



Hernando School District

School Board Workshop

Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

2:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Linda Prescott
Susan Duval
Gus Guadagnino
Mark Johnson
Shannon Rodriguez

The Workshop was called to order at 2:01 P.M. Also present were Rylee Rhineberger, Student Representative, Ayanna Hypolite, School Board Attorney and John Stratton, Superintendent.

PRESENTATIONS

1. [24-1928](#) Presentation of Legislative Update by Sunrise Consulting Group

Attachments: [Budget Sheet - No Financial Impact](#)
[01-23-24 Workshop Handout #1. 24-1928](#)

Karen Jordan, Director of Communications introduced Shawn Foster and Andrew Kalel from Sunrise Consulting Group. Sunrise Consulting were presenting virtually. Mr. Johnson announced that he distributed a document that he received while in Tallahassee from the Florida School Board Association (FSBA). Board Members Johnson and Rodriguez, shared an update from their Tallahassee conference.

2. [24-1929](#) Review the Proposed Plan to Expand Various Existing Schools.

Attachments: [01-23-2024 School Expansion Plan \(24-1929\) FINAL](#)
[24-1929 Budget Sheet](#)

Jim Lipsey, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, and Brian Ragan, Director of Facilities and Construction came forward to present this item. Much discussion took place on capacity at specific schools and denying developments if there is no room within the zoned school. Mr. Lipsey explained that you cannot deny developments if there is room at adjacent schools, as the law requires we look at adjacent schools. He also mentioned that the process for moving students from one school zone to another is rezoning. Board Member Guadagnino asked about how long of a time that a student can ride a bus. Mr. Stratton will obtain that information. Board Member Duval stated that there is land at Springstead High School for expansion. There was more discussion on the possibility of renovating existing buildings for charter schools. Board Member Rodriguez expressed her concerns with flex grades mentioned at Winding Waters K-8 (WWK8). She also mentioned utilizing high school libraries for classroom space. Mr.

Ragan explained the process of putting out a RFQ for a project this size. He also spoke on getting Board approval for prototype plans. Board Member Johnson stated that two years seems like an awful long time to get ten classrooms. Mr. Ragan warned of the last time they fast-tracked a project. Mr. Lipsey spoke about a new technical school in Phase 3 of the presentation. The Board started to argue so the Board Chair called for a recess at 3:28 P.M. They reconvened at 3:34 P.M.

Discussion took place on different types of construction: modulars, concretables, steel buildings, etc.

Mr. Stratton stated that the district has been preparing for a long time and the district has enough money for Phase 1 right now. Mr. Stratton asked for consensus to move forward with Phase 1. Mr. Ragan would like to speak with the attorney and get her opinion on using prototype plans. Board Members, Duval, Guadagnino and Prescott agreed. Board Member Johnson agreed if the prototype can be used quickly. Board Member Rodriguez would like to use the prototype plans.

3. [24-1926](#) Review and Tentative Approval of Revisions to the Hernando County School District's (HCSD) Media Handbook

Attachments: [Changes To Media Handbook Jan24](#)
[Media Handbook Strikethrough](#)
[Clean Copy Revised Media Handbook](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)

The following staff members came forward to present this item: Kelly Downey, Martha Ann Zopf, Penny Schrangl, Debbye Warrell and Cindy Barron.

On page 55, Ms. Duval questioned using the CREW method. Ms. Schrangl explained it is an industry standard. Mrs. Warrell mentioned that it is not required to use this method. Discussion took place on what happens when a book is voted to be removed. Mr. Johnson asked about donating books to the public library when they are removed from school libraries. Mr. Stratton stated that he would need to find out because tax payer money was used to purchase it. Attorney Hypolite will look into it.

4. [24-1843](#) Board Discussion of the Superintendent's Evaluation

Attachments: [Superintendent Evaluation Timeline 2022-23 as of 11-01-23](#)
[FINAL Evaluation Tool 03-29-16 ACC](#)
[Rubric-Blank 11-01-23](#)
[Stratton Contract 021423](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)
[01-23-24 Workshop Handout #4. 24-1843 by Stratton](#)
[Stratton Total Summary Overall Eval Rating - 2022-23 Signed](#)
[Stratton Evaluation 2022-23 by Linda Prescott](#)
[Stratton Evaluation 2022-23 by Linda Prescott Narrative](#)
[Stratton Evaluation 2022-23 by Susan Duval](#)
[Stratton Evaluation 2022-23 by Gus Guadagnino](#)
[Stratton Evaluation 2022-23 by Gus Guadagnino Narrative](#)
[Stratton Evaluation 2022-23 by Mark Johnson](#)
[Stratton Evaluation 2022-23 by Shannon Rodriguez](#)

Board Chair Prescott gave a synopsis of the process for evaluating the Superintendent. Board Member Rodriguez shared comments as to why she could not rate Mr. Stratton more favorably. Mr. Stratton stated that he disagreed with her and that even though they met for two hours, they did not go over the evaluation. Mrs. Rodriguez stated that she has addressed her concerns with him on multiple occasions. Mr. Stratton stated that the way she feels has no bearing or weight with him. Board Member Duval stated that she is the only board member who has worked with at least nine or ten superintendents over a course of many years, before she read the narrative from the evaluation she gave him. Board Member Guadagnino stated that Mr. Stratton is one of the most talented and dedicated superintendents that he has worked with over many years. Board Member Johnson praised Mr. Stratton on curriculum planning and development, and his ethics. He discussed his concerns with communicating out to the board. Mr. Stratton stated that although they do not always agree, he appreciates that Mr. Johnson did go over his evaluation with him as per his contract. Mrs. Rodriguez stated that parents and board members do not get notified on issues. She continued to share her concerns on communications out. She stated that when asked during her meeting with Mr. Stratton if she had the evaluation, she stated that she did not have it finished and that she would take it over to Kelly [Board Secretary]. Mrs. Rodriguez explained that the reason she did not go over all the details is because she went over all of it with him the week before. Mr. Stratton handed out an After Action Report regarding an email. Mrs. Prescott reminded Mrs. Rodriguez to allow Mr. Stratton to finish speaking before talking. Mr. Stratton stated that there are nine indicators in the evaluation and they [he and Mrs. Rodriguez] did not discuss a single one. Mrs. Rodriguez stated that he asked her for the completed form. Mrs. Prescott continued to gavel due to interruptions. After much discussion on the topic of an email investigation, Ms. Duval asked for the workshop to be adjourned since this is becoming very unprofessional. She stated that they are here to discuss an evaluation and does not need to continue to listen to the personal attacks. Mrs. Prescott stated that she had not had an opportunity to speak. Mrs. Rodriguez asked if this was even legal to adjourn if another board member still wanted to speak. Mrs. Hypolite, Board Attorney explained that the Board Chair has the authority to finalize the meeting. Mrs. Prescott continued with her comments.

GENERAL COUNSEL

ADDENDUM ITEMS

GOOD OF THE ORDER/BOARD DISCUSSION

School Board Comments

ADJOURNMENT

The Workshop adjourned at 4:47 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.
