



“Student Success,  
Whatever It Takes”

***SCHOOL BOARD OF MONROE COUNTY***  
**SPECIAL WORKSHOP AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**July 21, 2009 at 10:00 AM**

A. J. Henriquez Adm. Bldg.  
241 Trumbo Road, Key West, Fl. 33040

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**PRESIDING:** Andy Griffiths, Chair

**PRESENT:** John Dick; Duncan Mathewson; Steven Pribramsky; Debra Walker; Mike Henriquez, Acting Superintendent and School Board Attorney Richard Collins

**AGENDA – TIME CERTAIN 10:00AM**

**CALL TO ORDER, THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – Dr. Walker, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mr. Dick**

**ADOPT AGENDA AND FORMAT**

**Upon the Recommendation of the Acting Superintendent,**

Dr. Walker moved, Mr. Dick seconded that Board approve the agenda as amended

**Added:**

Action Item #17 – Accept Resignation of Employee

Late Link: Action Item #2 – Approve Addendum to Advertisement/Fill Open Positions.

**Deleted:**

7 – Out of County Travel items C and D only

**Moved:**

#8 to become #7 E – This item is not an after the fact travel.

Motion passed without objection.

**BUDGET ITEMS**

**Upon the Recommendation of the Acting Superintendent,**

Dr. Walker moved, Dr. Mathewson seconded that the Board Adopt

Adopt the 2009-2010 Tentative Millages and Budget for Advertising - Kathy Reitzel spoke concerning the notification of tax rolls and the upcoming budget process. Ms. Reitzel explained how the calculations to roll back were reached. Next Tuesday will set the ceiling for the tax rates. Whatever the rate is decided on it cannot be increased, only decreased. The State provided the certification at about 8:00 pm Thursday.

The Board discussed the FEFP Funding formula the change in budget presented by the State violation by not giving the District the 10%; we are exceeding the 90%. The District has done our part, and now the State has broken the law. Mr. Pribramsky would like to see a decrease in the budget. Mr. Dick spoke concerning the budget capital outlay transfers. He would like to see additional decreases in the budget.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Louie Latorre spoke concerning the budget.

Robert Kelly spoke concerning Harris School.

Michael Beatty spoke in support of the employees and the budget.

Mr. Griffiths explained how the cuts were made based upon the Board's direction which nothing has changed. He stated the fund balance did not reach the \$1 million mark, but we are operating in the black this year. Mr. Dick disputes that the District is operating in the black. Dr. Mathewson would to cut the millage.

Adopt the 2009-2010 Tentative Millages and Budget for Advertising as is

**ROLL CALL**

**Mr. Dick No**

**Dr. Mathewson Yes**

**Mr. Pribramsky No**

**Dr. Walker Yes**

**Mr. Griffiths Yes**

Motion Passed.

(Copy in SMB 48, page 11)

**Island Camp Discussion -**

The Police Athletic League requested the District waive the electrical fees associated with the Summer "Island Camp" 2009 housed at Key West High School. Dr. Walker would like to see better communication with the non-profits and the fees associated with use of the District's facilities. Dr. Mathewson would like to consider these requests on a case by case basis. Mr. Henriquez suggested looking at the different facilities and the different uses by each non-profit. Dr. Walker would like to see the policy expanded to include facilities and not just the auditorium. Mr. Collins suggested in-kind donations being credited to the PAL for their future use. Mr. Dick stated that other non-profits would also qualify for that credit. Mr. Griffiths suggested having a facility committee to meet to discuss these types of arrangements on a case by case basis. Motion was withdrawn by Dr. Walker due to the generous donations of Mr. Collins and Mr. Griffiths of \$900.00 each.

**TAN Discussion**

Mr. Ford stated this is not a line of credit. It is a loan with the option to prepay it back. Mr. Pribramsky would like some agreement to use the bare minimum and reduce things like travel. Mr. Ford explained how the calculations are made with the amount being used. He suggested making the not to exceed amount to \$14 million instead of \$16 million. Mr. Ford explained the amount estimated is \$12 to \$12.5 million. The Board would be agreeable to changing the not to exceed amount to \$14 million. Mr. Pribramsky asked what the anticipated rate would be. Mr. Ford stated that it was 1.5 to 2.5 percent as of yesterday. Mr. Ford stated the financial scandal in the grand scheme of things does not have a material impact on the district's financial situation however, the fund balance does. Mr. Pribramsky believes that certain spending should be suspended in order to borrow that kind of money.

**Upon the Recommendation of the Acting Superintendent,**

Mr. Dick moved, Dr. Walker seconded that the Board Adopt

Resolution 726 Authorizing the Issuance of a "Not to Exceed" \$16 Million Tax Anticipation Note, Series 2009. After discussion, the Resolution is to be modified to read "Not to Exceed" \$14 Million Tax Anticipation Note, Series 2009.

Motion passed without objection.

### **LUNCH BREAK**

#### **Resume workshop discussions.**

**Harris School Update** - Mr. Sims stated the appraisal came in at 7.88 million. Mr. Skomp representing the potential buyer offered that his offer stands and is extended until the end of July. Mr. Braun would consider paying the closing costs including title insurance, and recording fee of about \$30K with the Board to pay the real estate commission of 3 percent. Mr. Pribramsky stated this sale could help with capital. Mr. Skomp spoke about the costs associated with the cleanup required. Dr. Walker is opposed to selling good property on high ground. Mr. Pribramsky stated to be clear this is an "as-is" transaction. This item will be on the next agenda for consideration.

**Charter School Update** – District responses were sent to the charter group. The Charter group will meet to discuss the District's responses and get back to the District with their responses. Mr. Fraga said there were some issues concerning the testing and the maintenance. The Charter can apply to become a provider for VPK. Dr. Walker asked about the quitclaim deed and the reasons why the Charter School needed the deed. Mr. Fraga stated the contract specifically prohibits that from happening.

**Update on the Fowler White Boggs** – Mr. Dick stated the invoice was reduced. Said invoice is on the agenda for consideration.

**Status Report on the Internal Auditor** – Connie Hoffman with the Mercer Group recapped the qualifications of the top 5 candidates. Dr. Walker would like to know what the next step is. Ms. Hoffman spoke regarding each candidates experience that directly relates to school districts, and their salary requirements. Ms. Hoffman did state that she did interview local candidates but they did not meet the requirements. Mr. Pribramsky is against hiring an Internal Auditor. Dr. Walker is in favor of hiring an Internal Auditor and has many tasks in mind they can work on. Mr. Dick would like to see the Governor's appointed Interim Superintendent act first. Mr. Pribramsky would like to know if the auditor can make recommendations to the Board directly or if they would go through the Superintendent. Mr. Collins stated the auditor can make a report and the Board can then act upon the report. Mr. Pribramsky and Dr. Walker would like to move forward in interviewing the candidates. The consensus of the Board was to move forward and interview 4 of the 5 candidates. Mr. Collins outlined the ability for the Board to interview one on one with each candidate and then bring back the responses to a future meeting.

**Internal Investigations** –Mr. Lafferty recapped the follow up investigation he and Mr. Fechter performed with employees in question. The preliminary findings are intact and not changing with internal oversight, but factual findings will be complete by the end of the month. With a report on the employees and factual findings being presented to the Board at its August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Fechter stated the final report is going beyond the initial findings and relating to the individuals initially mentioned in addition to others. Mr. Fechter provided a status on the additional tasks like electronic evidence (all hard drives of the Acevedo's) taken custody of the emails through the State Attorney through a certain time period and have begun reviewing them and meeting with the State Attorney if evidence is uncovered. The quantification and further review of Mrs. Acevedo's Pcard purchases for the

insurance claim and is meeting telephonically with the Hartford. He will provide that report to the Board and is moving forward in quantifying Mrs. Acevedo's purchases for criminal restitution and potentially civil action. He has been in contact with the Auditor General's office and they are doing work on the HOB project and the Board will get some answers. He also is taking a look at the MAG report and is pumping it up against the job descriptions and qualifications were in place right before. A comparative analysis may be performed. Based on those findings he may be able to potentially seek recovery of those costs associated with the MAG. Mr. Fechter has met with individuals named in the initial report and additional personnel not named in the report about a dozen people. Mr. Lafferty stated that any employee that has information to be considered should provide that information now. Mr. Collins did remind the Board that the Board made it clear that if they stepped forward with information; the Board would take a kinder view to them.

**Discussion of Meeting with State Auditors**, Debra Walker recapped for the Board her meeting with the State Auditors in Mr. Griffith's absence. She provided the Board an email on July 10<sup>th</sup> stating what they would audit. The categories include IT, Finance, Capital Outlay, and Vehicle costs; local issues would include HOB concession stand, the maintenance, materials and supplies; control over tools; work force development; fund expenditures, and a banquet at either the Double Tree or Mariott. They will start out with an operations audit and then do a financial audit.

**Property Insurance Audit Findings** – Dr. Walker presented draft wording for the audit findings pertaining to the Property Insurance. Dr. Walker will add the wording to the July 28<sup>th</sup> agenda for approval with the modifications suggested. Mr. Pribramsky does not want anything worded to increase the capital outlay millage to cover the loss.

**Status Report on Internal Auditor Candidates** -Connie Hoffman reviewed each of the 5 candidates with the Board. It was the consensus of the board to interview all candidates except Mr. Sustersic. The Board will interview each candidate individually on August 18<sup>th</sup> and then together as a group at a Special Meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Key West at 1:00 pm. The Board will pay for the travel expenses of each candidate to include airfare for out of state candidates, millage for in-state candidates, and hotel. There will not be a full board at the August 11 or August 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Additionally, Mr. Lafferty & Mr. Fechter will present to the Board the Final Report and discuss the employee issues on August 18<sup>th</sup>. These will be the only two agenda items on the August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 agenda. No action will be taken at this meeting.

### **SPECIAL ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Upon the Recommendation of the Acting Superintendent**

Mr. Dick motioned, and Dr. Walker seconded to approve in bulk items 1 through 4, item 6, item 9, item 11, item 12, and items 15-17.

1. Approval to Advertisement/Fill Open Positions. Goal Area 4
2. Approve Addendum to Advertisement/Fill Open Positions. Goal Area 4
3. Approve Recommendations on Change in Employment Status for Staff for the 2009-10 School Year. Goal Area 4
4. Approve Recommendations for County Reductions in Force 2009-2010 School Year. Goal Area 4
6. Approve Piggyback on Broward County Contract for Maintenance, Cleaning, Repair and Inspection of Cafeteria Hood Ventilation with Gold Coast Environmental Solutions, Inc. Goal Area 6

9. Approve Contract Renewal & Addendum with Sherry L. Strahan, for Mental Health Services for Enrolled Head Start Children, their families and Staff. Goal Area 5 (Clarified item wording 07/17/09)
11. Approve Contract with Boyce Excavating for Grading at the Key Largo School. Goal Area
12. Approval Renew the Bid and Contract with Flowers Baking Company at the Fixed Price, Submitted for a period of One (1) Year with Option to Renew. Goal Area 6
14. Approve Extension of the RTI Coach Contract with Kristen Cruz. Goal Area 3
15. Approve Amended Invoice for Fowler, White Boggs. Goal Area All,
16. Approve Contract Addendum for Fowler, White Boggs Adding Time Keepers. Goal Area All,
17. Accept the Resignation of Employee Jose L. Rivera.

Motion passed without objection  
(Copy in SMB 48, page 12)

**SPECIAL MEETING ACTION ITEMS**

**Upon the Recommendation of the Acting Superintendent**

Mr. Dick motioned, and Dr. Walker seconded to approve

5. Approve Increase of the Total Contract Amount of Current Vernis & Bowling Contract for contract period ending October 2009. It was the consensus of the Board that the amount of the increase would be \$30,000. Goal Area 5

Motion passed without objection  
(Copy in SMB 48, page 13)

**Upon the Recommendation of the Acting Superintendent**

Dr. Walker motioned, and Mr. Pribramsky seconded to approve

Approve Out of County Travel: B- Harry Russell, ~~C~~ (07/16/09) (deleted 07/20/09) ~~D~~, (07/16/09) (deleted 07/20/09) E – Catherine Kanagy (moved from #8 07/20/09)

Mr. Dick pulled this item for discussion. Mr. Henriquez stated the Items C & D were removed, and that the principals were asked to not duplicate sessions and will present to a future principals meeting what they have learned. 7a was separated from the rest of item 7 and voted on.

**ROLL CALL FOR 7A (Terry Axford)**

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

Motion passed  
(Copy in SMB 48, page 14)

**Upon the Recommendation of the Acting Superintendent**

Dr. Dick motioned, and Mr. Dick seconded to approve

7. Approve Out of County Travel: B- Harry Russell, E – Catherine Kanagy (moved from #8 07/20/09)

Motion passed without objection  
(Copy in SMB 48, page 15)

**Upon the Recommendation of the Acting Superintendent**

Mr. Dick motioned, and Dr. Walker seconded to approve

13. Approve Agreement with College Board - Mr. Dick questioned the purpose of this contract. Mr. Henriquez outlined that this would determine eligibility of students to take advanced placement courses. This will improve the high school grades and helping the student's succeed. The AP test results should be received in August. This is the right avenue to help our students.

Motion passed without objection  
(Copy in SMB 48, page 16)

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:43 pm.

**Andy Griffiths**  
Andy Griffiths, Chair

**Michael J. Henriquez**  
Michael J. Henriquez, Acting Superintendent