



Broadcast live on channel 78

March 22, 2011 at 5:00 pm

Marathon High School Media Center
350 Sombrero Rd. (mm50)
Marathon, FL 33050

VISION STATEMENT: *Graduates of Monroe County Schools are Responsible, Well Informed Global Citizens who are College and/or Career Ready.*

PRESIDING: John R. Dick, Chair

PRESENT: John Dick; Andy Griffiths; Duncan Mathewson; Robin Smith-Martin; Ron Martin; Dr. Joseph Burke, Superintendent and School Board Attorney
Richard Collins

REGULAR MEETING – Time Certain 5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER, THOUGHT FOR THE DAY, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

RECOGNITION

1. Student Achievement
 - a. Centennial Bank's Award: "Most Improved Math Students"
 - b. VFW Post 10211 Voice of Democracy Awards
 - 1st Place - Sarah Bradshaw
 - 2nd Place - Michelle Sardina
 - 3rd Place - Michelle Saunders
2. Staff Achievement
 - a. American Legion Post 154 Teacher of the Year

ADOPT AGENDA AND FORMAT –

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent;

Mr. Smith-Martin motioned, and Mr. Martin seconded to approve the agenda as amended

Deleted:

Consent agenda Item 16 – Student Discipline
Legal Update concerning Settlements

Motion passed without objection.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent;

Mr. Smith-Martin motioned, and Mr. Martin seconded to approve

Minutes for January 11, 2011; January 25, 2011; and February 15, 2011.

Motion passed without objection

Copy in SMB 49, page150

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent;

Mr. Martin motioned, and Dr. Mathewson seconded to approve

1. Approve the Recommendations for Support Services Personnel Employed and Terminated for the 2010-2011 School Year. (copy in SMB 49, page 151)
2. Approve the Recommendations for Instructional Personnel Employed for the 2010-2011 School Year. (copy in SMB 49, page 152)
3. Approve Requests for Leave. (copy in SMB 49, page 153)
4. Approve List of Volunteers for the 2010-2011. (copy in SMB 49, page 154)
5. Approve District Travel. (copy in SMB 49, page 155)
6. Approve Invoice for John R. Collins for Legal Services. (copy in SMB 49, page 156)
7. Approve Invoices for Vernis & Bowling, Inc. Invoices. (copy in SMB 49, page 157)
8. Approve Invoices for Johnson, Anselmo, et al. (copy in SMB 49, page 158)
9. Approve Interagency Transition Agreement for Providing Services for Pre-Kindergarten Children. (copy in SMB 49, page 159)
10. Approve Fund Transfers for January 2011. (copy in SMB 49, page 160)
11. Approve Credit Card Expense Report for February 2011. (copy in SMB 49, page 161)
12. Approve Bank Reconciliation for January 2011. (copy in SMB 49, page 162)
13. Approve Investment Report for January 2011. (copy in SMB 49, page 163)
14. Approve Financial Statements (Cash Flow Reports) for February 2011. (copy in SMB 49, page 164)
15. Approve Charter School Financials and Minutes for Montessori Elementary Charter School. (copy in SMB 49, page 165)
17. Approve Disaster Recovery Cooperative Agreement Between Monroe County School Board and Columbia County School District. (copy in SMB 49, page 166)
18. Budget Amendments (*Resolution # 766*) (copy in SMB 49, page 167)
 - a. Perkins Roll Over Funds (Adult Ed.)
 - b. Approve Sigsbee Charter School Public Charter School Grant Award
 - c. Phone Service (GRA)
 - d. Increase Funding for Substitute Budget (GRA)
 - e. Title X Homeless – it was coded for travel; and Dr. Salinero explained why.
 - f. COLA for Head Start Staff
 - g. Pre-Kindergarten ESE Teacher Allocation (GRA)
 - h. Reduction in General Fund Budget

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion on Contracts – John Dick spoke concerning the Board’s statement of utmost importance is to gain back the public’s trust. He stated the half mil switch expires July 1, 2011 and it will go back to the voters for consideration. He proposed at this time that the Board change the policy that all contracts come to the Board for approval. He provided examples of contracts he felt should have gone to the Board and maybe the outcome would have been different. Additionally he would like the authorization of the district to do things. He referenced the Buy-out. He stated that there are two employees that are on the buyout list but are able to work another year. It is a troubling issue. He also stated there is a teacher that is retiring and the school has hired a fill-in teacher to shadow the retiring teacher.

Mr. Martin wondering how the District could even consider hiring a bus charter for the food service bidders. The bidders should have carted themselves around he stated.

Dr. Mathewson stated that it would require considerable further discussion. He stated however, he is not happy with the bus charter issue. But, he’d like an explanation. Mr. Kinneer provided details on the process of the bid sight visits as required by DOE. Mr. Menendez, with the DOE, was very complimentary on how the site visits were handled. Dr. Mathewson mentioned some of the great things that are happening in this district and how the great things are getting overshadowed. He does agree that prior information should have been presented with regards to the charter bus issue.

Dr. Burke asked that the Board not take a position on this recommendation today. He would like to take the costs the Board is spending on legal which pales in comparison to these expenditures. But he does graciously ask not to take position until the total picture is looked at. He wants to be clear that to be even handed that our legal costs have gone through the roof and the same sense of urgency does not seem to there. Mr. Dick said that legal is on the table; everything is on the table. Dr. Burke respectfully asks that the broader picture of where the tax payers monies are going relative to the dollar amounts being spent.

Mr. Griffiths said a balance in things that are right which are happening and that of which is relative to spending and stated it’s a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Mr. Smith-Martin stated we either manage our own affairs or others will manage them for us.

Dr. Burke did provide explanation on the two employees which were given the exemption on the buy-outs. He believed it was made clear to each employee that this option was available. Mrs. Allen agreed it was on the documents they signed.

2. Update on Joint Use of Glynn Archer School Property – Robin Smith-Martin deferred the update to Mr. Collins. Mr. Collins recapped the meetings held and the conceptual check list, concepts, alternative and recommendations will come back to the Board at the April 12th meeting with an additional meeting after the city commission meeting as a follow up. The City seems receptive and is reviewing numbers that were provided to them. He recapped several concepts that being considered.

3. Legal update – Mr. Collins sent one memo concerning the Office of the Superintendent and is drafting an additional memo concerning a potential vacancy if the current Superintendent is hired at Indian River.

CITIZEN INPUT

1. Capt Ed Davison – charter bus issue
2. David Mc Sherry – Montessori
3. Kim Livingston – Montessori
4. Margaret Romero – Board
5. Teresa Konrath – 2011-2012 Calendar
6. Letter read into record from the Board of Montessori Children’s School

STAFF REPORTS

Curriculum:

A. Career Technical Education Update – Jeff Arnott presented a two year plan and has a five year plan as well. He outlined the two year plan. He explained what the Career Academies are and spoke concerning the Culinary Academy. He explained the budget and the organization of the department and the staff allocation. Mr. Arnott did specify that if the guidance counselor position goes through; that person will travel to the three sites.

Mr. Dick asked how many students pass the GED (64) and how many were in our schools (vast majority).

B. Update on SIP for Stanley Switlik Elementary – Dave Murphy provided a handout outlining the SIP and its action plan. He spoke regarding data profile, grade level teams, quality integrated teams, post behavioral support teams, personnel allocations dependent upon need and he spoke of highlights of implementation of smart-board technology with about 70% of the classrooms, Coast Guard partnership, and the support of the PTO. He highlighted grade level specific initiatives such the Title 1 group, in grade 3 a beta test of intensive reading implementation; 4th grade continued with EFolio with computer-aided writing programs and elements. Future plans they would like to offer enhanced student data profile, improve use of flexible grouping in grade levels, expand lesson study participation, expanded recognition of things they do well.

Mr. Martin questioned Thinkgate asking how the FAIR test and Thinkgate assessments would be successful. Mr. Murphy did not use Thinkgate and said FAIR does provide valuable data. Mr. Griffiths asked about how long time elapsed between FAIR 1 and 2, Mr. Murphy explained.

Finance:

A. HOB Construction Update – Michael Kinneer and Fred Sims. Mr. Kinneer spoke regarding the handout he presented and a total cost of the project thus far is \$7,324,629 million. That handout will be linked to the agenda. He recapped the budget and highlighted expenses, and the contingencies of \$300,000. He highlighted the budget amendments and the monies moved. Mr. Dick questioned the tax savings and Mr. Sims explained the savings. Mr. Dick asked if they would assume responsibility of the things we purchased. Mr. Sims and Dr. Burke explained they have the liability. Mr. Dick asked about status of the potential credit agreement regarding the Charlie Toppino credit. Mr. Sims suggested not using that credit on the HOB construction in the

event it taints the ARRA funding. Mr. Gentile spoke about the great steps forward and the road of getting to more improvements. Mr. Sims provided a photo diary of the construction progress. Dr. Mathewson asked about the height and if a variance would be needed. Mr. Sims provided an explanation.

Internal Auditor:

A. Internal Audit Update – a power point was presented by Ken Gentile. He briefed the Board. He was involved with HOB Construction from start to finish and providing briefs to the AFC. He highlighted 3 concerns: Change Orders, (defining emergency purchase order procedurally – estimated timeline next month); 2 items concerning soil conditions/concerns (suggested procedures to be tightened); budget and financial reporting. Commended Mr. Kinneer and team for the changes and the steps forward identifying the steps. Mr. Dick asked about Harris school money and an accounting summary. Mr. Gentile provided a verbal summary. Mr. Kinneer explained the expenditures with a balance of just over 4 million and 1.9 million FFE projected expense (Dr. Burke included). He reminded the Board of the re-assessment of the QZAB moneys; prepayment obligation. Mr. Smith-Martin asked Mr. Kinneer to determine the debt that is owed. The FFE money is for both schools and Mr. Gentile stated it should be listed out. He explained Project Roles.

He spoke regarding his review of Audit Findings of the 3 audits Mr. Gentile performed and expectations of corrective action plans and lack of being fully resolved. His chart included the 3 audits he performed, Audit General for 2008, and the Internal Funds Audit 2009. He presented his three recommendations and asked for the Board's support.

One recommendation was for the board to accept the Internal Audit. Mr. Kinneer stated there were no management responses on the link as the audit findings were just received the day before. Mr. Gentile stated that the principals did respond but were not included in the link. The administration wishes to respond and have the response included. Dr. Burke did agree the correct action plan should be compiled after the response is submitted. Dr. Burke did state that he believed there was one that was going to be contested, and two new areas that were not audited before but are now for the first year are being audited.

April 8th, 2011 is AFC/Board Work Session and suggested topics were presented. He announced an intern will start on Monday, and is being paid for by a grant with the community college. Mr. Dick asked how the fraud hotline was working. Mr. Gentile stated the intern will work on this.

Mr. Stuart Kessler, AFC chair addressed the Board regarding the contracts and purchasing issues. He reminded the Board that the AFC are not bean counters. He offered for the AFC to review the bid award before it comes to the Board. Mr. Smith-Martin spoke about culture change and linking adherence to policy and procedure with evaluations. He asked why can not the AFC develop the process and procedures and Dr. Burke explained it is staff's responsibility. Mr. Smith-Martin stated that if the AFC has a better system to do it; let's see it. Mr. Gentile was provided direction to create a check list for a sub committee to review contracts.

ACTION ITEMS

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent;

Mr. Griffiths motioned, and Dr. Mathewson seconded to approve

1. Approve the 2011-2012 Student Calendar.

Mr. Martin did appreciate Ms. Konrath's comments concerning the scheduling issues for sports. And, suggested maybe having an Athletic Director on the committee, but Dr. Jara stated that the union fills those spots.

Motion passed without objection

Copy in SMB 49, page168

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent;

Mr. Smith-Martin motioned, and Dr. Mathewson seconded to approve

2. Approve Montessori's Elementary Charter Extension Pending Formal Charter Amendment. ACE would have to be relocated. Mr. Dick asked why the urgency to amend.

Mr. German, President stated there is no rush and outlined the time line and explained getting into a better planning mode. The lease had included first right of refusal work into it and is simply trying to plan for the future. Mrs. Barras spoke concerning the Kindergarten openings. Dr. Mathewson stated parental choice is important. Mr. Gentile asked about the charter schools following school board policies and the need for future discussions.

Mr. Smith-Martin disclosed his past and present relationships with Montessori (MECS) and Montessori Children's School. Mr. Smith-Martin would like to see a Facilities and Capital plan for the expansion into the middle schools and referenced the lack of a PTO.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Griffiths Yes

Mr. Martin Yes

Dr. Mathewson Yes

Mr. Smith-Martin No

Mr. Dick No

Motion passed

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ADJOURNED

John R. Dick _____

John Dick, Chair

Joseph P. Burke _____

Joseph P. Burke, Superintendent