

MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009 - 3:30 P.M.

The District School Board of Putnam County, Florida met in official session on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 3:30 P.M., in the **PUTNAM COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM 2509 Crill Avenue - Suite 100, PALATKA, FLORIDA 32177**

PRESENT: Mr. John D. Milton, Member from District 1  
Mr. Terry Wright, Member from District 2  
Mrs. Lisa Parsons, Chairperson, Member from District 3  
Mr. C. L. Overturf, Jr., Vice Chairman, Member from District 4  
Mrs. Joann Barber, Member from District 5  
Mr. Thomas D. Townsend, Superintendent and Secretary  
Mr. James L. Padgett, School Board Attorney

The meeting was opened, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and observance of a moment of silence.

Chairperson Parsons welcomed everyone and instructed the public on the Board's policy and procedure concerning public comments.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL BOARD FORM CHANGES:**

A public hearing was held on School Board Form changes outlined below.

Authority for amending and adopting policies and forms is found in Article IX, Section 4(b), Constitution of the State of Florida, and in Florida Statutes 1001.41, 1001.42. Notice of this public hearing was published in the local newspaper, the Palatka Daily News. Copies of the recommended amendments to the School Board policies and form were available for public review at the district office.

Prior to Board action on each form, the Board and public were given the opportunity to provide public comment.

1. Adoption of PCDSB Form, Designation Number 6Gx54, **ESE #12-IND Intellectual Disability Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team Report.**

The adoption of this form provides a means to document determination of service eligibility for intellectually disabled students. It also fulfills the requirement of State Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03011.

After discussion Mr. Milton moved and Mr. Overturf seconded a motion to approve adoption of School Board Form, Designation Number 6Gx54, **ESE #12-IND Intellectual Disability Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team Report**. Motion unanimously carried. (Ayes: Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Parsons, Mr. Overturf, Mr. Milton, Mr. Wright; Nays: None) (See copy in Supplementary File)

Approve  
Form ESE  
12-IND

2. Amendment of PCDSB Form, Designation Number 6Gx54, **ESE #13k Matrix of Services.**

The adoption of this form provides a means to determine funding for Students with Disabilities (SWD). Revision was required by to reflect updated and new State Board Rules that changed eligibility categories.

After discussion Mr. Milton moved and Mr. Overturf seconded a motion to approve adoption of School Board Form, Designation Number 6Gx54, **ESE #13k Matrix of Services**. Motion unanimously carried. (Ayes: Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Parsons, Mr. Overturf, Mr. Milton, Mr. Wright; Nays: None) (See copy in Supplementary File)

Approve  
Form ESE  
13K

**PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

Ms. Beverly Slough, St. Johns County School Board Member and President of the Florida School Board Association spoke to the Board about the latest budget information and the financial crisis facing the state of Florida and subsequently education. Ms. Slough encouraged anyone who is able to attend a rally in Tallahassee, March 18, 2009 showing support for education.

Mr. Werner Hollaway, Director, Human Resources, recognized Ms. Sydney Breton as a new National Board Certified Teacher.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following individuals spoke to the Board regarding possible personnel layoffs and/or school closings:

Enedina L. Stockhaus, Palatka High School Teacher, 203 Belle Drive, Satsuma, Florida 32819; Sharon Hughes, President, Putnam Federation of Teachers United, 3200 St. Johns Avenue, Palatka, Florida 32177; Lee L. Smith, Teacher, Interlachen High School, P.O. Box 788, Hollister, Florida 32147; Dan Wilcox, Teacher, Interlachen High School, 205 Lake Ray Road, Hawthorne, Florida 32640; Kristin Andreasen, Student, Interlachen High School, 138 Orange Lane, Hawthorne, Florida 32640; Evelyn S. Green, Retired Educator, P.O. Box 642, Palatka, Florida 32178; Shelly Thompson, Media Specialist, Mellon Elementary School, 102 Timber Lane, Palatka, Florida 32177; Luke Bradshaw, 136 Woodbine Lane, Hawthorne, Florida, 32640; Caleb Prox, P.O. Box 1941, Interlachen, Florida 32142; Annie Svetlik, Parent, 511 North 3<sup>rd</sup>. Street, Palatka, Florida 32177; Nicole Owens, Teacher, J.A. Long Elementary School, 104 Cumbo Road, Hollister, Florida 32147; Eric Arenberg, Parent, 102 Lakeview Trail, Melrose, Florida 32666; Chris Larsen, Student, 860 CR 310, Interlachen, Florida 32148; David Sieffert; 315 Silver Lake Road, Palatka, Florida 32177; Carol Pettie 1430 Baden Powell Road, Hawthorne, Florida 32640; Linda Wilcox, 205 Lake Ray Road, Hawthorne, Florida 32440; Kristy Connor, Teacher, 1222 S 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Palatka, Florida 32177; Cheyenne Balamest, 112 Ceasar Lane, Melrose, Florida 32666; Evan McInnis, 100 Crestwood Drive, Interlachen, Florida, 32148; Jean Moyer, Attorney, 399 Reid Street, Palatka, Florida, 32177.

Mr. Milton responded nothing has been decided and every option is still on the table.

Mr. Overturf stated his desire is to "better education" and not "cut the heart out". He stated he will personally go to Tallahassee and meet with Dr. Blanton, Florida School Board Association Executive Director and Legislators. Mr. Overturf encouraged each person to contact their Legislators regarding the lack of educational funding. He requested the Board Attorney look into possibly joining lawsuits against lawmakers, et al who do not, as the constitution requires, fund education. Mr. Overturf further stated, he is not in favor of any local action until all avenues are looked at.

Mr. Wright assured everyone each Board Member believes in kids and cares about kids. He stated decisions will be made with great deliberation. Mr. Wright encouraged anyone who wants to discuss issues with him to call him on his cell phone (386) 546-2947.

Mrs. Barber stated decisions such as these are painful. She stated the Board was not consulted about the announcement of possible nonrenewal of annual contract teachers. She stated the Board will do everything they can to save jobs.

Discussion on Financial Crisis which has precipitated Possible School Closings for the 2009-2010 SY and Notification of 122 Annual Contract Teachers that they would not be renewed for the 2009-2010 SY

Mrs. Parsons encouraged everyone to pull together and stated there has never been a more important time than now.

Superintendent Townsend thanked everyone for coming and expressing their feelings. He reminded the Board that as a fellow Board Member for the last four years, he had pleaded for a fund balance but to no avail. However, he further stated, he will lead through a "mess" he has been left to clean up. Superintendent Townsend stated difficult decisions addressing these serious issues have to be made now and cannot wait. He stated all parties have to join together to get through this difficult time.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda items were considered. Prior to Board action, the Board and public were given the opportunity to request items be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration. None were pulled.

Mr. Milton moved and Mrs. Barber seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, items numbered 1 through 7, as presented and recommended by the Superintendent, as follows:

1. School Board - Superintendent Thomas D. Townsend
  - a. Approval of Listing of School Volunteers (as submitted by Communities in Schools).
  - b. Approval of Consultant for Palatka High School.
  - c. Approval of Two School Trips (1-Beasley Middle School; 1-Q.I. Roberts Middle School)
  - d. After-the-fact approval of School Trip for Palatka High School.
  - e. Approval of Invoice from Crime Stoppers of Northeast Florida, Inc.
  - f. Approval of Invoice from James L. Padgett, School Board Attorney.
  - g. Approval of School Board Meeting Minutes.
2. Support Services - Mr. Samuel Foerster
  - a. Approval of the following for the Purchasing Department-(Mrs. Sandy Scranton)
    - (1) Removal of surplus items from the database for February, 2009.
3. Human Resources - Mr. Werner Holloway
  - a. Approval of Personnel Matters.
4. Instructional/Curriculum Services - Dr. Grace Thomas
  - a. Approval of Student Progression Plan for the 2008-2009 school year {Ms. Grace Thomas}.
  - b. Approval of stipends to teachers for additional hours to be worked on two after-school training sessions in Rigor, Student Engagement and Power Standards at Moseley Elementary School on March 17&19, 2009 {Ms. Mary Beth Hedstrom}.
  - c. Approval of passenger car route for E. H. Miller School student in Exceptional Student Education for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year {Ms. Evelyn Langston}.
5. Student Services - Ms. Constance Schneider

- a. Approval of Recommendations concerning School Transfer Requests including transfers to or from the alternative classes housed at home schools.
  - b. Approval of request for students to attend school in another county for the 2008-2009 school year.
6. North East Florida Educational Consortium - Mr. Robert Smith  
[Items Affecting Putnam County are identified with (P)]
- a. Approval for consultant as listed.
  - b. Approval of out-of-state travel for Ulysees Gilbert to attend the Global Teachers Research and Resources, Inc. Teacher Recruitment Interview Day March 10-12, 2009, in Metro Atlanta, Georgia; to include travel March 9-13, 2009 and reimbursement of all expenses.
  - c. Approval of out-of-state travel for Ulysees Gilbert to attend the 2009 University Placement and Recruitment for Educators Program March 18-19, 2009, at Clemson University in South Carolina; to include travel March 17-20, 2009 and reimbursement of all expenses.
  - d. Approval of Letter of Agreement #757-09-350 with Dr. Paige Pullen, an independent contractor who will provide services for the Early Reading First project.
  - e. Approval of Letter of Agreement #752-09-001 with Charlotte Cannizzaro, an independent contractor who will provide services for the Florida PROMiSE Project.
  - f. Approval of Amendment #1 to Letter of Agreement #733-09-005 with Stuart Wegener, an independent contractor.
  - g. Approval of Letter of Agreement #762-09-298 with Brian LaPlant, an independent contractor who will provide services for the Florida Reading Initiative Project.
  - h. Approval of Attachment #09-021-A44 to Contract #731-09-021 with the District School Board of Bradford County for the Navigator Plus System.
  - i. Approval of Attachment #09-033-A44 to Contract #731-09-033 with the District School Board of Columbia County for the Navigator Plus System.
  - j. Approval of a contract with CORE Education and Consulting Solutions, a sole source provider with pre-payment of services to be provided.

Motion unanimously carried.

**EMERGENCY SESSION**

Chairperson Parsons presented the following emergency item for Board consideration:

- (1) Approval of three grant applications. **Justification/Explanation:**  
Presented as an emergency item to expedite the process.

Since this item was not listed on the agenda for this meeting and in order to follow the Administrative Procedures Act, the Chairman declared an emergency and requested the Board act on the emergency items presented.

Mr. Milton moved and Mrs. Barber seconded the motion for Approval of three grant applications. Motion unanimously carried. (See Supplementary File)

Approve  
Grant  
Applications

**RECESS**

**RECONVENE AT 5:29 P.M.**

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

New Business

Discussion, Input and Approval of Budget Amendments through January 31, 2009.

After discussion, Mr. Milton moved and Mr. Wright seconded the motion to approve Budget Amendments, numbered twenty-one through twenty-five, as presented and recommended by the Superintendent, as follows:

Approve  
Budget  
Amendments

Resolution Number 21, General Fund, Budget Amendment (decrease \$1,366,274.31).

Resolution Number, 22, Capital Projects, Budget Amendment (increase \$7,395.20).

Resolution Number, 23, Special Revenue Other, Budget Amendment (increase \$210,375.40).

Resolution Number 24, Internal Services, Budget Amendment (increase \$158,745.44).

Resolution Number 25, Enterprise Funds (NEFEC), Budget Amendment (no overall change).

Motion carried. (Ayes: Mrs. Barber, Mr. Milton, Mrs. Parsons, Mr. Overturf, Mr. Wright) (See documentation in Supplementary File)

Discussion, Input and Approval to Advertise the following:

- (1) Adoption of PCDSB Form, Designation Number 6Gx54, **D-235 Non-Employee Access to Electronic Information Services.**

Approval to  
Advertise Form

By consensus, the Board gave permission to advertise the above form.

**REPORTS**

School Board Members

Board Member Milton spoke to the matter of a fund balance. He stated despite the current situation, he does not support a fund balance except as the state may require.

Mr. Overturf stated during the recess a couple of suggestions were made: (1) sample letters to Legislators available for parents and (2) providing the letter sent by the Board to Legislators to other Districts to form a stronger joint communication.

School Board Attorney

Board Attorney Padgett made some comments regarding the possible litigation against state officials referenced earlier in the meeting by Mr. Overturf. He stated he will closely monitor these situations as they progress.

Superintendent

Superintendent Townsend shared about a recent breakfast meeting with local Pastors regarding community cooperation and support for education.

At the request of Superintendent Townsend, Mrs. Mary Beth Hedstrom, Director, Federal Programs and Mrs. Janice Pounds, Director, Elementary Education shared information on the Response to Intervention (RTI) which is a problem solving model for helping children struggling, whether academically or behaviorially.

Superintendent Townsend called on Mr. Sam Foerster, Associate Superintendent, reported on the latest cost saving measures. Discussion followed with questions from Board Members.

Superintendent Townsend recommended a School Board Workshop on School Closings. Discussion took place on a possible date. The Superintendent's secretary will coordinate a date acceptable to Board Members and Administration.

Superintendent Townsend talked about the fact that the Florida High School Activities Association has discussed cutting sports programs in an effort to help meet the great shortfall. He provided the Board with a copy of supplements earned by Putnam County employees for extra duties (i.e. sports, clubs, etc.) and pointed out that cutting out supplements is, indeed a wage reduction. Discussion followed.

There being no further business, Mr. Milton moved and Mr. Overturf seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned at 6:20 P.M. Motion unanimously carried.

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LISA PARSONS, CHAIRPERSON

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THOMAS D. TOWNSEND, SECRETARY

A DVD Recording of this meeting is available in the Supplementary Minute File.