



Monroe County School Board Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 13, 2019 • 4:00 PM

Coral Shores High School, Media Center • 89901 US 1 (mm 90) • Tavernier, FL 33070

Attendance:

Dr. Woltanski
Ms. Conn
Mr Highsmith
Mr. Dick
Mr. Griffiths

Mr. Porter, Superintendent
Mr. Jones, Attorney

WORKSHOP AGENDA - TIME CERTAIN 4:00 P.M.

1. Student Progression Plan, D. Murphy (15 mins)
Dr. Murphy presented the draft 2019-2020 Student Progression Plans for each level (Elementary, Middle and High School). As per Florida Statute, the School Board is required to review and approve the plans each school year. The highlights of each level were reviewed, as well as the EOC Crosswalk.

Board Comments:

Ms. Conn:

Do Advanced Placement classes have their own progression plan, or do they follow the District's Progression Plan?

A: Dr. Murphy will ask the High School Principals their practice. However, other than homework, the District Student Progression Plan is appropriate.

Dr. Woltansk:

Asked for clarification that elementary students would not to be graded on homework – but middle school and high school students might be? Dr. Murphy confirmed.

On the testing calendar, there are retake opportunities for Civics, Biology, US History and Geometry, which are test not required to graduate - who is offered the retakes?

What determines if a student retakes the test and what effect does retaking have?

A: It is offered to those that need the course credit if they did not pass the class.

Passing the test can result in passing the course.

Mr. Dick:

Since the Financial Literacy course was removed, is Economics a stand-alone course in the Plan?

A: Yes, it is an elective.

Dr. Murphy reported that the High School Student Progression Plan Committee has recommended phasing out the Valedictorian/Salutatorian concept with incoming class of 2019-2020. The Committee's recommendation is to recognize all students with greater than or equal to weighted GPA of 4.5 as Summa cum laude, Weighted GPA greater than or equal to 4.25 as Magna cum laude, and weighted GPA greater than or equal to 4 as Cum Laude. The committee recommends still having class ranking with a school base mechanism to determine who would be student speakers.

Mr. Dick:

Asked if that would affect scholarships?

A: Class ranking is considered for scholarships and there still would be a ranking.

Does it need be a consistent policy that all three high schools follow, or could each school Make their own policy?

A: There should be consistency in how we recognize the great students in the District. The process is typically spelled out in the District Student Progression Plan.

Mr. Highsmith:

How is that decision going to be made?

A: Dr. Murphy suggested a Board Workshop.

If we are going to make a change, we owe it to the students to make the decision as soon as possible. Students are already reviewing their courses and trying to maximize their schedules.

The Class of 2023 would be the first class effected

Ms. Conn suggested the Board take their time to make the decision and have it take effect with next school year's freshman class – the class of 2024.

Dr. Woltanski:

Questioned Geometry, Biology, US History EOC testing required for graduation. Technically the EOCs are not required.

A: Dr. Murphy will clarify in the Plan – US History or US History Honors and not US History AP

Mr. Dick:

Asked for clarification that when students transfer into the District with an IEP or ESOL, if we review their plans and make changes, do we involve the parents?

A: Yes, the parents are involved in IEP conferences and LEP conferences. If our staff feels the plan should be modified, the parents are included in the communications.

Dr. Woltanski:

It appears middle school math is based on FSA's?

A: We use a variety of matrix.

Is Star used?

A: Not in the decision tree in the plan, however STAR is used. Ms. Conn added that teacher input is considered, and Dr. Murphy included that parent input is also considered.

Dr. Murphy will clarify the language in the Plan.

Kindergarten students take FLICKER, the Kindergarten readiness test. What happens if they aren't ready?

A: They are identified as the students that need more intense instructions early on.

Is there no option for kids to retake Pre-School because of age?

A: Dr. Murphy will check, but believes that is correct.

2. 2019-2020 Testing Calendar, D. Murphy (15 mins)

Dr. Murphy addressed the Exam Exemption option and advised that it was reviewed by Building Level Planning Teams at Coral Shores High School, Key West High School and Marathon High School. The feedback from the Building Level Planning Teams (teacher leaders within the buildings) was that they do not support exam exemptions, especially like the Broward County model.

One other change to the testing calendar was, the numbers of minutes for testing was revised at the end of the calendar to reflect all of the updated changes. There were not many because of the move from computer based testing back to paper.

Also added was a list of state required assessments and district required assessments at each grade level.

Dr. Woltanski:

When you add Statewide Assessments to District Assessments, they don't add up to the total time. Dr. Murphy will update the calendar.

Did you add the School Day SAT back in?

A: Yes.

Ms. Conn:

When is the School day SAT this year?

A: March 20, 2020

Did the teachers or District have an opinion on whether we should move to paper base testing? What do people think with the new standards?

A: The impact at high schools in May with all of the computer base testing was very disruptive to instruction. However, College Board is moving in the direction of computer based testing. We will need feedback from the schools.

Mr. Griffiths:

Questioned the composition of Committee. He would like more teachers on the committee.

Dr. Murphy will ensure that a teacher leaders from each school will be invited to join the committee. Each school is invited to send two people, however, this year, the schools will be asked to send one representative from the school and one teacher leader.

Mr. Porter asked for clarification of the Board's direction.

Testing Calendar:

Dr. Woltanski suggested creating a District Testing Calendar indicating what the District is using and the purpose. Dr. Murphy will create a District Testing Calendar in parallel to the State Testing Calendar.

The Testing Calendar will be submitted for Board approval.

Student Progression Plan:

The Student Progression Plan will be scheduled for a Board Workshop to discuss the Valedictorian/Salutatorian concept.

Dr. Woltanski would like the EOC crosswalk discussed further also.

CLOSED SESSION - WORKERS COMPENSATION - TIME APPROXIMATE 4:30 PM

CLOSED SESSION - MCSD/UTM NEGOTIATIONS - TIME APPROXIMATE 4:40 PM

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA - TIME APPROXIMATE 5:00 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.

Mr. Porter:

Consent Item #5 was moved to Action Item #3 for discussion.

Action Item #1 was withdrawn due to the late submission of material / insufficient time for review.

There were no other changes requested.

Recommendation for approval was made by the Superintendent

Motioned by: Ms. Conn

Seconded by: Mr. Griffiths

Vote: Approved

C. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of July 30, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

Recommendation for approval was made by the Superintendent

Motioned by: Mr. Dick

Seconded by: Dr. Woltanski

Vote: Approved

RECESS

D. BUDGET HEARING - TIME APPROXIMATE 5:05 P.M. 5:03 pm

1. Resolution 835, Tentative Millages

a. 1.5550 mils Required Local Effort

b. 0.7480 mils Basic Discretionary Local

c. 0.5000 mils Additional Voted Operating Half Mil

d. 0.0400 mils Additional Voted Safety and Security

e. 0.5000 mils Capital Outlay Half Mill

TOTAL MILLAGE: 3.343

2. Resolution to Adopt Tentative Budget for 2019-2020

3. Tentative 2019-2020 Budget Book

Mr. Drake recapped the proposed 2019-2020 Budget. Since the July 30th Budget hearing, the Sheriff's Office has indicated they will refund the School District based on last year's SRO contract. Therefore, the Safety and Security millage was reduced from .05 to .04, which reduces revenue by approximately \$300,000.

At the Board's request, Mr. Drake obtained information from the Department of Revenue indicating that the 2019 average school taxable property value in Monroe County for Homesteaded property is \$400,000, and non-Homesteaded property is a little over \$600,000.

The final budget hearing will be on September 10, 2019.

Board comments:

Mr. Griffiths:

Is it about one third of the homes are homesteaded and two-thirds are not?

A: It is actually more of an 80/20 split.

Mr. Highsmith:

Is there is a breakdown of how many are long term rentals, vs. second homes or vacation homes.

A: No, it is not that detailed.

Mr. Griffiths:

The total percentage of instructional expenditures has gone down for the first time in a while. Do you attribute that to the safety costs?

A: Yes, primarily, in addition to increase energy cost, increased custodial contract, etc. After adjustments to the final budget which will be presented on September 10, the instructional expenditure percentage should go up some.

If you went down the expenditure list would anything be out of the norm for the last few years?

A: Other than operational of plant function (safety and security), everything else is stable. The Board has previously questions the District's Professional Development Budget. We spend more than the average school district in Florida on Professional Development.

Half of the millage increase is due to the State mandated local required effort, but with the Board's portion, what would happen if we went from .05 to .04 for capital millage because that would get the Board portion of roll back. However you mentioned there could be a potential consequence to our Bond rating.

A: We are budgeting set aside money in the 2019-2020 budget to begin the Sugarloaf School planning process. To eventuate that construction, we will probably have to do another Certificate of Participation of borrowing.

If our bond rating was ranked lower, and the cost of construction was higher (more interest payments), it may not be a savings in the end.

A: That is why we work hard to keep our good credit ratings. We have no B's – only A's.

Mr. Dick:

It would be foolish to drop the millage now. It would certainly put into question if we could begin renovations on Tommy Roberts Stadium. We do not want to delay that project.

Mr. Highsmith confirmed – not delaying the work on Tommy Roberts Stadium.

Dr. Woltanski:

They celebrate the increase in base student allocation which is technically/theoretically funds that the Board has some flexibility with, but we don't really because we end up having mandates that we have to fund, how do we spend that money?

A: It's important to look at the total FEFP calculation, because that is a truer level of increase. "Additional" money usually comes from discretionary local effort.

RECONVENE – 5:23 pm

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 the Board Secretary prior to a Board Meeting will not additionally be read into the record at the meeting.

Scott Hall spoke concerning the use of tennis courts and fields at Coral Shores High School during non-student times.

F. 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 2019-2020 School Years
2. Approval of District Travel Requests
3. Approval of Legal Services Invoices - Vernis and Bowling
4. Builders Risk Insurance Coverage for the Construction of the New Transportation and Internal Services Facility on Stock Island
5. ~~Approval to award RFP 2019022 Volunteer, Visitor & Vendor Clearance Systems to Raptor Technologies~~
Moved to Action Agenda
6. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Monroe County Regarding Coordination During Natural Disasters
7. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with City of Marathon.
8. Approval of 2019-2020 Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement Between Monroe County School District and the College of the Florida Keys
9. Approval of Monroe County School District 2019-2020 Schedule of Payrolls, Employee Reporting Days and Calendars
10. Approve Piggy Back Contract with Advanced Roofing, Inc.
11. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the Guidance Care Center and Monroe County School District to Reduce Drug and Alcohol Use
12. Approval of Resolution for Participation in Small School District Council Consortium for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and Payment of Dues

Recommendation for approval was made by the Superintendent

Motioned by: Ms. Conn as previously amended

Seconded by: Mr. Dick

Vote: Approved as previously amended.

Dr. Woltanski is excited about the Marathon Firefighter Academy.

G. REPORTS

Legal

Mr. Jones updated the Board on the Sugarloaf housing project which is scheduled for consideration on the Board of County Commissioner's August 21 meeting agenda.

Superintendent

*Tomorrow is the first day 2019-2020 school day for students.
There will be law enforcement presence at each school.*

During the summer, safety and security efforts have been on-going with recent trainings at schools and at the District office. All School Safety Plans have been completed and are in the ERIP portal (SRO also have access to the plans in ERIP).

The Saturday before school, Principal McPherson and 70 teachers/staff from HOB spent the day in neighborhoods making home visits and distributing school supplies. Congratulations to Principal McPherson and those wonderful teachers/staff that reached out to their families.

Board

Mr. Highsmith:

Requested that Mr. Porter talk with Mr. Hall after the meeting concerning access to the fields/tennis courts at Coral Shores High School during non-student times.

Mr. Griffiths:

There is a Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards' meeting in Key West August 15-16, 2019. Mr. Griffiths invited Board members to attend.

Mr. Dick:

The Marathon American Legion delivered breakfast to MHS for staff. He mentioned the track at Marathon High School might be a little delayed, but he is excited for everyone to see the facility.

Ms. Conn:

What is the status of having someone continue the Sugarloaf housing project?

A: Mr. Porter reported that the RFP process has begun.

Has the District partnered with anyone to provide active shooter training at the schools?

A: Mr. Porter explained that AlerT does offer some of the elements, but the District partners with local law enforcement for the actual on-site training.

Are we no longer thinking of hiring a contractor to provide the active shooter training?

A: No, the combination of AlerT/ ERIP and what local law enforcement provides we are not looking for other training services.

Dr. Woltanski:

She wishes everyone a great school year. As she visited schools, everyone was doing a lot of work. During the summer, we don't have air conditioning on throughout schools to save money. Is it possible to leave the air conditioning on throughout the schools the weekend before the first day of the school year.

There was a long line of students with scheduling problems. Some students were in both AP language classes and Intensive Reading. Could there be an alert when students are scheduled for the highest class at the same time as a remedial class?

On Thursday, August 15, Dr. Woltanski will be participating as a Legislative Representative of FSBA. Board members should receive an email on Friday that outlines FSBA's legislative priorities. Board members were asked to review the email and contact Dr. Woltanski by September 12 with comments.

Regarding the Key West Collegiate/Somerset Academy amendment, because of the miscommunications and their Math performance, could we consider a one year or six month "probation" period before renewing the contract. We need expectations.

Prior Business (Not for Discussion or Action)

1. Safety and Security Updates
2. Graduation Rate/Drop-Out Prevention
3. Enhanced Daycare Programs
4. Affordable Housing - Trumbo Point
5. Grading

RECESS

H. PUBLIC HEARING

Policies, 1st Reading

1. Policy 8405 - School Safety and Security
2. Policy 8407 - Safe-School Officers

Dr. Woltanski questioned the overlap of Fortify Florida and School Text Tips.

A: Fortify Florida is mandatory participation by the State, and the District is complying with that mandate. However, District staff feels School Text Tips is a superior tool

Policies, 2nd Reading

1. Policy 8810 - The American Flag and Official Motto of the State of Florida

Comments:

Mr. Porter recommended the second version, which included additional language included by District Counsel.

*Mr. Dick asked for clarification of addition the language.
The added language provides specific guidance.*

Mr. Highsmith:

Our schools look to this Board to provide guidance on how to carry out State mandates.

Dr. Woltanski feels this is a respectful way to display the motto.

RECONVENE – 5:50 P.M.

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Key West Collegiate School Amendment
Withdrawn by the Superintendent.

2. Approval of Policy 8810 - The American Flag and Official Motto of the State of Florida
Recommendation for approval was made by the Superintendent

Motioned by: Dr. Woltanski, option with Legal Counsel language

Seconded by: Mr. Griffiths, option with Legal Counsel language

Vote: Approved, option with Legal Counsel language

3. Approval to award RFP 2019922 Volunteer, Visitor & Vendor Clearance Systems to Raptor Technologies

Recommendation for approval was made by the Superintendent

Motioned by: Ms. Conn

Seconded by: Dr. Woltanski

Vote: Approved

ADJOURNMENT - 5:55 pm