



Hernando School District

School Board Workshop

Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

2:00 PM

District Office-Board Room
919 N. Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34601

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Board Chair Shannon Rodriguez
Vice Chair Mark Johnson
Board Member Michelle Bonczek
Board Member Kayce Hawkins

Absent: Board Member Susan Duval

The Workshop was called to order at 2:03 P.M. Also present were Kristin Ottinger, School Board Attorney, and Ray Pinder, Superintendent.

PRESENTATIONS

1. [26-3115](#) Presentation of Sunrise Settlement Agreement Update.

Attachments: [26-3115 Budget Sheet NO Financial Impact ACC](#)

Jim Lipsey, Planner, came forward to introduce this item. Chris Wilson, Special Counsel participated virtually to provide an update to the Board. Mr. Johnson asked Mrs. Rodriguez to provide a report to the board on all the work that has been happening behind the scenes. Mr. Pinder will bring an update within 60 days if an agreement is not received by then.

2. [26-3157](#) Presentation of the Consent of the Assignment of Charter Agreement from B.E.S.T. Academy, Inc., to Mid Florida Community Service, Inc, to DBA You Thrive Florida.

Attachments: [F.S. 1002.33 Paginated](#)
[Plan of Merger of B.E.S.T. Academy, INC., Into Mid Florida](#)
[Community Services, Inc., dba You Thrive Florida](#)
[Articles of Merger](#)
[Consent to Assignment of Charter Agreement from B.E.S.T., Inc., to](#)
[Mid Florida Community Services, Inc., dba You Thrive Florida](#)
[You Thrive Florida Organizational Chart](#)
[Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. dba You Thrive Florida](#)
[Amended and Restated By-Laws](#)
[Amendment to Articles of Incorporation for Mid Florida Community](#)
[Service, Inc.](#)
[2025 Sunbiz Listing](#)
[Budget Sheet](#)
[BEST-You Thrive Amendment 072925](#)

Dawn Williams, Supervisor of School Choice came forward to introduce this item. Jamie Young, Principal of B.E.S.T. Academy; Lisa Becker, You Thrive; Jared Prater, Hogan Law Firm, and others were also in attendance. After much discussion, Mr. Johnson suggested a five (5) year contract and not a fifteen (15) year contract. It was explained that the statute always the district to approve a fifteen (15) year contract. The Board decided to amend the contract on tonight's agenda which will keep the school name as B.E.S.T. Academy and change the terms to a five (5) year contract.

[26-3203](#) HANDOUTS

Attachments: [07-29-25 Workshop Presentations - Laskoski](#)

Mrs. Rodriguez asked if the board would allow Mr. Gregg Laskoski to speak on school funding. Consensus granted.

3. [26-3176](#) Review and Tentative Approval of the Neola Policy - 9271 Personalized Education Program (PEP) Students

Attachments: [po9271 revised](#)
[PEP Matrix of Charges](#)
[Budget Sheet](#)

Barbara Kidder, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Support Operations; Dawn Williams, Supervisor of School Choice; and Caroline Mockler, Staff Attorney came forward to present this item.

4. [26-3159](#) Presentation on the 2024-2025 School and District State Assessment Data

Attachments: [2024 2025 School Grades Presentation](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)
[07-29-25 Workshop Handout #4. 26-3159](#)

Gina Michalicka, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning; John Morris, Directory of Secondary Programs; and Jen Merschbach, Director of Research and Accountability.

5. [26-3178](#) Review and grant tentative approval of the Mutual Aid Agreement between Hernando County and The School Board of Hernando County, Florida for emergency shelter operations.

Attachments: [HCSD MOU Clean](#)
[No Impact Budge Sheet](#)

Barbara Kidder, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Support Operations; Caroline Mockler, Staff Attorney; and Bill Hall, Fire Official Plans Examiner came forward to present this item.

GENERAL COUNSEL

ADDENDUM ITEMS

GOOD OF THE ORDER/BOARD DISCUSSION

School Board Comments

ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 3:27 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.
