

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MONROE COUNTY

Workshop & Regular Meeting Minutes
Marathon High School Media Center
May 12, 2009 at 10:00 am

PRESIDING: Andy Griffiths, Chair

PRESENT: Steven Pribramsky; Duncan Mathewson; John Dick; Debra Walker;
Randy Acevedo, Superintendent and School Board Attorney
Richard Collins and Dirk Smits.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Mr. Collins announced that Mr. Fechter would not be attending the meeting today. Mr. Fechter is finalizing his final report after meeting with Mr. Collins and reviewing the preliminary audit findings released last week.

Mr. Vern Crawford, District Lobbyist discussed highlights of the state budget and various bills which may affect district policies. Some highlights of the bills include the following: Potentially, after July 1, 2010 the employees that qualify for the DROP must be out for six months before being re-hired regardless of classifications. Reimbursement for the full value for lost textbooks. Virtual education must be made available to K-12 students. Charter Schools toughens accountability for their Boards. The Department will develop a model charter school application. The required local effort will have a slight increase in the millage.

Mr. Pribramsky questioned which of the bills were specifically helpful to the District of Monroe. Mr. Crawford said one of them was the continuation of 90% hold-harmless and the success comes from keeping things status quo with no unfunded mandates passing. Mr. Dick believes the travel and attendance at the meetings at consortiums & associations is of no benefit to the district. Mr. Griffiths has seen the minority objections being honored by the associations. Mr. Griffiths feels it's most important to stick together as the minority than the majority. Credit is due to not having the bad law of the land becoming laws.

Mr. Acevedo discussed the 2009-2010 budget. Mr. Pribramsky stated the current budget is a total 2% of total cash flow. It was agreed that the rate is not what the tax increase is. Mr. Acevedo discussed the stabilization money. Mr. Dick compared Monroe to the other districts with similar enrollments v. the administrators and other professionals employed 1 for every 54 students. The average of the other districts is higher. Dr. Walker would like to know how many teachers the other districts have. Mr. Henriquez stated significant differences for comparison should also be considered like various programs like Headstart, RTI and 21st Century are some that other districts may or may not have. The mandated increase is .488.

Mr. Griffiths is confident that 2 million in cuts plus an additional 1 million in fund balance can be cut by the Superintendent without impacting the classrooms. Dr. Mathewson is dead set

against raising taxes and is willing to do the 3 million or at minimum the 2 million. Dr. Walker will not support anything cutting more than the flat line budget. Dr. Walker does not believe there will be a hold back next year and wants input as to how that 1 million would be utilized. This is the time to have the fund balance in excess of 5 million. Dr. Walker would be lobbying for some movement with the 1 million. The Superintendent would like to see a 2% tax increase.

Mr. Acevedo asked the Board for budget direction.

Dr. Walker motioned, and Dr. Mathewson seconded that the Superintendent reduce the proposed budget by Three Million dollars.

Discussion: The actual tax roll reflects as a zero budget looking at from the revenue side. The second part of that motion for Dr. Walker would be to have 1 million in reserve. And, for it to come from attrition, retirement, eliminating non-teaching positions, non-instructional. Mr. Griffiths clarified that this 3 million in cuts does not include steps or raises; we'd have to make further findings for that.

For clarification: Dr Walker moved that the district plan for a zero tax increase budget and cut the budget sufficiently to also include a million dollars extra in the fund balance for a total of 3 million dollar in cuts that would come from non instructional sources and attrition and that would not include any constraints on the use of the funds for union negotiations.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Dick No

Mr. Pribramsky No

Dr. Mathewson Yes

Dr. Walker Yes

Mr. Griffiths Yes

Motion passed

(Copy in SMB 47, page 280)

The Board called for an executive session concerning bargaining for the next Board meeting.

Captain Ed Davison spoke concerning the budget.

Adult Education Update - Jeff Arnott reviewed the Adult Education program and provided an update on how he is revamping the program. He is asking for a one year extension to build the public's trust and continue assisting the students currently attending. Dr. Mathewson and Mr. Pribramsky are not convinced to keep the evening cosmetology program operational at this point. Mrs. Flennard discussed the positions (7 people) being paid for by Adult Education grant dollars and cannot be paid by MARC. The costs are prohibitive. Mr. Pribramsky would like to see an organizational chart and a budget at the next meeting. At the next meeting an organizational chart and budget can be presented where it can be discussed further. There are four grants which are due within 4 weeks and if there no program then no time needs to be spent on them.

Mr. Henriquez would like to continue the program. It was the consensus of the Board to keep the Adult Education program operational for one year with some modifications. Mr. Griffiths reviewed the steps the Board has taken in relation to the investigation to which Mr. Pribramsky stated the only thing done by the Board was the elimination of the Pcards. Mr. Griffiths stated he shares Mr. Pribramsky's frustration over no heads rolling over the financial scandal.

RECOGNITION

The Board recognized the following

Mr. Harry Russell, Principal of Marathon High School, as the Partner of Change with MYCP.

Mr. Joe Sutton, teacher at Marathon High School, was recognized as the American Legion Post 154 Teacher of the Year. Past Commander Lee Smith presented the award.

CITIZEN INPUT

Captain Ed Davison concern about the legal services compensations.

Lawrence Bruno concerning the investigation.

WORKSHOP CONTINUATION

Habitat for Humanity Presentation - Mr. Russell spoke on behalf of Mr. Bruce Ferraro with Habitat. Habitat will provide a \$500.00 scholarship to a student going in to the construction realm. He presented the Board with t-shirts from Habitat. The house will roll out of June 3rd, 2009 at 7am. Mr. Dick speaks in favor of the project but questioned who would be paying for the tools. Mr. Dick asked why Mr. Ferraro would see the need to conduct an audit prior to paying the district.

Discussion on the Habitat home and tools – Kathy Reitzel, Mark Hooper, Nancy Romain and Sunny Booker were present. Mr. Hooper said the tools were paid for by FEMA reimbursements from the Wilma Hurricane water damage. The money can only be used for by MHS at the marine and construction department. Sears would not accept PO's. Sears does replace the tools should they break. He reviewed the process used to purchase and house the tools. Home Depot tools were paid for out of his personal card because federal dollars could not pay for charges on pcards. Succeed Grants were awarded \$75,000 for each of the 3 high schools Key West & Coral Shores for medical academies and Marathon High had a construction academy which was a one year only grant. Marathon's grant was used for the Habitat project. Mr. Dick voiced concern over the acceptance of grants without any promises of future continuation.

Mr. Acevedo informed the Board that when polled at a principal's meeting, the Principals are not in need of paper.

Mr. Pribramsky would like a loss and profit cash flow report monthly rather than financials as currently reported. Ms. Reitzel invited him to meet as a group to see what is currently used to make the reporting better. Mr. Dick would like to see monthly report on the federal grant usage and disbursements. Mr. Dick would like a limit on employee reimbursements. Ms. Reitzel stated a written signature of the supervisor should be on the reimbursements must occur before Finance would pay.

It was the consensus of the Board to become members of the purchasing group for a cost savings. Mr. Fraga will follow up on this.

No changes were made to the proposed Board calendar for 2009-2010.

Mr. Dick spoke about his conversation with Mr. Lafferty and was asked how the Board was to proceed with his work. The preliminary audit can be given to Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Collins can send it to Mr. Lafferty and set up a conference call at the next scheduled meeting for the Board to speak to Mr. Lafferty. The Board agreed to permit Mr. Fechter to give his final report to Mr. Lafferty before presenting it to the Board.

Mr. Fraga updated the Board on the status of the Sigsbee School Memorandum of Understanding Mrs. Crabbs was pleased with modification number three to the MOU and all parties are on the same page. Mr. Pribramsky would like to see the charter's preliminary costs for the maintenance of the building. With the MOU in place the Charter can take an assessment of the school to see what the costs would be. The Board and the Charter President both agreed to remove the last four words from paragraph 6.

Supplemental Grant Headstart has the opportunity to receive additional money for the grant. There has been an increase in substitute use and health services for the students have also increased. The policy council would like to see an in-house nurse at Reynolds including pre-k ESE for at least 4 hours and possibly increase it if permissible. They'd like to see the playground equipment improved. And, they'd also like to have a more efficient tracking system to track parent and family services. The non-federal share mandates in-kind but this does allow to the district to receive a waiver of those in-kind. Mr. Griffiths would to keep in mind bringing the students from Reynolds to Glynn Archer when Sigsbee Charter is successful.

Captain Ed Davison spoke about grant funding.

Sub-Teacher Pool Mr. Acevedo asked for the Board's authorization to add current non-returning teachers for the 09-10 school year to the sub-teacher pool upon the employee's request. The Board agreed.

The May 19th, 2009 Board meeting has been cancelled by consensus of the Board.

Mercer Group - Ms. Connie Hoffman queried the Board for what she will be putting forward for the Internal Auditor job description. Mr. Dick and Mr. Pribramsky questioned the need for the Internal Auditor and question what this position would do for the Board who is credible and can perform. The internal auditor would make after the fact recommendations and point the Board to best practices, but ultimately it is up to the administration to make the necessary changes. The Board questioned whether they can "hire" or "employ". Mr. Collins will refer to the statue and advise the Board. Mr. Collins reminded the board to consider the operational costs. The range would be \$90,000 to \$125,000.00 depending on experience allowing the recruiter a weeding out plan. The Board agreed to support personnel depending on the schedule of audits

with the Internal Auditor for input. It may be cost effective to include the audits performed by school internal accounts auditing firms. Mr. Collins stated that support staff would be hired by the Superintendent with collaboration by the Internal Auditor. Ms. Hoffman plans on recruiting within Florida. If you move to nationwide recruitment then relocation costs come into play. Housing allowance is not something the Board wishes to entertain. Ms. Hoffman will bring the top 5 back to the Board on July 21, 2009. Mr. Collins suggested having one on one time with each candidate and then vote collectively in public.

The Superintendent announced that May 22, 2009 Fred Phelps will come to Key West High School at 3:45 to exercise his freedom of speech. There is plan in place for response and supplemental adult supervision will be placed at the school and collaboratively work with the Key West Police Department. This will be an educational opportunity on freedom of speech for the students.

SPECIAL ACTION ITEMS

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

Dr. Walker moved, Mr. Dick seconded the Board approve in bulk items # 5 to 12 except #8, #9 was amended.

~~Approve Budget Amendments, Resolution No. 720. Goal Area 8~~

~~Approve Financial Statements for the month of February 2009. Goal Area 8~~

~~Approve Financial Statements for the month of March 2009. Goal Area 8~~

~~Approve Superintendent Acevedo's Recommendations Concerning the Adult Education Program. Goal~~

Approve Out of County Travel A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H.

Approve After the Fact Travel A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L.

Approve Food Service Summer Program Willie Glenn Act.

~~Approve Contract Addendum for Jeff Hynes, Athletic Trainer Coral Shores High School.~~

Approve Memorandum of Understanding with the Sigsbee Charter School Goal Area 5 as amended.

Approve Board Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2009.

Approval of Flood Insurance Renewal.

Approval of Head Start Application for Supplemental Funds Grant,

Motion passed without objection.

(Copy in SMB 47, page 280)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Andy Griffiths

Andy Griffiths, Chair

Randy Acevedo

Randy Acevedo, Superintendent