



APPROVED
9-18-12

EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 31, 2012 – 9:00 a.m.
School Board Meeting Room
500 E. Ocean Boulevard
Stuart, FL 34994

Members Present

Susan Hershey, Chair
Maura Barry-Sorenson, Vice Chair
Dr. David Anderson
Laurie Gaylord
Nancy Kline, Superintendent
Robert Kilbride, Attorney

AFSCME: Lisa Edwards

MCEA: None

Members Absent

Michael Busha

Call to Order by the Chairman and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Maura Barry-Sorenson indicated that she objected to the meeting as she did not believe the criteria for an emergency meeting per Florida Statute 120.525 has been met. She requested the Chair state justification for the meeting. Mrs. Hershey reported that: 1) the RTTT program had a report deadline date of August 30th which she did not believe was going to be met, which posed a threat to the District regarding funding; and 2) the Attorney's office being closed caused a financial burden to the District. Discussion ensued. Attorney Robert Kilbride stated that Mrs. Barry-Sorenson's objection has been noted for the record. He indicated that Florida Statute 120.525(3) provides for an emergency meeting if an agency finds that an immediate danger to the public health, safety or welfare requires immediate action; and it is within the discretion of the School Board Chair to determine if the welfare of the public is in jeopardy. He suggested that the Board move onto the Agenda unless there is a vote to not have an emergency meeting today.

Motion was made by Maura Barry-Sorenson that the School Board not hold an Emergency Meeting today.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

Nancy Kline reported for the record that Michael Busha could not be in attendance due to a previously scheduled engagement which could not be changed. She noted that he had requested an alternate date.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Hershey indicated that she is amending the Agenda to move the Schedule of Personnel Recommendations to Agenda Item 4, and moving the other items up on the Agenda.

Motion to approve the Agenda as amended was made by Dr. David Anderson, seconded by Laurie Gaylord, and carried three to one, with Maura Barry-Sorenson opposed.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Public comments were heard from Lisa Edwards (representing the AFSCME Union), Bill Summers and Tim Krabec. Comments included information regarding the need for a Director of Transportation, and improvements to the process followed in the event of extreme weather conditions.

1. Race to the Top Grant Status on August 30, 2012, Deliverables – Susan Hershey

Susan Hershey indicated that she believed that she had to check on the status of the RTTT Grant as it was her understanding that the deadline for deliverables was not going to be met, and therefore, created an emergency that needed to be addressed. Mrs. Kline reported that the District was never in jeopardy or behind regarding the grant deliverables; additionally, she indicated that the deliverables have no impact on the funding. She indicated that she had shared this information with Mrs. Hershey at the time the meeting was set. Laurie Gaylord stated for the record that a piece was originally due on August 30th; however, an extension was provided.

Nancy Kline requested Joan Gibbons, Interim Assistant Superintendent, present some information to the Board regarding the status of the RTTT Grant. Ms. Gibbons supplied a handout to Board members with information about the RTTT program and the deliverables. She reported that the District had requested an extension on the non-classroom evaluation framework, which was provided to our District as well as every District in the State, extending the deadline to September 30th. Ms. Gibbons answered questions and provided information to Board members regarding the process for principal evaluations and the grant work projects. It was reported that the District is up to date on all deliverables and status reports, and schedules are in place.

2. Frozen Administrative/Non-Classroom Positions – Susan Hershey

Susan Hershey indicated that she placed this item on the agenda because she believed the Board needed a “clearing of the air,” stating she believed it was the intent and her understanding at the last Board meeting that only classroom positions were not frozen. Laurie Gaylord indicated that she also believed that was the intent of the Board, and that all were in agreement that all positions were frozen except for classroom positions. Mrs. Hershey indicated that she wanted to have a reassertion of that position of the Board when the Schedule of Personnel Recommendations is reviewed.

Maura Barry-Sorenson noted that the two assistant principal recommendations on the Schedule of Personnel Recommendations had gone through the process. Laurie Gaylord stated that her position is that all these positions are frozen and should be taken on an as-needed basis. She suggested that the Superintendent direct some help to those areas by staff members performing other duties as assigned. Nancy Kline reported that the issue was discussed prior to the 2012-2013 budget being approved; however, all positions were funded and are part of the Organizational Chart, and she did not believe any official Board action was taken to freeze the positions. Susan Hershey indicated that the positions were not only frozen for budgetary reasons, but also because three new Board members and a new Superintendent are coming on board and should have the opportunity to choose the staff they are going to be working with. Discussion ensued regarding the process for placing Assistant Principals. Executive Director of HRMD, Xenobia Anderson, provided information and answered questions from Board members regarding the interview process for the Assistant Principals. Nancy Kline indicated that she believed the individuals had property rights to these positions as they have been offered the jobs. She indicated that there is a critical need for the Assistant Principals at these school sites.

Motion was made by Laurie Gaylord to take no action on these administrative personnel at this time. The motion was seconded by Dr. David Anderson and carried three to one, with Maura Barry-Sorenson opposed.

3. Approve Schedule of Personnel Recommendations

Laurie Gaylord noted that Joan Gibbons is acting in the capacity of Assistant Superintendent and Tracey Miller is performing other duties as assigned at Hobe Sound Elementary School. She indicated that there is no need to change the job titles. Robert Kilbride reported that the Superintendent is vested by law to recommend people for appointment into positions which need to be approved by the School Board; adding that this also applies to transfers.

Motion was made by Maura Barry-Sorenson to approve line item number 5 on the Schedule of Personnel Recommendations, and instructional position at the Environmental Studies Center. The motion was seconded by Laurie Gaylord and carried unanimously.

4. Reopening of the School Board Attorney's Office – Susan Hershey

Susan Hershey indicated that she believes the School Board Attorney's office should be opened in order to provide him the ability to function, address suits in a timely manner, and receive correspondence in a timely manner. She indicated that the attorney should have a key to that office, and the District's paralegal should be assigned to the office. Interim School Board Attorney Robert Kilbride indicated that for his office to work effectively and efficiently, he needs assistance from the paralegal that was in place prior to Mr. Griffin leaving. He indicated that he needs unfettered access to the paralegal and the office.

Maura Barry-Sorenson expressed opposition to opening the office and placing the paralegal in there unsupervised. Discussion ensued regarding the allowance of records to be removed from that office. Mr. Kilbride announced, as a point of order, that the Agenda did not include an item about the removal of the records; discussion is about reopening the School Board Attorney's Office. He noted that Mrs. Barry-Sorenson has provided her opinion and comments and if there is no other discussion, a motion should be made and Board members should use their own independent judgment in deciding how to vote on the issue.

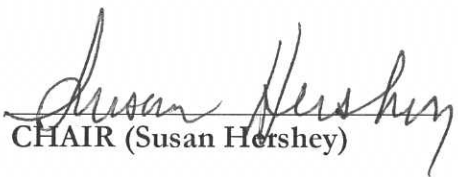
Mrs. Kline outlined the process in place to provide the Attorney information and obtain reviews for contracts and other legal documents. She reported that the care and control of District documents falls under the purview of the Superintendent, and that Mr. Kilbride can have access to the documents and the office upon request. Mrs. Hershey indicated that it is her position that Mr. Kilbride should receive a key to the Office. If this does not occur, she indicated that she would file an official complaint with the State. Mrs. Hershey asked Mrs. Kline if she was going to reopen the School Board Attorney's Office; however, the Superintendent did not respond.

Mrs. Hershey asked if there was anything additional to discuss.

Mrs. Kline indicated, for the record, that she believes students are being put at risk by the Board's decision to not allow the positions of Director of Transportation, Assistant Principal for Hidden Oaks Middle School, and Assistant Principal at Indiantown Middle School to be filled. For the Record, she stated that she believes it is not in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of students not to fill these positions.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:29 a.m.


CHAIR (Susan Hershey)


SECRETARY (Nancy Kline)