

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 Media Center
89901 Old Highway, Tavernier, FL 33070
Tuesday, April 13, 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 Charter Contract Renewal, D. Murphy

Dr. Murphy explained that the District was notified by Mr. Tom Rompella in late February that they wish to renew the Somerset Island Prep charter contract, however due to only having one meeting in March we had a timing issue - the Florida statute requires action within 60 days. In order to stay within statute requirements, Gaelan Jones-Board Attorney, extended the existing contract by one (1) month - this will be voted on tonight on the Action Agenda. This workshop discussion will review the five (5) year charter contract renewal, which will then be brought back to the Board for action to the April 27 meeting.

Tom Rompella shared that they are at the end of their ten (10) year contract and request a five (5) year continuation of the charter contract renewal. He shared the Spring 2021 Innovative Model for instruction, what the classrooms look like and the technology available, and he discussed Doral College dual enrollment. Additionally, he answered Board specific questions that were shared with him:

- 1. Does the school plan to change locations? No, they are very happy with their current location. If they should consider relocating they will have a discussion with Monroe County School District.*
- 2. Does the school have a School Safety Report? Yes, it was submitted to ERIP and it reflects current staff and student populations.*
- 3. Are the Charter Board meeting minutes been posted online? The meeting minutes are normally posted to the website 1 month after the Board meeting.*

Mrs. Conn asked if Doral College has received its accreditation. Mr. Rompella explained that he believes they had it last time the Board spoke with him and that he is certain that they have it now.

Dr. Woltanski asked what kind of progress monitoring was done this year and how it looks in comparison to previous years. Mr. Rompella shared that they are moving to Renaissance and STAR. A STAR test is scheduled this month and will be used as a reading and math tool. When STAR was not available to the school, they continued to use Edmentum. Additionally, Dr. Woltanski requested data for the 2020-2021 school year for progress monitoring purposes, and also data showing many freshman students complete 4 years of education at the charter school.

Mr. Highsmith asked about the schools' experience with synchronist-virtual instruction, and if tall he Doral credits were recognized by the state university system. Mr. Rompella shared that they had technologies to support this instruction, and that the Doral credits are a part of the Florida course numbering system so all Florida state schools are required to accept them.

Mr. Dick asked if students have been accepted to colleges, since the charter school's accreditation is different. Mr. Rompella explained that the charter school accreditation is DEAC (Distance Education Accrediting Commission) and that this year students have already been accepted to FSU and various state schools.

Mr. Griffiths requested data showing lost ground by Somerset Island Prep during Covid-19. Dr. Murphy said that he will bring that to the next Board meeting and requested the School Board to please email him with any additional questions or input they had for the April 27 meeting.

2. Sugarloaf School Project Schematic Design Report, P. Lefere

Mr. Lefere shared that this is the first discussion regarding design of Sugarloaf School. The initial estimate is \$25.8 million. He expressed concerns for construction costs increasing due to materials cost increases. It was also explained that the cost included a complete fire system upgrade due to the current system being problematic. The current timeline is:

PHASE 1 includes fences, temporary campus & playground, etc. To be completed before kids go back to school (August 2021).

PHASE 2 includes the majority of the work such as infrastructure, building foundations and construction, office renovation, etc. This will take approximately 18 months.

PHASE 3 is the final phase with students moving into the new building, and finishing bus/drop-off loops, etc. Expected completion is May 2025.

There was extensive Board member discussion regarding design, security, costs, and student enrollment numbers. Mr. Lefere shared that the design discussion will be presented to the Board members at least twice more.

As time allowed and upon the Superintendent's recommendation the report Operational Audit was moved up to the workshop.

3. Operational Audit, B. Anders

Mrs. Anders explained that this audit encompassed 3 fiscal years. We had some "Findings", which are simply items that are brought to our attention in order to adjust - it is the lowest audit response and is good to find these areas for improvement. We had nine (9) findings, there were no significant/material deficiencies. It was the most comprehensive audit we've had in years, and it was a good audit.

The findings were shared with the School Board members and there was a brief discussion for each finding.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – TIME ACTUAL 5:04 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.

Dr. Woltanski requested that consent item 5: Acceptance of Charter School Reports January 2021, be moved to action item 13.

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval with amendment.

Motioned: Mrs. Conn

Seconded: Dr. Woltanski

Vote: Passed

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Dr. Woltanski

Seconded: Mrs. Conn

Vote: Passed

D. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN MONROE COUNTY SCHOOLS

GEMS – Great Educational Moments for Students

- Rich Russell – Athletic Director, Coral Shores High School*
- Brandon Harrison – Senior, Coral Shores High School*
- Letter Parks – Bus Driver / Employee, Key West High School*
- Melissa O'Keefe – Substitute Teacher, Plantation Key School*

Superintendent's Writer's Challenge – February 2021

- Winner - Ava Swanson, Coral Shores High School (12th grade)*
- Runners Up – Allison Helms, Marathon Middle / High School (6th grade)*
Layne Smith, Treasure Village Montessori (7th grade)

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.

There was no citizen input.

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 January 2021
3. Approval of Legal Services - Vernis and Bowling 305 Invoices, January 2021
4. Approval of Legal Services - Vernis & Bowling 309 Invoices, January and February 2021
5. ~~Acceptance of Charter School Reports January 2021~~ **MOVED TO ACTION ITEM #13**
6. Approval of Plantation Key School - 1st Annual Safety Patrol Trip to Washington D.C
7. Approval of Out of County Travel Requests from School District Employees
8. Head Start COLA for FY 2021
9. Purchase of Panorama Education
10. Approve Stanley Switlik Elementary School Deduct Change Order No. #5 to GMP Amendment No. #3
11. Award RFQ 2021002 for Environmental Consulting to Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc
12. Approve Building Permitting and Inspection Services Contract Renewal 2 of 3 to M.T. Causley, LLC.
13. Split Award ITB 2021004 Air Conditioning Replacements to Master Mechanical Services, Inc.
14. Split Award ITB 2021004 Air Conditioning Replacements to Air Mechanical & Service Corp
15. Award ITB 2021006 Concrete Spalling Repairs - Administration Building Contract to Marino Construction Group, Inc.
16. Approval of Contract Renewal 3 of 3 with Barnes Alarm Systems, Inc.
17. Approval of Contract with Watson Sloane PLLC for Bond Counsel Services

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval with amendment.

Motioned: Mrs. Conn

Seconded: Mr. Griffiths

VOTE: Passed

F. REPORTS

GOAL 2: The Whole Child

1. Tommy Roberts Memorial Stadium Renovation RFQ, P.Lefere

We had a lot of interest in this project. Timeline - May 6 bidding, May 13 interview bidders, June 1 recommendation to award, June 22 will bring to Board meeting, Spring 2022 construction commences (end of sport season). The scope work includes football/baseball field, bleachers, a multipurpose athletic building, concessions, entrances, environmental remediation, and stormwater management.

There was some Board member discussion regarding design, field use, environmental requirements/remediation, and timeline.

GOAL 4: Safety and Security

~~1. Operational Audit, B. Anders~~

Moved to Workshop

LEGAL

No report

SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent reported the successful reopening of school March 29 - all teachers except two (2) with extenuating circumstances, have returned. Many teachers are now vaccinated (65-70%), and additional vaccine clinics are scheduled at Sugarloaf School and Plantation Key School. A robust Summer School is planned, with safety measures included. A new Executive Order from the Commissioner was received on April 9 regarding high school graduation being determined by local measures – report card performance as opposed to requiring ELA and Math competencies. Go Squared (Grow Your Own) had 50 attendees - 71 paraprofessionals are interested in obtaining a college degree, this program may provide up to \$5000 a year for tuition reimbursement to successful students. we recently added suggestion boxes to every District department/campus. ESSR 2 and ESSR 3 funds – planning to use to help increase personnel with the caveat that funds may not be available in the future, summer programs, curriculum support, intervention for struggling readers and for early literacy reports.

She shared a letter from Springhill Suites who acknowledged the good behavior and the mask wearing without argument by the KWHHS baseball students and parents who stayed over the spring.

Lastly, she announced that the May 25 Board meeting has been canceled due to conflict with graduation.

Mr. Dick asked more about the Superintendent's decision in regard to the new Executive Order. The Superintendent explained that she is considering what other Superintendents are doing, that we have 30 days to decide, we do not want to lose our A Rated - High Performing status, therefore she will share data with the Board to help decide.

BOARD

Mr. Highsmith expressed that he appreciated seeing the graduate photos posted in the Upper Keys.

Dr. Woltanski shared that the graduate photo project is a community effort supported by parents, FKCC, and the Monroe County Sheriff's office. Additionally, she suggested that the District send a letter of support to the County libraries to promote children's programs in order to help with measurable reading scores for students – not all Board members were in support of this.

Mr. Griffiths - no report.

Mrs. Conn expressed that she is very excited about Grow Our Own program.

Mr. Dick shared how successful the Marathon Middle/High School performance of Grease was.

Recess

G. PUBLIC HEARING

Job Descriptions, Second Reading

1. Second Reading, Job Description: 79021 Safety and Security Director

Dr. Woltanski asked why being a firearm carrier is preferred? Mr. Lefere explained that the former Safety and Security Coordinator had the qualification and that it was a comfort to staff of the Administration Building, however it isn't necessary now that we have additional safety precautions/multi-level security.

No public input.

2. Second Reading: 82022 - Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Computer Programmer, Administrative Technology

No public input.

Policies, First Reading

1. Policies, First Reading

**po2215 Program of Instruction - NEW
*po2260 Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Opportunities - REVISED
*po51110.03 Children in Youth and Foster - NEW
*po5511 Dress and Grooming - REVISED
*5610.01 Emergency Removal of Students - NEW
*po9200 Volunteers - NEW
*po9270 Home Education Programs - NEW
po2410 School Health Services - REVISED
po2417 Comprehensive Health Education - REVISED
po2421 Career and Technical Education - REVISED
po5225 Absences for Religious Holidays - REVISED
po5320 Immunization and Health Examination - REVISED
po5451 Student Recognition - REVISED
po5540 The Schools and Investigations Involving Students - REVISED
po5830 Student Fund Raising - REVISED
po9130 Public Complaints - REVISED*

RE: po9200 Volunteers. Mr. Highsmith asked for clarity regarding Level 2 clearance waivers/exceptions/disqualifications. Additionally, Mrs. Conn asked about payment of screening. The Superintendent explained that Mr. Russell was unexpectedly absent due to illness, therefore the policy will return as a first reading to the next Board meeting for further discussion.

RE: po5225 Absences for Religious Holidays. Mr. Highsmith said that he would prefer no religious holidays be mentioned in our policy. Mrs. Conn agreed. Dr. Herrin explained that we used the Neola version, however we can make change and remove the list, then bring it back for first reading.

RE: 5511 Dress and Grooming. Dr. Woltanski asked to remove remaining language after the X. Dr. Herrin agreed to review and bring back again for a first reading.

RE: 9270 Home Education Programs. Dr. Woltanski recommended the language change to "Superintendent or designee", because the Superintendent cannot review all. Dr. Herrin agreed that this will be changed and brought back for a first reading.

No public input.

Policies, Second Reading

2. Policies, Second Reading

BYLAWS:

**po154 Motions - REVISED*

**po0164 Notice of Meetings - REVISED*

**po0165 Meetings - REVISED*

**po0165.1 Agendas - REVISED*

**po0166 Exempt Meetings - REVISED*

**po0166.1 Workshops - REVISED*

POLICY:

**po2371 Hope Scholarships - NEW*

BYLAWS:

po100 Definitions - REVISED

po165.3 Special Meetings - REVISED

POLICY:po1121.01 / 3121.01 / 4121.01 Criminal Background and Employment History Checks - REVISED

po2271 Articulation and Access to Florida College System Institutions - REVISED

po2431.05 Athletic Injuries Prevention and Treatment Program - REVISED

po5112 Entrance Requirements - REVISED

po5410.01 Promotion, Acceleration, Placement and Retention - REVISED

po5465 General Education Development (GED) Tests - REVISED

po8450 Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases – REVISED

No public input.

Reconvene

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Job Description 79021 - Safety and Security Director

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mrs. Conn

Seconded: Mr. Highsmith

VOTE: Passed

2. Approval of Job Description 82022 - Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Computer Programmer, Administrative Technology

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mr. Highsmith

Seconded: Dr. Woltanski

VOTE:Passed

3. Adopt Board Policies Update as Presented at April 13, 2021 Second Reading

The Superintendent made recommendation for adoption.

*Motioned: Mrs. Conn
Seconded: Dr. Woltanski
VOTE: Passed*

4. Approve Schematic Design Phase Report for the Sugarloaf School Project

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

5. Approve GMP Amendment No.# 1 to Ajax Building Company for the Sugarloaf School Project Temporary Campus and Fire Alarm

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

6. Approval of Budget Summary Reports January 2021

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

7. Acceptance of Monroe County School Operational Audit for School Year Ending June 30, 2020

*The Superintendent made recommendation to accept.
Motioned: Mrs. Conn
Seconded: Dr. Woltanski
VOTE: Passed*

8. Amendment to NEFEC Membership Contract to Reflect Increased Enrollment in Virtual Enrollment for the 2020-2021 School Year.

*The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.
Motioned: Dr. Woltanski
Seconded: Mrs. Conn
VOTE: Passed*

9. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Monroe County School District and the United Teachers of Monroe for the Phased Reopening Spring Schedule of 2020-21 for Teachers and School Related Personnel

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mrs. Conn

Seconded: Mr. Griffiths

VOTE: Passed by majority vote Roll Call

Mr. Highsmith – No

Mr. Griffiths – Yes

Mrs. Conn – Yes

Dr. Woltanski – Yes

Mr. Dick - Yes

Mr. Highsmith stated that he does not like that it provides teachers with the ability to provide asynchronistic instruction at their sole discretion. After extensive discussion among the Board members, the vote went to roll call.

10. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Monroe County School District and the United Teachers of Monroe for Summer School 2021-22

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mr. Highsmith

Seconded: Dr. Woltanski

VOTE: Passed

11. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Monroe County School District and the United Teachers of Monroe for 2020-21 and 2021-22 School Years

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mrs. Conn

Seconded: M. Griffiths

VOTE: Passed

12. Approve Amendment No. 2 to Somerset Charter Agreement

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mr. Highsmith

Seconded: Mrs. Conn

VOTE: Passed

13. Acceptance of Charter School Reports January 2021

The Superintendent made recommendation to accept.

Motioned: Dr. Woltanski

Seconded: Mr. Highsmith

VOTE: Passed

Dr. Woltanski expressed that she is concerned about the Big Pine Academy negative fund balance. Mrs. Anders responded that it was due to several large ticket items that were purchased in October and November that were posted twice (approximately \$60K in funds), so she will work with the school to correct this. Additionally, the school hopes to receive forgiveness on their PPP loan.

ADJOURMENT 6:27 P.M.



Theresa Axford, Superintendent

4/27/21



John Dick, Board Chair

4/27/21