



Hernando School District

School Board Workshop

Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

12:30 PM

District Office-Board Room
919 N. Broad Street
Brooksville, FL

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Susan Duval, Kay Hatch, Jimmy Lodato and Linda Prescott

Absent: Gus Guadagnino

The Workshop was called to order at 12:30 P.M. Also present were Dennis Alfonso, School Board Attorney and John Stratton, Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Duval presided over the meeting as Mr. Guadagnino was absent. Ms. Duval stated that they will take items out of order.

PRESENTATIONS

2. [22-0565](#) Presentation by Audio Enhancement

Attachments: [Audio Enhancement Concept Flyer ACC](#)
[Audio Solutions Brochure ACC](#)
[Hernando School Board Audio Presentation 04262022 ACC](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)

Gina Michalicka, Assistant Superintendent came forward to introduce this item. Spencer Anderson of Audio Enhancements came forward to present this item. Mr. Anderson displayed a video to show the product in use. Mrs. Hatch asked about a call button that was shown in the video. Mr. Anderson stated that option is not part of what we are looking at. Mr. Lodato asked if this product would be in all of our schools. Mrs. Michalicka said that they are looking into putting it in all of our schools. She also explained that this is a one time purchase. Mrs. Prescott questioned battery life. Mr. Anderson explained they have about a 10 hour battery life and should last the entire school day. Discussion took place on teacher resistance and supply issues. The consensus was to move forward with this project.

3. [22-0563](#) Review and Tentative Approval of the Hernando County School District (HCSD) Media Handbook

Attachments: [HCSD Media Handbook Clean ACC](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)

Michelle Barash, Supervisor of Elementary Programs, and Media Specialists Debbye Warrell, Stacey Hartwell and Liz Marion came forward to present this item. Mrs. Barash explained that the older version of the media handbook was not able to be located so they could not provide a strike-through version. Mrs. Marion explained what

the current procedures are for when a parent does not want a student to read a particular book. Discussion took place on adding additional Media Specialists. The Board gave consensus to move forward with the handbook changes.

1. [22-0525](#) Presentation of Legislative Update by Sunrise Consulting Group

Attachments: [Budget Sheet NO Financial Impact ACC](#)
[04-26-22 Workshop Handout by Sunrise ACC](#)

Karen Jordan, Public Information Officer and Shawn Foster and Andrew Kalel of Sunrise Consulting came forward to present this item.

Mr. Foster shared that Richard Corcoran, Commissioner of Education has resigned and Manny Diaz has been named as his replacement. In speaking on teacher salary comparison of new teachers and veteran teachers, Mr. Foster will get back with the Board on FRS requirements and if the state will fulfill those costs. Mr. Stratton stated that he would like to know if the state will again help with the mandatory \$15/hour increase for next year. Mr. Kalel shared an update on HB 7049 regarding legal notices. This bill gives a governmental agency the option to publish legal notices on a county website (BOCC) instead of in a print newspaper. Ms. Duval asked what happens if the BOCC website is not ADA compliant and we are. Mr. Kalel will follow up on this. He also will follow up with the Board in regard to the county designating the school district to publish on our own website. Mr. Stratton shared that he received confirmation that we did see an increase in FRS, almost \$1,000,000 so that will also come out of the base student allocation increase. Mrs. Prescott questioned the location for the mental health facility. Mr. Foster stated that the commitment will be somewhere in Citrus County, but close to the Hernando line. He shared that there were three (3) possible locations. He will follow up with that information. Members of the Board thanked them for the update.

The Board recessed at 2:24 P.M. and reconvened at 2:36 P.M.

4. [22-0566](#) Presentation of the Achievement Gap Committee Goals

Attachments: [SWD Task Force Board Presentation 2022 ACC](#)
[Agenda Item 22 0566 Handout 1 ACC](#)
[Agenda Item 22 0566 Handout 2 ACC](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)
[04-26-22 Workshop Handout by S. Sanders 22-0566 ACC](#)

Mr. Stratton thanked everyone who has worked on this project. Mrs. Prescott stated that she has received texts and emails asking if the audio devices, that were previously presented, record. It was stated that the devices do not record. Mrs. Prescott apologized for the interruption.

Mrs. Michalicka, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning introduced this item.

Tier 1 Task Force presenters came forward to share an update: Sonsee Sanders, John Morris, Michelle Barash, Kristen Tormey, Rosemarie Maiorini, Melinda Reiter and Michelle Ladines.

Inclusion Model Task Force presenters: Troy LaBarbara, Joyce Lewis, Kristina Stratton, Kristen Tormey, Gina Jacobs, Dana Blazsek, Jessica Vitale and Ariel Hoover.

MTSS Task Force presenters: Anna Jensen, Kerri Littlefield and Robin Kidd.

Resource Setting Task Force presenter: Mike Lastra, Darla Croft and John Weaver.

Tier 1 Behavior Task Force presenters: Jill Kolasa, Kelly Downey, Alex Rastatter and Lauren Schumacher.

The Board recessed at 4:14 P.M. and reconvened at 4:24 P.M.

5. [22-0547](#) Presentation of Job Description for ESE Specialist

Attachments: [ESE Staffing-Specialist MARKUP-ACC](#)
[Budget Sheet - ACC](#)

Troy LaBarbara, Director of ESE came forward to present this item. Mr. LaBarbara explained this item. The Board gave consensus to move forward.

6. [22-0570](#) Presentation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Job Description

Attachments: [MTSS Teacher Job Description Strikethrough ACC](#)
[MTSS Teacher Job Description Clean ACC](#)
[MTSS Teacher Budget Sheet ACC](#)

Michelle Barash, Supervisor of Elementary Programs and Kerri Littlefield came forward to present this item. The Board gave consensus to move forward.

7. [22-0534](#) Review and Tentative Approval of the 2022-23 Staff Handbook Changes that Support the Ongoing Operational needs of the District.

Attachments: [Summary of Changes to Staff Handbook 22 ACC](#)
[2022-2023 Staff Handbook Strike-through-ACC](#)
[2022-2023 Staff Handbook Final-ACC](#)
[Budget Sheet NEW Nov-2020-ACC REVISED No Impact](#)

Ray Pinder, Director of Human Resources came forward to present this item. Mr. Pinder went through the major changes. The Board gave consensus to move forward for final approval.

8. [22-0575](#) Presentation of the Renaming of Hernando Adult Education and Suncoast Technical Education Center, by Sophia Watson.

Attachments: [Renaming presentation-ACC](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)

Sophia Watson, Director of Adult & Technical Education came forward to present this item. After Mrs. Watson announced the recommendation of the new name, Mrs. Prescott asked if Senator Simpson has been made aware of the recommendation. Mrs. Watson

stated that he has been informed. The board gave tentative approval.

GENERAL COUNSEL

ADDENDUM ITEMS

Mr. Lodato had requested that an item from tonight's regular meeting agenda; #24. 22-0581: One to One Devices Initiative be explained at the workshop. Mr. Joe Amato, Director of TIS came forward to answer questions addressed by the Board. Mr. Stratton explained the funding for this project. Mr. Amato shared information on how they are able to make this happen. Mrs. Prescott asked about teacher laptops and how they compare to the students laptops. Mr. Amato explained that they are two very different types of laptops. He explained that they are planning on teacher and staff replacement. Mrs. Hatch questioned internet access for students. Mr. Amato stated that there are some hotspots that they can lend out.

PRESENTATIONS (continued)

9. [22-0523](#) Review and Tentative Approval of Policy 4.41 Non School Related Trips

Attachments: [4 41 Non School Related Trips ACC](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)

Gina Michalicka, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning came forward to discuss this item. Ms. Duval stated that she has been working with Mrs. Michalicka on this item. Mrs. Michalicka explained that there is not a Neola policy on this topic, but if this is something that the Board wants to move forward with, we can create it as a Neola policy. Mr. Stratton explained that some trips are put together by a sponsor (not a school), and may travel over seas or anywhere. These trips are voluntary for the parents, students and sponsor. If the sponsor is an employee, they would not be considered an employee on this type of trip. Ms. Duval shared some examples of trip request in the past. She also shared the history of the policy.

Ms. Duval made the following suggestions:

- * Add "Out of the Country" to the first sentence*

Mrs. Prescott questioned why add "Out of the Country" if it is a non-school related trip. After some discussion, they agreed to not add "Out of the Country" to the sentence.

- * Delete #5*

- * Add #5: Non-school related trips may only be taken when school is not in session.*

- * Add #6: Student absences from school that result from a non-school sponsored trip will be unexcused.*

- * Add #7: Employees who are absent from duty because of a non-school sponsored trip will be subject to the district leave policies.*

- * Add #8: Meetings regarding a non-sponsored trip may not be held on a school campus unless the use of facilities form is completed and approved.*

Mrs. Prescott clarified that if the employee got hurt on this trip, they would not be eligible for workers compensation. Ms. Duval stated that they would be covered if it was our trip. Mrs. Prescott stated that she would like to see them all written out before she

says yes to the changes. Discussion took place on if these types of trips should even be allowed during the school year. Mrs. Prescott suggested making it very clear that if a student gets hurt on these trips, they would not be covered by school district insurance. Mr. Alfonso mentioned posting what trips are school sponsored and which ones are not, on our websites. Mr. Stratton stated that parents would write a check to the company and not the school if it is a non-school related trip. Ms. Duval said that a discussion should be coming to administration before paperwork is ever filled out. Mrs. Prescott asked that the Board be notified of these trips.

Mrs. Michalicka gave an example of a trip where a teacher is bringing students during the summer to different colleges and asked if it school sponsored. The response was that it is not school sponsored.

The Board granted tentative approval.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/BOARD DISCUSSION

School Board Comments

Mr. Dennis Alfonso, School Board Attorney explained that there was discussion today at the Board of County Commission meeting to proceed with approving the language to be put on the surtax ballot, which was tabled by the Commission. Mr. Alfonso shared that there was an attorney general opinion from 1998 regarding Hernando County for a similar situation. The opinion stated that the decision ultimately belongs to the school board. Mr. Stratton stated that the Commission does not have the legal authority to make us postpone and decide when we are going to put it on the ballot. Mr. Alfonso will send a letter to the BOCC and Mr. Stratton will ask Mr. Jeff Rogers to put the item back on their next agenda for approval again. Mr. Stratton explained why this Board has moved forward now. When you are talking about the number of millions of dollars that our projects cost and if for some reason voters decide that they are not in support of it, we can plan accordingly to the possibility of that money being cut off. Mrs. Prescott shared that she was very disappointed this morning. She stated that when they [school board members] have questions regarding an agenda item, they reach out to staff and/or the attorney to get answers and questioned why the Commissioners did not do that before their meeting this morning.

ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

Superintendent

Board Chair

Mission Statement

The Hernando County School District Collaborates with students, parents and other community stakeholders to effectively prepare all students for a successful transition into a diverse and changing world.
