

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: Marathon Middle and High School – Media Center
350 Sombrero Rd, Marathon FL 33050
Tuesday, May 11, 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 – via video conference
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. Health Department Update, B. Eadie

Mrs. Axford shared that she and Mr. Bob Eadie had a discussion regarding the mask policy moving forward and that the intention is to honor the current mask policy though the end of this school year, however changing policy for the summer sessions to “masks are recommended,” but not required. With the numbers for summer school teachers can make the needed accommodations.

Mr. Bob Eadie expressed that numbers have remained low and vaccination numbers are climbing. He also shared that the Department of Health plans to include Covid vaccinations into the regular back to school immunization program. He felt that with social distancing we can go to summer school in-person, then plan to go back to school like normal in the fall.

This lead to extensive Board discussion relating to how the District will manage high risk employees and students, the situation of vaccine eligibility for students, whether or not contact tracing will be required to continue and how it will affect student quarantine requirements, social distancing practices for summer school, guidelines of the CDC versus the Commissioner’s order and the Department of Health guidelines, the option to bring the mask policy back if conditions change, and adding an item to this evening’s Action Agenda for the School Board to vote on the mask policy for summer session.

Mr. Dick announced that he found cause to add to the Action Agenda – The School Board Recommends the Mask Policy be Optional for Summer School pending further discussion.

2. Sugarloaf Workforce Housing Board Discussion

Due to time, this item was moved to the Legal Report.

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.

Add to Action Agenda, item 5 - The School Board Recommends the Mask Policy be Optional for Summer School pending further discussion.

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval with amendment.

Motioned: Mr. Highsmith

Seconded: Mr. Griffiths

Vote: Passed

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mr. Highsmith

Seconded: Dr. Woltanski

Vote: Passed

D. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN MONROE COUNTY SCHOOLS

GEMS – Great Educational Moments for Students

- Lance Martin – Athletic Director, Marathon Middle and High School*
- Natalie Yaniz and CeCe Williamson – Horace O'Bryant School*
- Shannon Wiley – Stanley Switlik School and Paul Davis - City of Marathon Parks & Recreation Director*

Superintendent's Writing Challenge

Taylor Rothrock – Winner, Key Largo School

Jack Bridger – Runner Up, Horace O'Bryant School

Elizabeth Capote – Runner Up, Plantation Key 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.

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 Recommendation for 2021-2022 Critical Teacher Shortage Areas
3. Approval of Monthly Financial Statements March 2021
4. Acceptance of Charter School Reports February 2021
5. Acceptance of Charter School Reports March 2021
6. Approval of Out of County Travel Requests from School District Employees
7. Approval of School Board Member Out of County Travel to Orlando for FSBA / FADSS Annual Joint Summer Conference 2021
8. Approve Contract Renewal 3 of 3 with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired for ESE Dept
9. Approve Contract Renewal 3 of 3 with Brenda Ewer, Occupational Therapist, for ESE
10. Approve Contract Renewal 3 of 3 Princeton Staffing Solution for ESE Dept.
11. Approval of Instructional Materials Purchases for the 2021-2022 School Year
12. Approval of Contract Renewal 2 of 3 with Brightview Landscaping Services, Inc.
13. Approve KWHS Backyard Project Deduct Change Order #003 to Ajax Building Company, LLC

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval with amendment.

Motioned: Mr. Highsmith

Seconded: Dr. Woltanski

VOTE: Passed

F. REPORTS

GOAL 1: Student Success

1. Budget Update Based on Legislative Session, B. Anders

Mrs. Anders shared that the Legislative Session ended on April 27 with a final proposed budget, and gave an over view of how this may look for our District. Some points included that we should receive an additional \$167K next year; Base Student Allocation increased by \$53; total funding per students increased by \$39; an increase of 1.5% for retirement contribution; and inclusion of continued funding for teacher raises. She explained that the required local effort remained mostly flat, which means that milage will be less. Additionally, Mrs. Anders shared that because the District spent more than 45% of our ESSR I funds, we received a bonus of approximately \$2 million dollars – this money must be spent by September, therefore we are considering using this for summer session.

The Superintendent shared that many of the state Superintendents could not spend their ESSR funds, and she acknowledged Mrs. Anders and her team for placing our District in the forefront for managing these funds and spending them as required by the state.

GOAL 3: Human Capital Advantage

1. GO2 Update, H. Russell and B. Anders

Mr. Russell shared a brief outline of employee statistics and interest in the GO2 (Grow Our Own) Program, and shared the benefits of the program for the District and for the employees.

Mrs. Anders shared the financial side explaining that for the next school year the District will award 10 employees with up to \$5000 per year - \$50K is set aside for the program. She continued with further details such as the guidelines and requirements, explained that funding will fall under our Employee Benefits program, and further shared that potential partners and donors to help support the growth of the program.

GOAL 4: Safety and Security

1. School Safety and Security Update, P. Lefere

Mr. Lefere started the report by introducing the new Safety and Security Director – Mr. Alfredo Vazquez Jr. Mr. Vazquez gave a brief self-introduction to the School Board members.

Mr. Lefere continued by sharing the priorities of the Safety and Security department – to get Mr. Vazquez set up and introduced, drills, summer FSAT, lock program, camera review/upgrade for high schools next summer, and behavioral threat assessment program purchase. The SRO contract negotiations have started -we are addressing auditor concerns regarding contract language, and the additional SRO request from MCSO. Additionally, he shared details of the Alyssa's Alert requirements – schools must be fitted with a mobile panic alert system in classrooms by the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Melissa Alsobrooks was invited to give an update on Mental Health requirements and Youth Mental Health First Aid. She shared that the District is utilizing the fully online program – Purpose Prep. She shared the benefits of this program. Further, she spoke about the mental health first aid training and explained that the District now has 6 on staff trainers, and that since 2018, 319 District employees have been trained and certified.

Erin Williams shared details on the District's Mental Health initiatives and partnerships.

LEGAL

Mr. Gaelan Jones reviewed some questions and concerns that arose at the April 27 School Board workshop – specifically budget increases, additional \$600K for the road, AMI, and affordability of rents for employees. After extensive discussion among the School Board members and Mr. Jones, it was agreed that the School Board would consider adding some District funds to cover the costs if Gorman and Company will explore lower rental rates and bringing 80% AMI back.

SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent shared the success and joy of the Employee Awards Evening that was hosted virtually on Friday, May 7. Additionally she spoke about the great activities that principals put in place for Teacher Appreciation week. Lastly, she spoke briefly about the upcoming high school graduations and social distancing practices set in place for these events.

BOARD

Dr. Woltanski asked if there would be any 8th grade promotion ceremonies The Superintendent explained that this is a school-based decision.

Mr. Griffiths – no report.

Mr. Highsmith – no report.

Mrs. Conn expressed her thanks and excitement for the work being done on the GO2 (Grow Our Own) program.

Mr. Dick shared his Employee Awards Evening experience.

Recess

G. PUBLIC HEARING

Job Descriptions, First Reading

1. *Job Description First Reading: 63039 Coordinator for B.E.S.T. Standards Deployment and Learning Loss Mitigation/language arts*

The Superintendent explained that this position is funded from ESSR money to provide teacher professional development and to improve communication with parents/families.

No public input.

Policies, First Reading

1. *Policies, First Reading*

**po9270 Home Education Programs – NEW*

** New Policy or Substantial Modifications - Board input requested*

po1122 / 3122 / 4122 Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity - REVISED

po122.01 / 3122.01 / 4122.01 Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment-REVISED

po2260.01 Section 504 / ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability - REVISED

po1362 / 3362 / 4362 / 5517 Anti-Harassment – REVISED

DELETE po5517.02 Anti-Harassment Complaint Procedure MCSD Version

po5517.01 Anti-Bullying Policy – REVISED

po5517.03 Dating Violence and Abuse – REVISED

po1419 / 3419 / 4419 Group Health Plans – REVISED

po1420 / 3420 / 4420 Benefits – REVISED

po5120 Assignment Within District – REVISED

po5200 Attendance – REVISED

po5500 Student Conduct REVISED

po8510 Wellness – REVISED

po9800 Charter Schools - REVISED

No public input.

Policies, Second Reading

2. *Policies, Second Reading*

**po2215 Program of Instruction - NEW*

**po2260 Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Opportunities – REVISED*

**po51110.03 Children in Youth and Foster – NEW*

**5610.01 Emergency Removal of Students – NEW*

** New Policy or Substantial Modifications - Board input requested*

po2410 School Health Services – REVISED
po2417 Comprehensive Health Education – REVISED
po2421 Career and Technical Education – 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

No public input.

Reconvene

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Adopt Board Policies Update as Presented at May 11, 2021 Second Reading

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

2. Approval of Budget Summary Reports March 2021

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.
Motioned: Mr. Griffiths
Seconded: Dr. Woltanski
VOTE: Passed

3. Approval of 2021-2022 Collegiate High School Program Agreement between Monroe County School District and The College of the Florida Keys

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

4. Approval of the 2021-2022 Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement between Monroe County School District and The College of the Florida Keys

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

5. ADDED FOR CAUSE - Monroe County School Board Recommends Masks Optional for the Summer Session, subject to further direction of the Monroe County Health Department

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mr. Highsmith
Seconded: Mrs. Conn
VOTE: Passed

There was some discussion as to how this action item should read, the decision was - Monroe County School Board Recommends Masks Optional for the Summer Session, subject to further direction of the Monroe County Health Department.

ADJOURMENT 6:51 P.M.



Theresa Axford
Superintendent



John Dick
Board Chair

6/8/21