

**SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2008
9:00 A.M.
GARLAND BOGGUS BOARD ROOM
426 SCHOOL STREET
SEBRING, FLORIDA**

Agenda Item I: Opening Items

IA/IB Chairperson J. Ned Hancock called the Regular School Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Garland Boggus Board Room at 426 School Street, Sebring, Florida. On roll call, those present besides Chairperson Hancock were Mr. Richard Norris, Mr. Andy Tuck, Mr. Wally Randall, Mrs. Donna Howerton, Superintendent Wally Cox, Board Attorney John McClure and Executive Secretary Connie E. Scobey.

Chairperson J. Ned Hancock gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IC Character Word of the Month: “SERVANT LEADERSHIP”

ID Recognitions:

- **Employee Recognition (APM)** APM Principal Danny Johnson came forward to share information regarding an incident that took place on the campus of APM and the heroic actions of the APM Health Tech Susan Prohaska. He shared some of the details of the incident and how vital these personnel are on our campuses. He stated that she took appropriate action in a situation and saved a young students life. He presented her a Certificate of Recognition and a small gift of appreciation from the Superintendent, the Board and APM. Deputy Superintendent Rodney Hollinger briefly shared recognition by presenting her with a dozen donuts. Ms. Prohaska shared her appreciation with the Superintendent, the Board and APM, complimenting her staff for their support in her efforts in caring for the children of APM. She also shared her appreciation with the Highlands County Health Department for all of their training and support.

IE Curriculum Presentation: None

IF School Board Member Committee Reports: None were shared.

IG Presentation of petitions, concerns or reports:
(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.)

Chairperson Hancock shared that he had been notified by Ms. Stanley regarding the summer Driver's Ed Class at SHS and not being able to participate. Superintendent Cox stated that he will follow up on this issue.

IH Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Cox recognized Ms. Susie Bishop from AtlanticBlue who presented the Board with a short update on the Blue Head Ranch project. Questions from the Board were addressed by Ms. Bishop.

Superintendent Cox reminded the Board of his request for an Executive Session immediately following the regularly scheduled board meeting.

The Board requested an update on the Career Academy and Superintendent Cox shared that information. A few Board Members attended the SFCC Career Academy Open House and stated that it was well attended. They all commended SFCC and their staff for their support and shared their disappointment regarding lack of support from Curriculum. Mrs. Howerton stated that John Rousch was present and commented Resource Teacher Jennifer Westergom for her assistance in coordinating the program. Mrs. Howerton also shared information regarding the vacancy of the Career/Tech Coordinator position.

Agenda Item II: Adopt the Agenda

Mr. Norris 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

Mrs. Howerton moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Randall seconded. On roll call, all members present voted "yes."

IIIA3a Request approval of the minutes for the following meetings: Special School Board Meeting (Expulsion Hearing) 5-19-08; School Board Workshop 5-20-08; Regular School Board Meeting 5-20-08; and Special School Board Meeting (Public Hearing) 5-20-08

- IIIA7a** Request approval of the Expulsion(s) as listed: SMB_____ P_____
- 1) SBHC0708-111 –Multiple Discipline Referrals
 - 2) SBHC0708-113 – Multiple Discipline Referrals
 - 3) SBHC0708-115 –Reasonable Suspicion Drug Testing
 - 4) SBHC0708-116 –Sexual Harassment
 - 5) SBHC0708-118 – Possession of Prescription Drug
 - 6) SBHC0708-119 – Distribution/Possession of Prescription Drug
 - 7) SBHC0708-120 – Possession of Prescription Drug
 - 8) SBHC0708-121 – Distribution/Possession of Prescription Drug
 - 9) SBHC0708-123 – Possession of Prescription Drug
 - 10) SBHC0708-124 – Possession of Prescription Drug
 - 11) SBHC0708-125 – Possession of Prescription Drug
- IIIB1** Consider approval of Resolution between the School Board of Highlands County and the Heartland Education Consortium for 2008-09 SMB_____ P_____
- IIIB2** Request approval of the FDLRS Grant SMB_____ P_____
- IIIE2a** Request approval of recommendation for HVAC Renovation Project at the APH Band Room RFBP #SBHC0708-23
SMB_____ P_____
- IIIE2b** Request approval of recommendation for the HVAC Renovation Project at the APH Gym RFBP #SBHC0708-22
SMB_____ P_____
- IIIE2c** Request approval of for the purchase of Employee Uniforms RFBP #SBHC0708-27 SMB_____ P_____
- IIIE3a** Request approval to remove certain surplus tangible personal property items disposed of during the 2006/07 school year from the SBHC Tangible Personal Property Records Database SMB_____ P_____
- IIIE6a** Request approval of a Joint School Bus Agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of Highlands County SMB_____ P_____

IIIE6b **Request approval of School Bess Schedule for year 2008/09** SMB_____ P_____

Agenda Item IV: Action Items

- IVA1a** **Consider approval of the out of zone transfer request(s) at listed: SMB_____ P_____**
Griffin: No one was present. Mr. Tuck moved to approve the request and Mr. Norris seconded. Following discussion, and it was determined that this request is an AYP issue and will be addressed at a later date. Mr. Tuck and Mr. Norris withdrew their motion and second.
Crutchfield: Mr. and Mrs. Crutchfield came forward to share information regarding their request. Mr. Tuck moved to approve the request. Mr. Randall seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.”
- IVA2a** **Consider approval of the Agreement for Annexation of property surrounding The Kindergarten Learning Center:**
School Board Attorney John McClure shared information with the Board regarding this issue. Questions were addressed by Mr. McClure. Mrs. Howerton moved to approve the Agreement for Annexation of property surrounding The Kindergarten Learning Center. Mr. Norris seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____
- IVA2b** **Consider approval of the Interlocal Agreement with the County regarding the Intersection Improvements at Memorial and Valerie Blvd.:** School Board Attorney John McClure shared information with the Board regarding this issue. Clarification and questions were addressed by Mr. McClure and Superintendent Cox. Mr. Randall moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the County regarding the Intersection Improvements at Memorial Drive and Valerie Blvd. Mr. Norris seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____
- County Assistant Engineer Elius Nortelus came forward to address some questions pertaining to the Sebring Parkway construction. He shared that the next section closed for construction was the section in front of SHS. He also shared that work is being done around the FW campus. School Board Attorney John McClure requested clarification regarding the replacement of the retention pond and Elius will follow up on that issue. Appreciation was shared with Elius for attending the meeting and sharing information.
- IVA4a** **Consider approval of Resolution of the School Board of Highlands County to waive the thirty (30) days notice required for the modification of the Interlocal Agreement regarding Impact Fees:** School Board Attorney John McClure shared information with the Board regarding this issue and County Development Services Director Jim Polatty was present and also shared information with the Board and assisted in addressing questions. Mr. Norris moved to approve the

Resolution and Mrs. Howerton seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” Appreciation was shared with Mr. Polatty for attending the meeting and sharing information with the Board. SMB_____ P_____

IVA4b Consider approval of a Resolution to Support Student Wellness: Mr. Norris moved to approve the Resolution to Support Student Wellness. Mr. Tuck seconded. Following brief comment, on roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____

IVA5a Consider approval of the Superintendent’s recommendations for personnel: Mr. Norris moved to approve Superintendent’s recommendations for personnel. Mr. Randall seconded. Mr. Norris shared his concern regarding some of the young teacher resigning. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____

IVA7a Consider approval of the Expulsion(s) as listed: None were presented. SMB_____ P_____

IVC1a Consider approval of the Contract Agreement between The School Board of Highlands County and Kaplan K-12 Learning Services: Mr. Tuck shared his concern regarding spending \$200,000 for this service. Superintendent Cox stated that the principals supported the contract extension for one year. Further questions and concerns were shared and addressed by Superintendent Cox. Mr. Randall moved to approve the Contract Agreement with Kaplan K-12 Learning Services for the one year due to principal support. No second was shared on the motion so the item was tabled until the next meeting. The Board requested further information and/or presentation regarding this issue at the next meeting. SMB_____ P_____

Board Attorney John McClure stated that the Board can take action on all of the Rule developments a-f. He confirmed the proofs of publication with Executive Secretary Connie Scobey. Chairperson Hancock opened the meeting up for public comment and no comments were shared. Mr. Randall moved to approve to advertise items IVC2a-f for adoption. Mr. Tuck seconded. On roll call, all those present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____

IVC2a Report on development of the revised School Board Rule 4.11, Student Progression Plan and advertise for adoption:

- Proof of publication;
- Open Meeting for Public Comment;
- Board Comments and Action;

IVC2b Report on development of the revised School Board Rule 5.30, Student Code of Conduct and advertise for adoption:

- Proof of publication;
- Open Meeting for Public Comment;
- Board Comments and Action;

- IVC2c** **Report on development of the revised School Board Rule 7.70, Purchasing and Bidding and advertise for adoption:**
- **Proof of publication;**
 - **Open Meeting for Public Comment;**
 - **Board Comments and Action;**
- IVC2d** **Report on development of the new School Board Rule 8.90, Conservation of Resources and advertise for adoption:**
- **Proof of publication;**
 - **Open Meeting for Public Comment;**
 - **Board Comments and Action;**
- IVC2e** **Report on development of the revised School Board District Technology Plan and advertise for adoption:**
- **Proof of publication;**
 - **Open Meeting for Public Comment;**
 - **Board Comments and Action;**
- IVC2f** **Report on development of the new School Board Employee Safety Handbook and advertise for adoption:**
- **Proof of publication;**
 - **Open Meeting for Public Comment;**
 - **Board Comments and Action;**
- IVD1a** **Consider approval of the District School Advisory Council Bylaws: Mr. Tuck moved to approve the District School Advisory Council Bylaws. Mr. Randall seconded. Brief comments were shared regarding the changes. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB _____ P _____**
- IVE1a** **Consider approval of Duty Days and Holidays for FY 2008/09: Finance Director Richard Birt was present to assist with questions and concerns. There was some discussion regarding Veterans Day and the Christmas Holiday break. Mr. Randall moved to approve the Duty Days and Holidays for FY 2008/09. Mr. Norris seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB _____ P _____**
- IVE1b** **Consider approval of Electronic Process for Automated Remittance Service with TSA Consulting: Finance Director Richard Birt was present to assist with questions and concerns regarding this issue and briefly shared details. Mr. Norris moved to approve the Electronic Process for Automated Remittance Services with TSA Consulting. Mr. Tuck seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB _____ P _____**

IVE1c **Consider approval of Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Insurance Renewal: Finance Director Richard Birt was present and shared detailed information regarding this item and addressed questions and concerns. Mrs. Howerton moved to approve Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance Renewal. Mr. Tuck seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.”**
SMB_____ P_____

IVE6a **Consider approval for an Increase in Field Trip Pricing for School Year 2008/09: Transportation Director David Solomon was present and addressed some of the questions and concerns from the Board. Following brief discussion, it was recommended Mr. Solomon present more detailed calculations and re submit this item at a future meeting.**
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

- **He shared his concern regarding posting position and jobs.**

Tim Hollis, HCESPA President

- **Michael Bernier, Director of the Peace River Basin Service Unit commented on the Insurance Plan.**

Agenda Item IX: School Board Attorney Comments

Mr. John McClure:

- He shared information he received in a preliminary report from the Independent Engineer regarding Memorial Elementary School. He stated that the final report should be available by the end of next week.
- He stated that he attended the FSBA conference and received a Legislative update and will share a full report on that at a later date.
- He stated that he has three matters that concern possible policy revisions: Leave of Absence pertaining to employees not accepting employment during that time. Superintendent Cox stated that it has been his practice in the past to follow that guideline; Civil matters regarding teachers being pulled in to Civil Court and possibly creating something which stipulates reimbursement for Sub costs in those matters; and Non-renewal personnel who do not turn in their keys – exploring options for the district that will give encouragement. The Board requested he follow up on those issues.
- He stated that he will not be attending the June 24th meeting, but Lori Thompson will be present.

Agenda Item X: Board Members' Comments

Mr. Richard Norris:

- He commended the Health Tech for her quick action and stated that it was outstanding.
- He commented on graduations and stated that he was impressed with the Val, Sal and Class Officer speeches.

Mr. Wally Randall:

- He also commented on the graduations.
- He commented on information shared regarding students in Manatee County with no home address in their files and requested information regarding our students. Deputy Superintendent Rodney Hollinger addressed this issue, sharing that the information is shared on the Homeless Data Base and we keep up to date on that issue.

Mrs. Donna Howerton:

- She commended the Health Tech, sharing that they have wonderful tools of information they receive through the Health Department and can be very beneficial to everyone in an emergency situation.
- She commented on the graduations and the student speeches and accomplishments. She also shared her concern regarding the heat at SHS and wondered if there was an alternative.
- She commented on some of the news and concerns regarding the budget issue and possible creative ways to address these issues. She requested a workshop to review some of the details we are looking at to date and see if we are all on the same page as to priorities.

Chairperson J. Ned Hancock:

- He commented on the budget concern and stated that we as a district need to look at the best way to deliver instruction to our students and make that a priority.
- He commended the Health Tech at APM for her heroic action in saving the student.
- He commented on the collection of keys and shared that we should look at a procedure in utilizing the keys and not allow the borrowing of keys for it gives too many, too much access and our facilities not as secure.
- He commented on possibly reviewing the exam policy for the high school's regarding PE, Music, etc.
- He requested that on future agenda's, the Student Expulsion information be placed on the action agenda.

Mr. Andy Tuck:

- He shared congratulations to all of the graduates.
- He requested the staff look at the half days and Inservice days on the calendar.
- He shared his appreciation with the Health Tech for her wonderful action in saving the student.

Chairperson Hancock called for a recess in the Regular Meeting at 11:43 a.m. for the Board members, Superintendent Cox, Deputy Superintendent Hollinger, Attorney John McClure, Assistant Superintendent's Mike Averyt and Becky Fleck, Director Vivianne Waldron and Administrative Negotiator Sam Lee to go in to Executive Session pertaining to negotiations.

Agenda Item XI: Adjournment

Chairperson Hancock reconvened the Regular Meeting at 12:50 p.m. and with there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.