

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, October 12, 2021

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 of Schools
Mr. Dirk Smits, Board Attorney

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – TIME ACTUAL 4:00 P.M.

1. *Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT)*

WORKSHOP – TIME ACTUAL 4:30 P.M.

1. *Five Year Educational Workplan, B. Anders and P. Lefere*

Beverly Anders presented the District's planning process and Capital Budget planning. This 5 year plan includes the following major projects: Sugarloaf School project, Tommy Roberts Memorial Stadium, Coral Shores High School athletic field, and the Trumbo site move plan. She further shared the types and amounts of outstanding debt, and the payment plans. Patrick Lefere joined the Board discussion relating to the Coral Shores High School athletic field project. The Board had further discussion and questions regarding the Tommy Roberts Memorial Stadium project, and the outstanding debt payments. At the close of this discussion, photos of the current Sugarloaf School project were reviewed.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – TIME ACTUAL 4:56 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.

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mrs. Conn

Seconded: Dr. Woltanski

Vote: Passed

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 21, 2021 School Board meeting minutes

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mr. Griffiths

Seconded: Mr. Highsmith

Vote: Passed

D. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN MONROE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Great Educational Moments for Students - GEMS

- *Gage Cooper, Coral Shores High School – National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist*
- *Madeline Langley and Kaya Sena, Coral Shores High School – National Merit Commended Scholars*
- *Tyler Garcia, Plantation Key School - Student*
- *Jane Orr, Key Largo School – Volunteer*
- *Nelson Garcia, Coral Shores High School - Student*

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 will not 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 PLEASE CALL 305-293-1400 EXT. 53323 BEFORE 3:00 P.M. TO REQUEST TO SPEAK DURING OUR CITIZEN INPUT SEGMENT. CITIZEN INPUT CAN BE SCHEDULED FOR IN-PERSON DELIVERY OR DELIVERY ON THE PHONE.

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.

Pre-registered speakers:

Matt Tempkin

Amber Tempkin

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 July 2021
3. Approval of Out of County Travel Requests from School District Employees
4. Approve School Board Member Out of County Travel for the FSBA / FADSS 76th Annual Joint Conference in Tampa, Florida
5. Approval of Legal Services - Vernis and Bowling 305 Invoices
6. Approve Contract with Kathryn Wurdock, Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) for Exceptional Student Education Department
7. Approval of Addendum to 2021-22 Guidance/Care Center Contract
8. Approval of Contract with iBoss
9. Approve Contract Renewal 1 of 3 for Roofing Services with Advanced Roofing, Inc
10. Award ITB 2021015 Fire Suppression Equipment Service Middle and Upper Keys to Monroe County Fire Equipment, Inc.

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mrs. Conn

Seconded: Mr. Highsmith

VOTE: Passed

Mrs. Conn asked what the list at the end of the Personnel Recommendations was. Harry Russell, Executive Director of Personnel Support, explained that it is the annual report of Out-of-Field instructional employees and verified that it means they are teaching in a field other than what they are certified to teach.

F. REPORTS

GOAL 2: The Whole Child

1. Update on CARES Act and ESSER Funds, B. Anders

The Superintendent introduced the report by sharing that not all Florida school districts spent their allocated ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds, therefore all districts were required to report what they spent. Our district, under the expertise of Beverly Anders, expedited funds in a timely and effective manner for students and staff.

Beverly Anders explained that Legislators expressed concerns that the districts that had not spent their ESSER II funds. Based on this, there were questions about the release of the American Rescue Plan funds – ESSER III. Our district spent all of the ESSER II funds and met the requirements – sharing funds among various programs. Approximately 62% of the funds covered teacher salaries. Funds also covered the total cost of the Summer School program, to include salaries and benefits for instructional staff. She further explained that the District is approved to receive funds from a grant that the Department of Health (DOH) applied for, however the grant funds that the DOH received is considerably less than expected and will not fund the new positions that the District has created - an additional Health / Nurse Technician and a Guidance Aide at each school. However, the positions have been filled and we are able to fund the new positions with remaining ESSER II funds. (The original DOH grant funds were expected to be approximately \$2.6 million, however it has been reduced to approximately \$500,000.) The District anticipates receiving \$13.3 million in ESSER III funds, although will not spend any of the money until it is received. Furthermore, the FEFP (Family Engagement program) funding has been reduced due to the increase in scholarships –

a loss of approximately \$931,000. The Superintendent explained that this means that students can go to school elsewhere, although our District is charged for the costs. Due to the extensive unforeseeable funding reductions, Beverly Anders asked the Board if they will allow her to request that each school and department prepare a 10% cut in their budget in order to be proactive, she believes that we can manage but this will allow the District to be prepared if needed – the Board was in agreement.

2. Focus Update, B. Anders

Beverly Anders shared that we have worked with Focus to include new modules and create better integrations with other software. She explained that Monroe County School District implemented Open Enrollment through Focus – there is no additional cost to use the module so we no longer need to work with a third party vendor to manage this which is saving the District approximately \$35,000 per year. She went on to share that we will continue to work with Focus on the following modules: Time and Attendance, Absence Management, more Power BI integrations, and Hire and Recruitment – further cost savings by eliminating other software and systems. She also shared the latest Power BI finance data that is available on the District website – she is pleased that we now have two (2) years of data.

3. Celebrate Freedom Week Highlights, A. Acevedo

Amber Acevedo shared a video showing the many classroom activities across the District that celebrated American Founders' Month (September). She thanked the teachers and principals for their efforts.

The Superintendent expressed that the District would like to establish a video library that is available on the District website in order to share with community everything that the District is doing.

Mr. John Dick commended everyone for the video and the activities, and agreed that the video library should be available on website.

GOAL 4: Safety and Security

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

Patrick Lefere shared a brief update for the public and explained that as required by Florida statute; all schools have been assessed on time, the report was presented to the Board in closed session where they discussed installation of Intrado and the comprehensive Threat Assessment Tool, and mental health requirements. The assessment tool will be brought back for Board approval next meeting – October 26, 2021.

LEGAL

Mr. Smits shared that Monroe County will begin the re-districting and will vote on the maps proposal – as far as he can see there are no impacts, historically the School Board have followed the County maps.

SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent expressed her thanks to the United Way of Collier and the Keys for their donation of \$45,840. She also shared that Chef Carl Stanton, from Marathon High School, was the winner of two categories at the recent Key West BBQ Cookout Competition. She went on to share an update on the Trumbo Affordable Housing Task Force:

The Sheriff has received authorization from the County Commission to proceed with the development of twenty-four (24) housing units adjacent to the Trumbo Property. The Commission approved a ground lease with SPGL, a private group. Designs have to be completed for the project by the developer and these designs must be approved by the City of Key West. The Task Force has decided to delay Phase II of the Environmental Assessment pending their ability to relocate the District Headquarters to another location. Patrick Lefere has worked with his team to determine cost for restoring the Brice Hall Building to handle administrative offices for the School District and the use of Reynolds School for the relocation of Maintenance Headquarters. That price tag is approximately \$21 million for the development of Bruce Hall and \$7 million for the renovation of the Reynolds School into a maintenance facility. The Task Force discussed that there are three options to attain the \$28 million:

- 1. Appropriate the money from Capital funds;*
- 2. Sell part of the site; or*
- 3. Attach the cost of approximately \$100,000 to each unit / sell market rate housing.*

Gaelan Jones, Harry Russell and Melissa Alsobrooks have worked together cooperatively to create a screening survey for staff regarding staff's interest in affordable housing. This screening survey will elicit a second tier survey which will require phone calls to individuals who express an interest. Once phone calls are completed, the Task Force will be able to accurately determine the needs for affordable housing. Karen Taporco, Navy Liaison and Lieutenant Mike Cooper from the Coast Guard attended the meeting. They are continuing to work with us to sort out the requirements necessary to build housing as the District's property is adjacent to both the Coast Guard and Navy installations. They are sharing the various requirements necessary to be able to build affordable housing near to these facilities so that the Task Force can get an accurate picture moving forward. Karen will continue to review the Quitclaim deed and CFR to make sure that the District can clearly capture the requirements for easements, fences parking, swimming etc on both the land and the water areas near the property. Lieutenant Cooper will look into the possibility of the developer creating an entrance to the Coast Guard installation through the White Street side of the property and on the Trumbo Property which will lead into the Coast Guard Base without the necessity of using Trumbo. The City of Key West has expressed an interest in commercial development along Trumbo Road. We will meet with them to discuss this as we do not agree that commercial development would be appropriate given the limited space in this area and the impact on residential life. Discussions have been held with the City Planner and the Mayor which concerned the requirements of HRCC2 to build commercial property along the waterfront in the Trumbo Point area. This commercial property would essentially extend around to Trumbo Road past the Ferry Terminal on the Trumbo Property side. More discussions with the City and with Bight Board will take place in the future to refine what is required regarding this zoning requirement.

Lastly, the Superintendent expressed condolences to the family, and to the staff and students of Horace O'Bryant School for the recent passing of a student.

BOARD

Mrs. Conn expressed her concerns for the mental health and truancy problems among students. She also asked if clear masks are available for teachers as needed, the Superintendent assured her that clear masks have been provided to teachers who need them for ESE/hearing impaired students. Lastly, she shared her concern about the letter received by the Monroe County School Board from the City of Islamorada regarding the District's mask policy.

Mr. Griffiths – no report.

Dr. Woltanski requested additional data from the Department of Health (DOH) regarding the number of parents choosing to opt out of quarantine, per the new order.

Mr. Highsmith expressed his thanks to the Superintendent and the team for being responsive to the questions and concerns regarding the legislative priorities. Also, he shared how pleased he was to hear about the continued progress on the Trumbo affordable housing project.

Mr. Dick explained that the letter received from the Village of Islamorada was prompted by the request of an Islamorada resident who asked them to send a request to the School Board asking that they mandate a mask opt-out for medical reasons only - the medical opt-out would break the law, therefore the District will not do this. He further suggested that at the next meeting, the Board vote to approve masks optional for all non-bargained staff and for students. Mrs. Conn recommended to have discussion with the UTM (United Teachers of Monroe) regarding masks optional for bargained staff. Dr. Woltanski expressed that she would want recommendation from the public health officials. Mr. Griffiths agreed and suggested inviting Mr. Bob Eadie of the Monroe County Department of Health to speak at the next Board meeting. Mr. Dick closed by discussing the letter sent by the NSBA (National School Board Association), that he appreciated the response by the FSBA (Florida School Board Association) and expressed that he wants to write a letter from Board thanking them for the response – Mr. Highsmith and Mrs. Conn agreed to this.

Recess

F. PUBLIC HEARING

Job Descriptions, First Reading

1. Job Description, First Reading: 61110 High School Special Student Well-Being Social Work

The Superintendent shared that this job position is for the purpose of providing student support at Key West High School.

No public input.

2. Job Descriptions, First Reading: Pre-K Department Job Descriptions:

*61308 Health and Safety Services Nurse
61199 Family Advocate
75030 Fiscal Budget Analyst
61233PK School Counselor_Mental Health and Disabilities Manager
61130 School Social / ERSEA PFCE Manager
63076 Supervisor Coordinator Early Childhood Education
63010 Education / Professional Development Manager
55052PKb Pre-K Provider 2
55052PKa Pre-K Provider 1
55051PKa Pre-K Provider AA
55051PKb CDA Support Staff_Paraprofessional*

The Superintendent shared that these job descriptions have been revised per the Federal guidelines.

No public input.

Job Descriptions, Second Reading

1. Job Description, Second Reading: 63083 Federal Programs Assistant

The Superintendent shared that this is an unfilled position.

No public input.

Policies, Second Reading

po5724 Preparation for Voter Registration-REVISED

No public input

Reconvene

G. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Budget Summary Reports July 2021

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mrs. Conn

Seconded: Dr. Woltanski

VOTE: Passed

2. Approval of Resolution 2021-007 Affirming Participation in the Small School District Council Consortium for 2021-2022

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Dr. Woltanski

Seconded: Mr. Highsmith

VOTE: Passed

3. Approve Job Description: 63083 Federal Programs Assistant

The Superintendent made recommendation for approval.

Motioned: Mrs. Conn

Seconded: Dr. Woltanski

VOTE: Passed

4. Adopt Board Policy Revision as Presented at this October 12, 2021 Second Reading

The Superintendent made recommendation for adoption.

Motioned: Mrs. Conn

Seconded: Dr. Woltanski

VOTE: Passed

ADJOURMENT 6:29 P.M.



Theresa Axford

Superintendent

10/26/21



John Dick

Board Chair

10/26/21