

**SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2009
5:30 P.M.
GARLAND BOGGUS BOARD ROOM
426 SCHOOL STREET
SEBRING, FLORIDA**

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 Richard Norris gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IC Character Word of the Month: “COURAGE” Presentation by LCE – The students participating in the presentation were as follows: Chelsea Meisenheimer, Amman Williams, Lydia Daum, Orestes Gonzalez, Riley Thompson, Eric Stringfield, Louis Canevari, and Mary Grace Bates. The students did a wonderful job sharing information regarding “Courage.” Their presentation was great and enjoyed by all. LCE Principal Majel Bowerman and Assistant Principal Judy Dyer were also present and very proud of their students. Appreciation was shared from the Board for the wonderful presentation.

Chairperson Tuck stated that he was changing the order of business and wished Connie Scobey a Happy Birthday and requested everyone sing to her for her birthday. Mrs. Scobey shared her appreciation with everyone for the special wishes.

ID Recognitions: Outstanding Volunteer Recognition: Resource Teacher Laura Van Horn briefly shared information regarding the Volunteer Program. Those being recognized were as follows: ADULT Category; Donna Peavy from AE, Lucia Ramos from AOH, Cathy Daulby from WE, Mary Smit from LPM, Tari Hornick from SNL, Donna DiNapoli from LPE, Laura Ritenour from CTE, Lorraine Betty McDoniel from MES, Diana Meneely from PE, Lillian Todd from FW, Holly Taylor from SHS, Ellie Johnson from LCE, SENIOR Category; Florence Bowers from WE, Elizabeth Schrader from SNL, Audrey Howell from LPE, Elizabeth Barina from CTE, Susey Armand from HGM, Betty Jordon

Pierce from PE, Judith H. Sneesby from FW, Ginger Keimel from LCE, and YOUTH Category; Jerry Lee Wright from APH/PE, Danielle Lehman from SNL, Mishel Abbondandolo from LPE, Justin Smith from FW, Tessa Shoemaker from WE.

IE Curriculum Presentation: Migrant Student Presentation – Federal Programs Resource Teacher Pat Landress recognized LPH student Sylvia Monroe who came forward to share her short video regarding her life as a Migrant student. She shared her personal thoughts regarding her upbringing, the support of her family and her goals for the future. She shared her deepest appreciation with her Mother and introduced her to everyone. She also shared her appreciation with the staff members at the Lake Placid schools for her education. She appreciated having the opportunity to share her story. Superintendent Cox and the Board shared their appreciation with Sylvia for her wonderful presentation and congratulated her Mother.

IF School Board Member Committee Reports: None were presented.

**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.)**

Mr. Jim Dostal, a concerned citizen came forward to share his issue of misuse of his property and receiving no response to a letter of concern. Mr. Dostal shared details with the Board regarding his issues, shared a copy of the letter he wrote in October of 2008 and also some pictures showing his concern. Superintendent Cox stated that he will follow up on the issue and report back to the Board.

IH Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Cox stated that Jason Holden was here this evening to share a presentation regarding the Lake Placid High Athletic Facilities. Mr. Steve Davis and Mr. Holden both came forward to share some information regarding this issue. Mr. Holden presented a PowerPoint presentation sharing detailed information regarding their request. He shared information regarding phase one of the Complex and the proposed plans for completion of phase two of the Complex. Details were shared regarding the community support and the detailed needs and goals for completion of phase two. Within the goals of completion was the projected cost, along with the needed contributions. Superintendent Cox stated that this issue will be discussed throughout the budget process.

Superintendent Cox stated that Dr. Ruth Heckman will share an update on the IB Program. Dr. Heckman shared details regarding applications received, the teachers trained, and the financial donations received for the program. She included information regarding the monies spent for the program and the actual IB application status, expecting

feedback by May 1st on Application Part B. She stated that the Advanced Academic Committee recently met and discussed the District Pre-IB/IB Program and the numbers of students that applied and were accepted in to the program in all three high schools. She shared that in reviewing the information, the Committee recommended that the district offer the Program at SHS and offer transportation for the Lake Placid and Avon Park students. Questions and concerns were shared from the Board and addressed by Dr. Heckman. Several parents were also present and shared their comments in support of the Committee and the Program. Mr. Hancock requested the Board add this issue to the agenda as an emergency item.

Superintendent Cox requested the Board schedule a workshop regarding budget issues/personnel allocations for April 30th starting at 3:00 p.m. No objections were shared and it was scheduled as recommended.

Superintendent Cox requested the Board schedule an employee hearing for Wednesday, May 6th starting at 8:00 a.m. No objections were shared and it was scheduled as recommended.

Superintendent Cox stated that he will not need an Executive Session this evening, and requested permission to schedule an Executive Session pertaining to collective bargaining following the May 12th school board meeting.

Superintendent Cox recognized the construction team to share updated information with the Board. Facilities Director Dave Burnham came forward and started the review. Representatives from A D Morgan shared details regarding the APM and APH construction and timelines. Information was shared regarding safety railings and approximate cost. It was recommended the safety issue be evaluated at the newly constructed school additions and follow up be done. Mr. Burnham stated that drawings on the LPM and LPH should be done by April 30th with projected GMP for the project being done by June 9th. Questions and concerns were shared from the Board and addressed by those present.

Agenda Item II: Adopt the Agenda

Mr. Hancock moved to adopt the agenda as presented with adding the Emergency Item. Mr. Randall seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____

Agenda item III: Consent Items

Mr. Randall moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Norris seconded. Board Attorney John McClure stated that the Highlands County 4-H Club needed to provide proper insurance information for the Joint Bus Use Agreement and approval would be contingent upon the receipt of that information. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.”

- IIIA3a Request approval of the minutes for the following meeting: Regular School Board Meeting 3-23-09**
- IIIB1 Request approval of Agreement and Addendum between FADSS and HEC SMB_____ P_____**
- IIIC1a Request approval of Extension of Banking Services Agreement SMB_____ P_____**
- IIIC1b Request approval of Interlocal Agreement with the County for Lighting at the LPH Football Field SMB_____ P_____**
- IIID2a Request approval of the HP Innovations Grant for LPM SMB_____ P_____**
- IIIE6a Request approval of the Joint Bus Use Agreement with Highlands County 4-H Club SMB_____ P_____**
- IIIE6b Request approval of the Joint Bus Use Agreement with Busy Kids Creative Learning Center SMB_____ P_____**
- IIIE6c Request approval of the Joint Bus Use Agreement with Highlands Family YMCA SMB_____ P_____**

Agenda Item IV: Action Items

- V. Emergency Item/IB Program: Mr. Hancock shared information regarding this issue and the timelines involved in scheduling and preparation and requested the Board consider the recommendation of the Committee. Mr. Hancock moved to approve allowing waivers in to SHS for the IB Program with transportation. Mr. Randall seconded. Questions and concerns were shared from the Board, especially in pulling the Program out of Lake Placid and Avon Park. Dr. Heckman addressed the issues of concern and it was noted that this was an initial recommendation and would be reevaluated as the Program grows. On roll call, with some hesitation, all members voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____**
- IVA1a Consider approval of Out of Zone request(s) as listed: The parent did not show up at the meeting. SMB_____ P_____**

IVA2a Consider approval of the Summer Youth Employment Program Grants: LPH Career/Tech Teacher John Rousch came forward to shared detailed information regarding this program and the opportunities for the students. Questions were addressed by Mr. Rousch. Mr. Hancock moved to move forward with the processing of the Grant. Mrs. Howerton seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____

IVA5a Consider approval of the Superintendent’s recommendations for personnel as: Mr. Norris moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendations for personnel. Mr. Randall seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____

IVA7a Consider approval of expulsion(s) as listed: Mr. Hancock shared his concern regarding the student with possession and distribution of drugs. His concern was addressed by Coordinator Patty Jackson and Deputy Superintendent Rodney Hollinger. Mr. Norris moved to approve the expulsion information as listed. Mr. Randall seconded. On roll call, Mr. Norris, Mr. Randall, and Mrs. Howerton voted “yes.” Mr. Hancock and the Chair voted “no.” SMB_____ P_____

- 1) SBHC0809-40 – Assault & Battery on Employee
- 2) SBHC0809-79 – Felony Suspension/Grand Theft
- 3) SBHC0809-81 – Possession of weapon (plastic shank)
- 4) SBHC0809-82 – Reasonable Suspicion of Drugs
- 5) SBHC0809-83 – Threatening an employee
- 6) SBHC0809-84 – Reasonable suspicion of drug use
- 7) SBHC0809-86 – Reasonable suspicion of drug use
- 8) SBHC0809-88 – Possession of drugs
- 9) SBHC0809-89 – Possession/distribution of drugs
- 10) SBHC0809-90 – Multiple Discipline referrals
- 11) SBHC0809-91 – Reasonable suspicion of drugs
- 12) SBHC0809-92 – Possession of dangerous object
- 13) SBHC0809-94 – Multiple Discipline referrals

IVC2a Report on the development of the revisions of the job description for Physical Therapist and request to approve for final adoption: Board Attorney John McClure briefly shared information regarding the development of the job description revisions for Physical Therapist. Proof of publication was confirmed by Executive Secretary Connie Scobey. No public comments were shared. Mr. Randall moved to approve to advertise for final adoption. Mr. Norris seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____

- Proof of Publication of Rule Development
- Open Meeting for Public Comment
- Board Comments and Action

- IVC2b** Consider adoption of the Leadership Effectiveness, Assessment, and Development (LEAD) Administrative Management Plan: Board Attorney John McClure briefly shared information regarding the final adoption of the Leadership Effectiveness, Assessment, and Development (LEAD) Administrative Management Plan. He commented on the efforts of Director Vivianne Waldron regarding this plan. Proof of publication was confirmed by Executive Secretary Connie Scobey. No public comments were shared. Mr. Hancock moved to adopt the LEAD Administrative Management Plan. Mr. Norris seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____
- Proof of Publication of Rule Adoption
 - Open Meeting for Public Comment
 - Board Comments and Action
- IVE1a** Quarterly Investment Report presented: Finance Director Richard Birt presented the detailed report to the Board for their information. Questions and concerns were shared and addressed by Mr. Birt and Superintendent Cox.
- IVE1b** Consider approval of Internal Account Audit for June 30, 2008: Mr. Hancock stated that he did not need to file a Conflict of Interest because the Lakeland Office was responsible for the Audit. Mr. Randall moved to approve the Internal Account Audit for June 30, 2008. Mr. Norris seconded. HCEA President Steve Picklesimer requested clarification on some of the Audit Report and addressed by Superintendent Cox and Assistant Superintendent Mike Averyt. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____
- IVE1c** Consider approval of Audit Report for 2007/08: Mr. Hancock moved to approve the Audit Report for 2007/08. Mr. Randall seconded. HCEA President Steve Picklesimer again requested clarification pertaining to some of this Report. The questions and concerns were addressed by Superintendent Cox and Assistant Superintendent Mike Averyt. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____
- IVE4a** Consider approval of Change Order One for the APH new classroom building project: Mr. Randall moved to approve Change Order One for APH new classroom building project. Mr. Hancock seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____
- IVE4b** Consider approval of Change Order One for the APM new classroom building project: Mrs. Donna Howerton moved to approve Change Order One for the APM new classroom building project. Mr. Randall seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____
- IVE4c** Consider approval of Change Order Two for the APM new classroom building project: Mr. Randall moved to approve Change Order Two for the APM new classroom building project. Mr. Norris seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB_____ P_____

- IVE4d** Consider approval of Change Order Three for the APM new classroom building project: Mrs. Howerton moved to approve Change Order Three for the APM new classroom building project. Mr. Randall seconded. On roll call, all members present voted “yes.” SMB _____ P _____
- IVE4e** Consider approval of Change Order Four for the APM new classroom building project: Mr. Randall moved to approve Change Order Four for the APM new classroom building project. Mr. Norris seconded. Mr. Hancock shared his thoughts and concerns regarding this Change Order. On roll call, Mr. Randall, Mr. Norris, Mrs. Howerton and the Chair voted “yes.” Mr. Hancock voted “no.” SMB _____ P _____

Agenda Item V: Emergency Items

This item was handled earlier within the agenda.

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

Mr. Hancock briefly shared information regarding the budget scenario in Tallahassee and the revenue estimates being shared. He stated that with the information he has received, it may be possible we will receive another budget cut in November.

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 commended the student presentations this evening: the LCE Character Word and the LPH student Sylvia Monroe video presentation.
- He commended the volunteers for their time and efforts given to the staff and students.
- He shared his concern regarding upcoming annual contracts.

Robin Britt, HCESPA President

- **Mr. Michel Bernier, Unit Director was present and shared thoughts regarding Legislation concerns regarding the budget and stated he shares in the districts' frustration.**

Agenda Item X: School Board Attorney Comments

School Board Attorney John McClure:

- **No comments.**

Agenda Item XI: Board Members' Comments

Mr. Richard Norris:

- **He commended the volunteers and the many hours they devote to our students and staff.**
- **He commended the students from LCE on their presentation and also LPH student Sylvia Monroe on her presentation.**
- **He shared his thoughts regarding his hesitation in voting for the IB Program.**
- **He commented on background checks and shared that he had been asked about this issue and the hiring of illegal aliens. Information was shared regarding our background check process and the process handled with our contractors. The main concern seemed to be with sub contractors and John McClure stated that the Board could include a contractual provision regarding this issue.**
- **He requested clarification regarding summer tutoring and Assistant Superintendent Becky Fleck addressed this issue.**

Mr. Wally Randall:

- **He echoed the comments regarding the presentations from the students and all of the wonderful volunteers.**
- **He admired parents that give of themselves to make their child more successful, as in the case of LPH student Sylvia Monroe.**
- **He shared his concern regarding the budget issues and the outlook.**

Mrs. Donna Howerton:

- **She echoed the previous comments regarding the presentation from the student and the many hours the volunteers have devoted to the district.**

- She wished Connie Scobey a Happy Birthday and Administrative Professionals Day and thanked her for all of her hard work.
- She made special comments regarding Sylvia Monroe's presentation and the touching emotions Sylvia had for her Mother and all of her support and hard work.
- She commented on the IB Committee meeting and requested in the future, and issue of this magnitude should have more time and information for the Board.

Mr. J. Ned Hancock:

- He echoed all of the comments shared regarding the presentations at this evening's meeting.
- He shared information regarding his daughter graduating from UF and the many accomplishments she has achieved. He stated he was a very proud.

Chairperson Andy Tuck:

- He echoed the comments regarding the presentations this evening.

Agenda Item XII: Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.