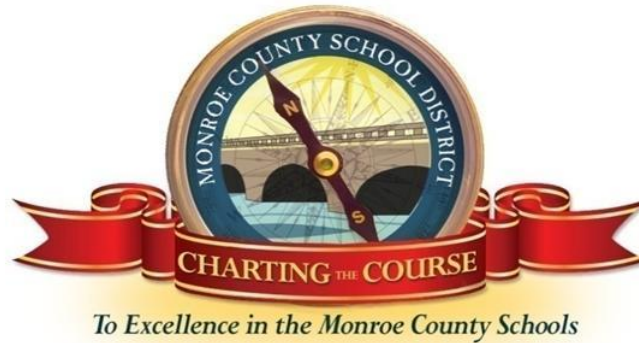


**THERESA AXFORD**  
Superintendent of Schools



**Members of the Board**

District #4  
**JOHN DICK**  
Chairperson

District # 2  
**ANDY GRIFFITHS**  
Vice-Chairperson

District # 1  
**BOBBY HIGHSMITH**

District # 3  
**MINDY CONN**

District # 5  
**DR. SUE WOLTANSKI**

**Monroe County School Board Meeting Minutes**

**Host Location: Coral Shores High School**  
**89901 Old Highway, Tavernier FL 33070**  
**Tuesday, October 25, 2022**

A video broadcast of the meeting is available at <https://monroe-k12.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

**ATTENDANCE:**

*Mr. Bobby Highsmith*  
*Mr. Andy Griffiths, Vice Chair*  
*Mrs. Mindy Conn*  
*Mr. John Dick, Board Chair*  
*Dr. Sue Woltanski*

*Mrs. Theresa Axford, Superintendent*  
*Mr. Dirk Smit, Board Attorney*

**WORKSHOP – TIME ACTUAL 4:00 P.M.**

*1. Board Policy Discussion*

*Superintendent Axford opened the discussion by sharing the policies related to public input at Board meetings from Brevard, Lake and Polk counties, explaining they were presented by Dr. Woltanski as a good comparison. She further stated that the District's current policy serves us well, and commented email comment is a good option as the Board has proven to be attentive and responsive to public input via email. Mrs. Conn suggested offering a Zoom call or phone call only when citizen input is related to a specific item on an agenda. Mr. Griffiths explained that the purpose of the Board traveling to the three different regions of the Keys is for the public to be able to attend a meeting nearby their town of residence and that agenda items are added based on the area of the meeting. He further commented that a Board policy has not historically been changed based on public input. Mr. Griffiths closed by stating that the District's current policy is in compliance with Florida law. Dr. Woltanski explained that the purpose of sharing the Brevard, Lake and Polk county policies for comparison is that these counties have a similar distance to the Keys, she also pointed out that these three counties do not host Board meetings in various regions of the county. She went on to state that the purpose of Board meetings are to discuss Board related business and that there are multiple avenues for the public to share their input therefore discontinuing the phone option is not censorship. She agreed that email was a good option and explained that this allows the comment and response to be documented. Mr. Highsmith said that he would like to see public input available via phone or Teams. He also commented that email is not the same as in-person input especially when a controversial item is on the agenda, and that the extensive travel on highway one was unnecessary. Mr. Dick said that he felt email or written input was suitable. He further shared that he didn't care for the phone option and that the Board hosts meetings across the three Keys regions for the purpose of citizens being able to attend*

*a meeting nearby their residence. Superintendent Axford affirmed that the majority of the Board agrees that the current policy will remain in place as it is written.*

## *2. Facilities Five-Year Work Plan*

*Superintendent Axford opened by sharing that this report is given annually and that it is a projection only, it is not a concrete plan. Mr. Dick affirmed that items and projects change.*

*Mr. Lefere started the presentation by reviewing the District's capital planning process, he explained that the District primarily budgets large projects (construction) on two bases – pay as you go and debt issuance. He went on to explain the major projects through 2026-2027, these include – Sugarloaf School, Tommy Roberts Memorial Stadium, Coral Shores athletic fields, Reynolds building, and Bruce Hall reconstruction. Austin Tran explained the types and amounts of outstanding debt, and shared the debt payments plans. There was some Board discussion and questions relating to the Coral Shores athletic fields cost and possible support from the City of Islamorada, also regarding Sigsbee Charter School projects and the half cent tax. Mr. Griffiths requested a Board Retreat to discuss a formula to share with charter schools in relation to the half cent tax.*

*Because time allowed, the Board Chair allowed a report to be moved to the Workshop.*

### **GOAL 1: Student Success**

#### *1. Strategic Plan, Superintendent Axford*

*Superintendent Axford explained that printed copies of the Plan will be available, however it would mostly be a digital document to enable changes as needed. She reviewed the timeline and extended her thanks to the many people involved and for the extensive input – Jennifer Barrios for organizing all the meeting dates, the School Board, Monica Munoz and Historic Tours of America for providing the new logo artwork, Elisa Levy, all the principals and SAC members, and also the teachers, students, parents and community members. The final two documents to review are the Superintendent's Evaluation – all the metrics in the Strategic Plan will appear in the Superintendent's Evaluation, and the Final Work Plan which will be finalized when each task is completed by the designee or designees. She closed by sharing that a quarterly review of the Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board. There were brief comments and suggestions from the Board.*

*The Board Chair announced a 12 minute break before starting the Regular Business meeting.*

### **WORKSHOP ADJOURNMENT 4:48 PM**

### **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – TIME ACTUAL 5:00 P.M.**

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **B. ADOPT AGENDA AND FORMAT – Superintendent and/or School Board Members' requests to amend the agenda or remove items from the consent agenda.**

*Superintendent Axford made request to add two items to the Action Agenda, for good cause: To add Approve Notice of Intent to Negotiate Agreement re Trumbo Workforce Housing with SPGL, LLC as Action*

*Item 4, and to add Approve the Release of Three (3) Affordable Housing Allocations in Marathon as Action Item 5.*

*The Superintendent made recommendation for approval with the amendment.*

*Motioned: Dr. Woltanski*

*Seconded: Mr. Griffiths*

*Vote: Passed*

### **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Approval of October 11, 2022 School Board Meeting Minutes*

*The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.*

*Motioned: Mrs. Conn*

*Seconded: Mr. Highsmith*

*Vote: Passed*

### **D. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN MONROE COUNTY SCHOOLS**

*Great Educational Moments for Students – GEMS*

- *Patrick Melton and Jade Blaire, Key Largo School Teachers*
- *Anamaria Artola Lobo and Wyatt Brown - Special Acknowledgment of U.S Presidential Scholar Program*

### **CITIZEN INPUT/REQUEST(S) TO ADDRESS THE SCHOOL BOARD**

*Presentations to the Board are limited to three (3) minutes for each individual speaker and five (5) minutes for the representative of a designated group. Transfer of time between individuals and/or groups is not permitted. Letters submitted to each Board Member and/or Board Secretary prior to a Board Meeting will not additionally be read into the record at the meeting. All statements must be directed towards the Board; no person may address or question Board Members individually, and Board Members are not required to engage in a dialogue with persons making public comment. Furthermore, all speakers agree to abide by the Code of Conduct for Citizen Input (School Board Policy 0169.1) and will begin their presentation by stating their full name and their city or town of residence for the record.*

*TO REGISTER TO SPEAK DURING OUR CITIZEN INPUT SEGMENT, PLEASE CALL 305-293-1400 EXT. 53323 NO LATER THAN 2:00 P.M. OF THE MEETING DAY. Upon arrival at the meeting, speakers will complete the Speaker's Form.*

*Persons requesting accommodations for a qualifying disability under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 305-293-1400 ext. 53323 with their request no less than five (5) business days prior the meeting and complete a speaker's card identifying what accommodation is requested.*

### **E. CONSENT AGENDA**

*All items listed as consent agenda items are considered routine and noncontroversial by the School Board and will be approved by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. Prior to this meeting, Board Members have had the opportunity to review each of these items and may request that any item be moved to an Action Item for individual consideration.*

1. *Approval of Personnel Recommendations for 2020-2021 School Year*
2. *Approval of Budget Summary Reports July 2022*
3. *Approval of Monthly Financial Statements July 2022*
4. *Approval of Vernis & Bowling 305 Invoices for Legal Services for August 2022*
5. *Approve Vernis & Bowling 309 Invoices for the Month of August 2022*
6. *Acceptance of Charter School Reports July 2022*
7. *Approve School Board Member Travel to FSBA/FADSS Joint Annual Conference in Tampa*
8. *Approval of Out of County Travel Requests from School District Employees*
9. *Approve Contract with Mid Keys Officials Association for Marathon High School Athletics Officiate Services 2022-2023*
10. *Accept Head Start Monthly Update (July, Non-Federal Share, Administrative Costs)*
11. *Approve Extension to Contract Award RFP 2022002 to Milo Food Service Equipment Distribution Inc.*
12. *Approval of contract with iBoss*
13. *Award ITB 2022022 Roofing and Exterior Restoration Project at PKS to A1 Property Services Group, Inc.*
14. *Award ITB 2022023 Roofing and Exterior Wall Repairs at CSHS to A1 Property Services Group, Inc.*

*The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.*

*Motioned: Mr. Griffiths*

*Seconded: Dr. Woltanski*

*Vote: Passed*

## **F. REPORTS**

### **GOAL 1: Student Success**

1. *Strategic Plan, Superintendent Axford*

*Reported during the Workshop.*

### **GOAL 2: The Whole Child**

1. *School Improvement Plan - Plantation Key School, L. Taylor and M. Court*

*Ms. Court and Mrs. Taylor shared the goals and strategies/actions to reach the goals for Plantation Key School. The goals presented include: In conjunction with the District Strategic Plan, Plantation Key School will improve/increase attendance of those chronically absent (missing 5 or more days a month) to only missing 3 or less days a month; and in the 2022-2023 school year, 70% of the third grade students will score a Level 3 or above as measured by the F.A.S.T. ELA assessment, a 6% increase as compared to the 64% achievement levels from the 2021-2022 school year. There was brief discussion and questions by the Board related to retaining students and the new F.A.S.T. assessment.*

### **GOAL 4: Safety and Security**

1. *Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) Report, P. Lefere*

*Mr. Lefere announced that it is state requirement to conduct FSSAT annually, the assessment is complete, and details have presented to the School Board in a Closed Session November 11, 2022. There has been no changes to this report and the District is seeking acceptance as part of action agenda tonight.*

## **LEGAL**

No report.

## **SUPERINTENDENT**

*Superintendent Axford shared that the students celebrate and participate in many special activities during the month of October - Unity Day is a celebration/inclusion of all students, National Bullying Prevention month helps students understand the dangers of bullying, and Red Ribbon Week supports a drug free lifestyle. There have been many posts of the school's Facebook pages of the student activities of the daily themes in schools. She also extended her gratitude to Mr. Highsmith for his eight (8) years' service to the School Board and thanked him for his beautiful comments at the October 25 meeting - she shared that due to technical problems the presentation was not televised, but was recorded.*

*She also gave a brief report on the SPLG intent to negotiate, as listed on the Action Agenda. The Superintendent explained that many things are still tangent. The leadership team met with Jim Mooney and Kate DeLoach regarding Trumbo housing issues and the 20 million appropriation to move Administration to Bruce Hall. She shared that both Mr. Mooney and Ms. DeLoach felt the District had a compelling argument. These topics will be in legislature this session and will impact SPGL's agreement as additional housing may be possible. Superintendent Axford stated that the Board's approval allows negotiations to start. Lastly she shared that the legislators understand our issues as AMI has increased to \$83,000 therefore this is part of our compelling story. SPGL used the new housing matrix in their report, which allows for a one bedroom rental to cost approximately \$1100 per month.*

## **BOARD**

*Mrs. Conn said that the Strategic Plan document was a great and she is proud of it, she also reiterated her thanks to Mr. Highsmith for his service, especially his mentoring of new Board members. Lastly she extended her appreciation to SPGL.*

*Mr. Griffiths commented on the large agenda items achieved at this meeting, that he was excited about the Strategic Plan and the evaluation instrument. Lastly he shared that he will miss Mr. Highsmith.*

*Dr. Woltanski expressed her thanks for all the support creating the Strategic Plan. She also shared how honored she was to have been invited to attend the Take Stock in Children scholarship signing of a sixth grade student. Dr. Woltanski gave kudos to the Key Largo Witches Ride, explaining that it was started by teachers and that now over 300 people join the ride raising funds for locals in need - great work by Pam Caputo Michel Thiery! She made the suggestion of using a different term for "proficiency" in the assessments. Lastly, she expressed her thanks to Mr. Highsmith for his service.*

*Mr. Highsmith shared how exciting it was to be voting today on the Trumbo Housing project after eight years of consideration. He expressed his gratitude for his service and shared that it has been an honor.*

*Mr. Dick closed by sharing it has been a pleasure serving with Mr. Highsmith.*

## **PENDING ITEMS**

### **G. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **1. Accept the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan**

*The Superintendent made recommendation to accept.  
Moted: Mrs. Conn  
Secoded: Mr. Griffiths  
Vote: Passed*

**2. Approve the 2022-2023 School Improvement Plans (SIP'S)**

*The Superintendent made recommendation for approval  
Moted: Mrs. Conn  
Secoded: Dr. Woltanski  
Vote: Passed*

**3. Accept the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) Report**

*The Superintendent made recommendation to accept.  
Moted: Mr. Griffiths  
Secoded: Mrs. Conn  
Vote: Passed*

**4. Approve Notice of Intent to Negotiate Agreement re Trumbo Workforce Housing with SPGL, LLC**

*The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.  
Moted: Mr. Highsmith  
Secoded: Mrs. Conn  
Vote: Passed*

*Mr. Highsmith commented that this is a great option for the District, however he hopes that over one hundred units can be negotiated. Both Mrs. Conn and Mr. Griffiths said that they agree.*

**5. Approve the Release of Three (3) Affordable Housing Allocations in Marathon**

*The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.  
Moted: Mrs. Conn  
Secoded: Dr. Woltanski  
Vote: Passed*

**ADJOURMENT 5:50 P.M.**