

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: District Administration - Board Room
241 Trumbo Rd, Key West, FL 33040
Tuesday, April 27, 2021

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

ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Bobby Highsmith
Mr. Andy Griffiths
Mrs. Mindy Conn
Mr. John Dick
Dr. Sue Woltanski

Mrs. Theresa Axford, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Dirk Smits, Board Attorney

WORKSHOP – TIME ACTUAL 4:00 P.M.

1. Somerset Island Prep Response to School Board Questions, T. Rompella

Charter School Principal, Tom Rompella, shared grade comparisons and progress monitoring – explaining the comparisons of formerly using USA Test Prep, this year STAR & Renaissance, and next year STAR.

There was extensive discussion among Board members, prompted by Dr. Woltanski, regarding the inconsistency in Charter contracts language, and the transparency of sharing the maximum number of students on the Somerset Island Prep contract. Board Attorney, Gaelan Jones, explained that per the Florida statute, enrollment cap is not required to be determined in this contract. Rather Charter schools are required to come to District annually in order to change student numbers. Dr. Dave Murphy further shared that the Charter contract templates being used are standard Florida DOE templates. Additionally, Gaelan Jones shared that due to the timing of this contract submission, the Board needs to vote on the contract approval tonight otherwise we would need to request second extension. The Board agreed to move ahead with this item on the action agenda. Additionally, they agreed that going forward, they would like all the Charter contracts to be consistent in their language.

2. Sugarloaf Housing Project, Gorman and Company

Gorman and Company employees Joel Reed, John Lerdahl, Patrick Patrello, Joseph DeLeo, and Daniel Komaus shared this presentation that detailed some changes that included: savings on surveying, market study, changes in environmental reports and site constraints – considerable loss of build space,, design/scope details, general contractor pricing estimates, the current budget breakdown - construction

costs rising during pandemic/costs are fluid because estimates originated one (1) year ago, and utilities extension costs.

There was extensive discussion related to questions from Board members regarding AMI, if District employees fall into the required AMI categories, affordability for District employees, design and costs, ADA accessibility, and funding/grant availability. The Board members agreed that before moving forward they need to know: employee eligibility, which District employees can afford which style of apartment, and funding/grant options.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – TIME ACTUAL 5:34 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

*The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.
Motioned: Mrs. Conn
Seconded: Mr. Highsmith
Vote: Passed*

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.
Motioned: Dr. Woltanski
Seconded: Mr. Highsmith
Vote: Passed*

D. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN MONROE COUNTY SCHOOLS

GEMS – Great Educational Moments for Students

- *Community Partner – Golden Fleece Foundation, John Padget*
- *Sarah Eckert – Athletic Director, Key West High School*
- *Josh Dionne – Student, Coral Shores High School*
- *State Science and Engineering Fair Award Winners:*
 - Sebastian McCoy – Key Largo School*
 - Robert Aleman – Key Largo School*
 - Kevin Nguyen – Sigsbee Charter School*
 - Nathaniel Cabrera – Sigsbee Charter School*
 - Diana Diaz – Coral Shores High School*
 - Brooke Barrow – Coral Shores High School*
 - Laira Gomer - Coral Shores High School*

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.

PLEASE CALL 305-293-1400, EXT. 53323 BEFORE 5:00 P.M. TO SPEAK DURING OUR CITIZEN INPUT SEGMENT.

If signing, special seating, or other accommodations are needed, please call 305 293 1400 ext. 53323 no less than three (3) business days prior the meeting.

*We were unable to reach the caller during this session. We called in a private setting and scheduled to call after the State Results District STEM Fair Report.

Ms. J. Wickers

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 Monthly Financial Statements February 2021
3. Approval of Procurement Card Transaction Reports for the statements ending February 5 and March 5, 2021.

4. Approval of Legal Services - Vernis and Bowling 305 Invoices, January/February 2021
5. Approve Removal and Disposal of Tangible Personal Property from Asset Records and MCSD
6. Approval of Out of County Travel Requests from School District Employees
7. Approve payment for Advanced Placement Exams 2021
8. Renewal of Ellevation Math and ELL support
9. Approve the Purchase of 2019 Sienna LE wheelchair conversion van for ESE Department from AMS Vans
10. Approval of Microsoft MVL Agreement and purchase with CDWG
11. Approve purchase of servers with CDWG
12. Approve renewal with BlackBoard Inc for Community Engagement Solution
13. Approve Contract Renewal 2 of 3 with Orkin LLC for Pest Control
14. Approve Contract Renewal 1 of 3 for Architectural/Engineering Services to William P. Horn Architect, P.A.
15. Approval of Contract Addendum and Renewal 2 of 3 with ABM Industry Groups, LLC
16. Approval of Contract Renewal 2 of 3 for Quick Painting Group, Corp.
17. Approval of Contract Renewal 3 of 3 with Brightview Landscaping Services, Inc. Upper Keys through Sugarloaf Landscaping
18. Approve Sugarloaf School Deduct Change Order No. #1 to GMP Amendment No. #1

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval with amendment.

Motioned: Mr. Griffiths

Seconded: Mrs. Conn

VOTE: Passed

F. REPORTS

GOAL 1: Student Success

1. State Results for District STEM Fair Report, M. Alsobrooks

Statewide, fourteen (14) schools and over one hundred and fifty (150) students participated virtually. Monroe County School District earned five (5) awards.

- Sebastian McCoy, Key Largo School – 3rd Place and Nomination to Broadcom Masters Middle School Science Competition
- Robert Aleman, Key Largo School – Special Award from Osceola Regional Science and Engineering Fair
- Kevin Nguyen and Nathaniel Cabrera, Sigsbee Charter School – Special Award from Big Springs Regional Science and Engineering Fair
- Diana Diaz, Brooke Barrow and Laira Gomer, Coral Shores High School – Special Award “Robert B. Harnish Award”

CITIZENS INPUT

We called Ms. J Wickers who spoke for three (3) minutes.

GOAL 2: The Whole Child

1. Summer School Report, F. Herrin

Natalie Liz, Melissa Alsobrooks, Robert Taylor and Amy Stanton presented the upcoming Summer School plan, B.E.A.C.H program, curriculum, and learning materials and supplements. Dr. Frannie Herrin further shared that resources will be available online for students who do not participate in Summer School so that they can work from home/or while traveling. Summer school is free.

2. ESSR II Funds, B. Anders

March 2020 we received ESSR I funding – \$1.3 million.

December 2020 we applied for ESSR II funding of \$5.8 million – FDOE is waiting for legislation to confirm funding and the District hopes to receive the money in May 2021.

March 2021 ESSR III funding was voted in – the District has not yet been allocated.

ESSR II Proposal:

Summer School - \$2 million:

Curriculum - \$1.1 million

Staff salaries - \$700,000

Supplies - \$200,000

Social workers - \$800,000, hiring with the understanding that funding is short term

Professional Development – \$500,000, train the trainer

Technology updates - \$500,000

21st Century Furniture for schools/adapting to pandemic - \$2 million, above normal capital budget

We will come back to the Board to share updates and reports on spending.

3. Head Start Grant Application Report, M. Russell

Mrs. Russel shared that next year is a review year and that the School Board will be asked how the grant was derived – it is through self-assessment. The application shares the strategic improvement plan with four (4) goals - Wellness and Safety, Governance/Public Relations, Accountable Resource Management,

and Professional Growth/Education. The District was enrollment deficient this year, however due to the Pandemic we have been excused. The District is working on strategies to be enrollment compliant in the new school year. Additionally we are still working to bring families into health/wellness compliance by assisting with health screening options.

LEGAL

No report

SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent shared that the new social distancing requirement of three (3) feet has become problem in the classroom as positive cases and contract tracing is on the rise – Key West High School currently has 126 students out due to contract tracing. We continue to follow the direction of the Department of Health. Dr. Whiteside from the Department of Health in Monroe County stated, “The CDC continues to endorse a quarantine for 14 days and the local health department makes the final decisions about how long quarantine should last, based on local conditions and needs. Here is our local situation – we have a high level of transmission in the community, over 100 positive cases per 100,000 population per week since the beginning of the year. Over 50% of the new cases in Florida are the UK variant, B117, which is known to be more transmissible, just as potentially deadly, and much more likely to affect younger age groups than the original strain - it is still thought to be covered by the vaccines though. We are currently seeing a rapid increase in our schools in Monroe County related to sports, extra-curricular activities, and increased classroom spread. It is my opinion, that at this time, we should not change our current isolation and quarantine policies.” With this in mind, we have spoken about planning vaccine clinics in high schools for students - by choice.

Mr. Kyle Sheer has resigned as Principal of Gerald Adams Elementary, Dr. Frannie Herrin wishes to return to the school as Principal - this transfer will be authorized. Therefore, we will be advertising for an Executive Director of Teaching and Learning.

The offer of Coral Shores High School Principal was turned down due to the high cost of housing. Therefore, we will be re-advertising this position.

BOARD

Mrs. Conn commented that the Key West High School Backyard grand opening was great. Additionally, she is excited by the Summer School B.E.A.C.H program – perhaps we can consider adding business and life skills.

Mr. Highsmith commented that he would prefer that the workshop start at 3pm so that the meetings do not run so late.

Mr. Griffiths stated that he was good with a 3pm start.

Dr. Woltanski said that she was also good with a 3pm start. She also commended the Department of Health for their guidance throughout the Pandemic and shared that distance learning options are still necessary as we see positive cases rising.

Mr. Dick had no report.

Recess

G. PUBLIC HEARING

Job Descriptions, First Reading

1. *Job Description First Reading: 78007 Director Transportation*

No public input.

2. *Job Description, First Reading: 78090 Executive Secretary Transportation – Office Manager*

No public input.

3. *Job Description, First Reading: 64020 Trainer Instructional ESE*

The Superintendent clarified that the job description simply included the additional duties that are a part of this position.

No public input.

Policies, First Reading

1. *Policies, First Reading*

**po1419.01 / 3419.01 / 4419.01 Privacy Protections of Self-Funded Group Health Plans - REVISED*

**po1419.02 / 3419.02 / 4419.02 Privacy Protections of Fully Insured Group Health Plan - REVISED*

**po1419.03 / 4419.03 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – NEW*

**po2266 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs and Activities – REVISE*

**po5225 Absences for Religious Holidays – REVISED*

**po5611 V2 Due Process Rights – REVISED*

**po5780 Student / Parent Rights – REVISED*

**9200 Volunteers – NEW*

po5511 Dress and Grooming – REVISED

po5610 Removal, Out-of-School Suspension, Disciplinary Placement, and Expulsion of Students – REVISED

po9160.01 Complaints Procedures Related to Alleged Discrimination Regarding Accessibility of District Facilities - REVISED

RE: po9200 Volunteers. Mrs. Conn expressed her desire for the cost to be covered by the School District and also asked what the purpose of stating "...volunteers shall not accept compensation..." Mr. Russell shared that the financial cost to the District would estimate \$20,000 per year. He further explained that the District offers to pay if there is hardship, however most volunteers want to pay in order not to take funding from the schools. It was agreed that language regarding a flexible payment option will remain. Regarding the compensation, various reasoning and explanation was shared by Mr. Highsmith, the Superintendent, Mr. Russell, Mrs. Anders (Executive Director of Finance and Performance), and by Mr. Smits (Board Attorney); relating to "quasi employee", acceptance of gifts, budget line items, and payroll taxes. Mr. Smits recommended that the language "compensation" was best. Lastly, Mr. Griffiths spoke to the language "Volunteers may also be removed as an approved volunteer by the Superintendent at any time for any reason." After much discussion, Mr. Russell closed the conversation by agreeing to reword this language with "Principal and/or Superintendent."

RE: po2266 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs and Activities. Mr. Russell informed the Board members that although this was adopted in December 2020, in February 2021 Neola forwarded an update – changing the legal definition of rape.

RE: po5780 Student / Parent Rights. Dr. Woltanski stated that under the Public School Choices section, Marathon High School qualifies as a Collegiate High School Program. Dr. Dave Murphy agreed that this should be checked – this will be corrected for the second reading.

No citizen input.

Policies, Second Reading

2. Policies, Second Reading

*po0172 Visitation of Schools by Individual School Board Members - NEW / *po9150 School Visitors – REVISED

*po5121 Controlled Open Environment – NEW

po1215 / 3215 / 4215 / 5512 / 7434 Tobacco Free Environment – REVISED

po2520 Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment – REVISED

po2521 Instructional Materials Program – REVISED

po3120 Employment of Instructional Staff – REVISED

po4213 Student Supervision and Welfare – REVISED

po5113 School of Choice Options Provided by Federal Law – REVISED

po5350 Student Suicide Prevention, Awareness, and Screening – REVISED

po5516 Student Hazing – REVISED

po5610.02 In-School Discipline – REVISED

po5610.05 Participate in Extra-Curricular Activities – REVISED

po7100 Facilities Planning – REVISED

po7440.01 Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring – REVISED

po8500 Food Services – REVISED

po9211 Parent Organizations, Booster Clubs, and Other Support Organizations – REVISED

po9700 Relations with Special Interest - REVISED

No citizen input.

Reconvene

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Charter Renewal Contract between Somerset Academy Inc., d.b.a Somerset Island Preparatory and Monroe County School District, August 2021-June 2026

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mr. Highsmith

Seconded: Mrs. Conn

VOTE: Passed

2. Approval of Purchase of Summer Instructional Materials 2021

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mrs. Conn

*Seconded: Dr. Woltanski
VOTE: Passed*

3. Approve Head Start Grant Application 04CH011179-03

*The Superintendent made recommendation for adoption.
Motioned: Mr. Highsmith
Seconded: Dr. Woltanski
VOTE: Passed*

4. Adopt Board Policies Update as Presented at April 27, 2021 Second Reading

*The Superintendent made recommendation for adoption.
Motioned: Mrs. Conn
Seconded: Mr. Highsmith
VOTE: Passed*

5. Approval of Budget Summary Reports February 2021

*The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.
Motioned: Mr. Griffiths
Seconded: Mr. Highsmith
VOTE: Passed*

6. WITHDRAWN-Approve Employment of Coral Shores High School Principal

7. Approve Employment of Safety and Security Director - Alfredo Vazquez Jr.

*The Superintendent made recommendation to approve.
Motioned: Mrs. Conn
Seconded: Mr. Highsmith
VOTE: Passed*

Mr. Highsmith expressed that under the District's Goal 4 – Safety and Security, identifying potential threats was a priority Therefore he expects that Mr. Vazquez should make this a priority. He further shared that he is very happy with selection.

The Superintendent suggested that a School Board workshop and/or report could be scheduled.

ADJOURMENT 7:37 P.M.