

**SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY  
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 10, 2009  
5:30 P.M.  
GARLAND BOGGUS BOARD ROOM  
426 SCHOOL STREET  
SEBRING, FLORIDA**

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**Agenda Item I: Opening Items**

- IA/IB**      Chairperson Andy Tuck called the Regular School Board Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Garland Boggus Board Room at 426 School Street, Sebring, Florida. On roll call, those present besides Chairperson Tuck were Mr. Wally Randall, Mrs. Donna Howerton, Mr. J. Ned Hancock, Mr. Richard Norris, Superintendent Wally Cox, Attorney John McClure and Executive Secretary Connie E. Scobey.
- School Board Member Wally Randall gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IC**            Character Word of the Month: “SELF-CONTROL” Presentation from HGM. HGM Principal Chris Doty, HGM Dean of Student Adam Smehyl and Guidance Counselor Angela Terreros along with students Aaliyah Eastburn, David DeGenaro, Alexandria Hornick and Emily Waller shared a video regarding their Compliment Corner at HGM. Speaker Aaliyah Eastburn highlighted information regarding Self-Control. The presentation was enjoyed by all those present. Superintendent Cox and the Board shared their appreciation for the presentation.
- ID**            Recognitions: None were presented
- IE**            Curriculum Presentation: None were presented.
- IF**            School Board Member Committee Reports:
- Mr. Norris shared an update regarding the Value Adjustment Board.
  - Mrs. Howerton stated that Ag Venture was a great success and thanked everyone for their support.

**IG Presentation of petitions, concerns or reports: None were presented.**  
(Presented must fill out a card and present it to the Board Secretary before the meeting is called to order. Speaker will have up to five minutes for the presentation.)

**IH Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Cox recognized Director Joyce McClelland who came forward. She acknowledged Ms. Julie Burg, Activities and Event Director and Ms. Ann Marie Eckleman and Angie Weaver, all from Highlands Ridge. They came forward and presented a donation in the amount of \$580.00 to the School Board to apply toward expenses for the Honors' Band. Appreciation was shared from Superintendent Cox and the Board for their generous donation.

Superintendent Cox introduced Mr. Tom Conner, Director of the Heartland Education Consortium. Mr. Conner came forward and shared some information regarding activities the Consortium have been involved in the past year.

Superintendent Cox shared draft copies of Legislative Priorities for the School Board. He requested information regarding who plans to attend the Legislative Delegation on December 3, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. Mr. Randall and Mr. Norris will both plan to attend and represent the district. Superintendent Cox stated that the priorities are in draft form and if they wanted to add or make changes to let Connie Scobey or Pat Kules know.

Superintendent Cox commented on the many Veteran's Day Programs taking place out in the schools and encouraged the Board to attend some.

Superintendent Cox reminded the Board of the School Board Workshop on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. to receive the Exit Accreditation Report.

**Agenda Item II: Adopt the Agenda**

Mr. Randall moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mrs. Howerton seconded. On roll call, all members present voted "yes." SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_

**Agenda item III: Consent Items**

Mr. Hancock moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Norris seconded. Mr. Hancock requested that with approval of the Mixon & Associates Contract – it would be nice to have a pre and post Legislative meeting with the Mixon liaison

stating that it would be beneficial for the Board members during the Legislative Session. Superintendent Cox requested HEC Director Tom Conner follow up on that request. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.”

- IIIA2a Request approval for permission for Karen Ladinsky to attend the 2010 National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference during February 6-9, 2010 in Columbus, Ohio SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_
- IIIA3a Request approval of the minutes for the following meetings: IB Site Visit 10-26-09; School Board Workshop 10-27-09; Regular School Board Meeting 10-27-09; and Special Meeting (Expulsion Hearing 11-2-09) SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_
- IIIB1 Request approval of the Mixon & Associates Contract with HEC SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_
- IIID2a Request approval of the Corrective Action Grant SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_

**Agenda Item IV: Action Items**

- IVA1a Consider approval of out of zone request: None were presented.
- IVA2a Discuss/Review the School Board Attorney Contract Review/Performance Composite: Mr. Hancock commented on Board Attorney John McClure, sharing many positive attributes within his performance for the Board. The other members echoed the comments and shared their appreciation for his service. SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_
- IVA4a Consider approval of Proclamation to partner with the 2010 Census: Mrs. Howerton moved to approve the Proclamation to partner with the 2010 Census. Mr. Randall seconded. Mr. Randall commented on how important the 2010 Census count is and the partnering is an effort in assisting with that goal. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_
- IVA5a Consider approval of the Superintendent’s recommendations for personnel: Mr. Hancock moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendations for personnel. Mr. Norris seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_
- IVA7a Consider approval of Expulsion(s) as listed: Mr. Hancock moved to approve the Expulsion(s) as listed. Mrs. Howerton seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_
- 1) SBHC0910-21 – Battery on employee
  - 2) SBHC0910-22 – Possession of Drug
  - 3) SBHC0910-23 – Assault on employee

- IVB1** Consider approval of the Premier Speaker's Bureau Agreement for HEC's 2010 Leadership Conference: Mr. Randall moved to approve the Premier Speaker's Bureau Agreement for HEC's 2010 Leadership Conference. Mrs. Howerton seconded. HEC Director Tom Conner came forward and addressed questions from the Board. On roll call, all members present voted "yes." SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_
- IVC1a** Consider approval of the General ASP Inc./Online Employment Application ("AppliTrack") Contract: Mr. Norris moved to approve the General ASP Inc./Online Employment Application ("AppliTrack") Contract. Mr. Randall seconded. On roll call, all members present voted "yes." SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_
- IVC1b** Consider approval of Consent for Right of Way to allow the County to build turning lanes at CTE: Mr. Randall moved to approve the Consent for Right of Way to allow the County to build turning lanes at CTE. Mr. Hancock seconded. Assistant Superintendent Mike Averyt commented on this issue and shared information. Superintendent Cox and CTE Principal Rick Demeri also commented on the issue. On roll call, all members present voted "yes." SMB\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_

**Agenda Item V: Emergency Items**

None were presented.

**Agenda Item VI: Legislative Issues for Discussion and/or Possible Action**

None were presented.

**Agenda Item VII: Planning/Zoning Issues for Discussion and/or Possible Action**

None were presented.

**Agenda Item VIII: HCEA/HCESPA Comments**

Steve Picklesimer HCEA President; Tim Murphy, HCEA Vice-President

- Tim Murphy, HCEA Vice-President commended HGM for their presentation.
- He commended the residence of Highlands Ridge for their generous donation to the Arts.

- He commented on Veterans Day and requested all to recognize those in harm's way and those who have fought for our freedom. He shared that we have many employees who are Veterans and all need to be recognized.
- He stated that the Ratification vote will be held on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Robin Britt, HCESPA President:**

- Mr. Michel Bernier, Unit Director was not present.

#### **Agenda Item X: School Board Attorney Comments**

**School Board Attorney John McClure:**

- Mr. McClure echoed the comments regarding the recognitions and presentations.
- He shared his appreciation for the performance review and stated that it was great to work with them.
- He stated that the FL School Board Attorney's group is some of the finest attorney's he has ever worked with and it was great to be a part of that organization.
- He reminded the Board of the Sunshine Law regarding meetings with the Mixon group.
- He recognized the 234<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US Marine Corp.

#### **Agenda Item XI: Board Members' Comments**

**Mr. Wally Randall:**

- He congratulated the Marines.
- He shared his appreciation with the Highlands Ridge group for their generous donation.
- He commended the HGM group for their presentation.
- He requested information from John McClure regarding his request on drafting a Stipulation on Truancy.

**Mr. Richard Norris:**

- He stated that it was a great program from HGM regarding compliments.
- He commented on Veterans Day, sharing appreciation with those that are and have served.
- He requested an update on the school zone issue of concern shared by Chief Williams in Lake Placid. Assistant Superintendent Mike Averyt and Deputy Superintendent Rodney Hollinger addressed this issue and will follow up with more details at a future meeting.
- He shared his appreciation with Highlands Ridge and their generous donation to the Music Program and requested this donation be noted within the local press. He stated that we need the Arts and other groups may pick up on thought of donating in the future.

**Mrs. Donna Howerton:**

- She commented on the presentations, sharing appreciation for the presentation from HGM and the generous contribution from Highlands Ridge.
- She stated that her brother was in the Air Force and shared her appreciation with all Veterans for their service.

**Mr. J. Ned Hancock:**

- He commented on the great programs that are held on Veterans Day, and the wonderful education given to the students regarding the service of our military Veterans.
- He shared that his Dad served in the Army.
- He requested information regarding information from A.D. Morgan maintaining Ardaman and Associates for cast-in place concrete and density tests. Superintendent Cox and Assistant Superintendent Mike Averyt will follow up on this issue of concern and report back to the Board.
- He shared that Kathryn Smith (Mrs. Ferrel Smtih) passed away and her service will be held at the First Baptist Church on Friday morning.

**Chairperson Andy Tuck:**

- He shared condolences with the Lenny Smith family at their recent family loss.
- He shared his appreciation with all Veterans for their service.
- He commented on Early Release days and asked if all issues of concern had been settled. Superintendent Cox addressed this issue.
- He commented on his last few years observing the Chairs and shared his enjoyment of being Chair this past year, hoping for an easy year when he started, but experiencing a challenging year.
- He introduced his daughter Miss Kayle Tuck who attended the meeting this evening.

#### **Agenda Item XII: Adjournment**

**With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.**