postponed until the next Board Meeting.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,
Dr. Mathewson moved, Dr. Walker seconded the Board approve

1. Approve Special Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2008 and Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2008,
2. Approve Out of County Travel. 2a, 2b, 2c
3. Approve After-The-Fact Travel, 3a and 3b.
6. Approve Standard Form Agreement Between Owner and Construction Manager with Biltmore Construction for Plantation Key School and General Conditions of the Contract for Construction.
7. Approve Contract Addendum for Phil Levy.
8. Approve Contract with Great Books Foundation.
9. Approve Minutes for the Big Pine Elementary Academy for October 20, 2008.
10. Approve 2009-2010 School Year Calendar.
11. Approve Student Expulsion Case No. 08-09-1S
add-on for cause: 12. Approve Athletic Coaching Endorsement.
13. Expulsion Case No. 08-09-2S

Motion passed without objection.
(Copy in SMB 47, page 152)

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,
Dr. Walker moved, Mr. Dick seconded the Board approve

4. Approve Travel Calendar, <http://www.monroe.k12.fl.us:8000/travel>

Motion passed without objection.
(Copy in SMB 47, page 153)

SELF ASSESSMENT

The Board conducted its self assessment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Andy Griffiths
Andy Griffiths, Chair

Randy Acevedo
Randy Acevedo, Superintendent