



Hernando School District

School Board Regular Meeting

Minutes - Final

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

6:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Board Chair Linda Prescott
Vice Chair Susan Duval
Board Member Gus Guadagnino
Board Member Mark Johnson
Board Member Shannon Rodriguez

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. Also present were Ayanna Hypolite, School Board Attorney; John Stratton, Superintendent; and Rylee Rhineberger, Student Representative.

REFLECTION

by Gus Guadagnino, Board Member

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Explorer K-8 Students

After the students lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Braithwaite, Principal of Explorer K8 (EK8) and Mr. MacGregor, Assistant Principal came forward to highlight happenings at EK8.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. [24-1941](#) Approval to adopt the agenda dated 1/23/2024.

RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

MOVER: Mark Johnson

SECONDER: Shannon Rodriguez

AYES: Prescott, Guadagnino, Johnson, Rodriguez

NAYS: Duval

Mrs. Rodriguez called for a motion to amend the agenda to add a proclamation in support of Israel as an action item. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Johnson read a statement on the matter. Mr. Guadagnino asked for him to read the proclamation so that they know what they are voting on. Mrs. Rodriguez read a statement while Mr. Johnson looked for his copy of the proclamation to read aloud. Mr. Johnson read the proclamation. Ms. Duval stated that they are supposed to be non-partisan and that there are all different students with all different beliefs in our system and we are supposed to represent them all. She stated that she does not like becoming involved in resolutions that are strictly political. She stated that what is happening is not right, but this board

should not take a step in supporting in this one situation when there are many incivilities occurring all over this world. Mrs. Prescott explained why she voted against this the last time; not because she did not support it, but because when she attended a conference, another school board member from another county, whose board adopted this proclamation, caused protests in their county and Jewish students were afraid to go to class. Mrs. Prescott stated that Hernando County was the first district to adopt a holocaust curriculum, which has been very successful as it is age appropriate; and has since been adopted by the entire state of Florida. Mr. Guadagnino asked if they would consider instead of just stating just one country, changing it to a general statement to include all? Mr. Johnson agreed, but explained how this is going on now. After much discussion, Ms. Duval asked if Mr. Johnson is willing to write one that encompasses everything, why not wait to bring it back. Mrs. Rodriguez answered that we already have this one here.

Mrs. Prescott asked for a vote to amend the agenda to allow action on this item. Motion passes 3-2 with Duval and Prescott in dissent.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

No one came forward to speak on this item.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD

2. [24-1942](#) Student Representative, Rylee Rhineberger of Weeki Wachee High School, to Share an Update of School Related Activities and Events with the Board

PRESENTATIONS

3. [24-1908](#) Recognition of the January HCSD Veteran

Attachments: [Budget Sheet - No Financial Impact](#)

Karen Jordan, Director of Communications came forward to introduce this item. Ms. Silva, Principal of Chocachatti Elementary School (CES) and Ms. Maiorini, Principal of Challenger K8 (CK8) came forward to speak about Jolene Amato, the districts veteran of the month.

4. [24-1938](#) Recognition of the successful completion of the first semester of the first cohort of the Associate Teacher Substitute Program and to recognize the Associate Teacher Substitutes in the second cohort.

Attachments: [Budget Sheet No Financial Impact](#)

Karen Jordan, Director of Communications and Ray Pinder, Assistant Superintendent came forward to present this item.

5. [24-1939](#) Recognition of student winners of the "Empowering Hernando Families" art contest conducted by the Hernando Community Coalition in partnership with Hernando Substance Exposed Newborn Taskforce (SEN).

Attachments: [Budget Sheet - No Financial Impact](#)

Tresa Watson of the Hernando County Community Coalition, came forward to present this item.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

6. [24-1935](#) Approval of the Minutes from the November 27, 2023 Student Expulsion Appeal Hearing and from the December 12, 2023 Workshop and Regular School Board Meeting.

Attachments: [11-27-23 Student Appeal Hearing Minutes DRAFT](#)
[12-12-23 Workshop Minutes DRAFT with links](#)
[12-12-23 Meeting Minutes DRAFT with links](#)

RESULT: **ADOPTED**

MOVER: Gus Guadagnino

SECONDER: Shannon Rodriguez

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino, Johnson, Rodriguez

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

7. [24-1921](#) Public Hearing and Final Approval of the 2023-2024 Athletic Handbook that Received Tentative Approval at the December 12, 2023 Workshop

Attachments: [2023 2024 Athletic Handbook Changes](#)
[2023 2024 Athletic Handbook Strikethrough Copy](#)
[2023 2024 Athletic Handbook Clean Copy](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)

RESULT: **ADOPTED**

MOVER: Mark Johnson

SECONDER: Shannon Rodriguez

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino, Johnson, Rodriguez

No one came forward to speak on this item.

8. [24-1931](#) Public Hearing and Final Approval of the Superintendent's Recommendation that the book, "Two Boys Kissing" written by David Levithan, will not be removed from circulation and will be made available to students in Hernando County Schools.

Attachments: [CHALLENGE 27 REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION FORM AND ARTIFACTS TWO BOYS KISSING 032 2023 M4L HHS 1 23 24](#)
[PEER REVIEWS TWO BOYS KISSING 032 23 HHS](#)
[CHALLENGE 27 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FORM TWO BOYS KISSING 032 2023 M4L HHS 1 23 24](#)
[CHALLENGE 27 TWO BOYS KISSING SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSE M4L 032 23](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)
[01-23-24 PH #8. 24-1931 Handout-Mulrooney](#)

RESULT: **ADOPTED**

MOVER: Susan Duval

SECONDER: Gus Guadagnino

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino

NAYS: Johnson, Rodriguez

The following citizens came forward to speak on this item: Kim Mulrooney, Lori Sowers and Aja Moore.

9. [24-1932](#) Public Hearing and Final Approval of the Superintendent's Recommendation to keep the book, "Speak: The Graphic Novel" written by Laurie Halse Anderson, in circulation and be made available to students in Hernando County Schools.

Attachments: [CHALLENGE 31 ARTIFACTS SPEAK THE GRAPHIC NOVEL 036 23 M4L SHS](#)
[CHALLENGE 33 ARTIFACTS SPEAK THE GRAPHIC NOVEL 038 23 M4L HHS](#)
[PEER REVIEWS FOR SPEAK THE GRAPHIC NOVEL 1 23 24](#)
[CHALLENGE 31 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FORM 036 23 SPEAK THE GRAPHIC NOVEL M4L SHS 1 23 24](#)
[SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSE SPEAK GRAPHIC NOVEL SHS HHS](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC 01-23-24 PH #9. 24-1932 Handout-Mulrooney](#)

RESULT: **ADOPTED**

MOVER: Susan Duval

SECONDER: Gus Guadagnino

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino

NAYS: Johnson, Rodriguez

The following citizens came forward to speak: Aja Moore and Kim Mulrooney.

10. [24-1933](#) Public Hearing and Final Approval of the Superintendent's Recommendation to keep the book, "Eleanor and Park" written by Rainbow Rowell, in circulation and be made available to students in Hernando County Schools.

Attachments: [CHALLENGE 32 ARTIFACTS ELEANOR AND PARK 037 23 M4L HHS](#)
[CHALLENGE 58 ARTIFACTS ELEANOR AND PARK 068 23 M4L NCTHS](#)
[CHALLENGE 68 ARTIFACTS ELEANOR AND PARK 076 23 M4L SHS](#)
[CHALLENGE 69 ARTIFACTS ELEANOR AND PARK 077 23 M4L WWK8](#)
[CHALLENGE 73 ARTIFACTS ELEANOR AND PARK 081 23 M4L CHS](#)
[PEER REVIEWS ELEANOR AND PARK](#)
[COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FORM ELEANOR AND PARK](#)
[ELEANOR AND PARK RESPONSE FROM SUPERINTENDENT STRATTON](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC 01-23-24 PH #10. 24-1933 Handout-Mulrooney](#)

RESULT: **ADOPTED**

MOVER: Gus Guadagnino

SECONDER: Linda Prescott

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino

NAYS: Johnson, Rodriguez

The following citizens came forward to speak on this item: Aja Moore, Kim Mulrooney and Pam Everett.

11. [24-1934](#) Public Hearing and Final Approval of the Superintendent's Recommendation to remove the book, "Sold" written by Patricia McCormick, from circulation for all purposes and not be made available to students in Hernando County Schools.

Attachments: [CHALLENGE 38 ARTIFACTS SOLD 043 23 M4L SHS](#)
[CHALLENGE 40 ARTIFACTS SOLD 045 23 M4L HHS](#)
[CHALLENGE 74 ARTIFACTS SOLD 083 23 M4L WWHS](#)
[PEER REVIEWS FOR SOLD](#)
[COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FORM SOLD 1 23 24](#)
[RESPONSE FROM SUPERINTENDENT STRATTON SOLD](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC 01-23-24 PH #11. 24-1934 Handout - Mulrooney](#)

RESULT: **ADOPTED**

MOVER: Mark Johnson

SECONDER: Gus Guadagnino

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino, Johnson, Rodriguez

The following citizens were called to speak: Aja Moore, Kim Mulrooney, Mary Mazzuco and Pam Everett.

12. [24-1945](#) Public Hearing and Final Approval of the Superintendent's recommendation not to remove the book, "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You" written by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi, and keep it in circulation and be made available to students in Hernando County Schools.

Attachments: [CHALLENGE 34 ARTIFACTS STAMPED RACISM ANTIRACISM AND YOU 040-23 M4L HHS](#)
[CHALLENGE 82 ARTIFACTS STAMPED RACISM ANTIRACISM AND YOU 091 23 M4L CHS](#)
[PEER REVIEWS STAMPED RACISM ANTIRACISM AND YOU STAMPED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FORM SUPERINTENDENT STRATTON RESPONSE FOR STAMPED HHS 040 23 and CHS 091 23](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC 01-23-24 PH #12. 24-1945 Handout - Mulrooney](#)

RESULT: ADOPTED

MOVER: Susan Duval

SECONDER: Gus Guadagnino

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino

NAYS: Johnson, Rodriguez

The following citizens came forward to speak: Aja Moore, Kim Mulrooney, Lori Sowers and Diane Liptak.

13. [24-1949](#) Public Hearing and Final Approval of the Superintendent's Recommendation not to remove the book, "The Poet X" written by Elizabeth Acevedo, in circulation and made available to students in Hernando County Schools.

Attachments: [CHALLENGE 39 ARTIFACTS THE POET X 044 23 M4L SHS](#)
[The Poet X Peer Reviews](#)
[CHALLENGE 39 POET X COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FORM 1 23 24](#)
[CHALLENGE 39 RESPONSE 044 23 Poet X M4L SHS](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)

RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

MOVER: Susan Duval

SECONDER: Linda Prescott

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino

NAYS: Johnson, Rodriguez

Motion to amend the action to read "...from grades 9-12 by Mr. Guadagnino. Mrs. Prescott clarified the motion as to make the book available to students in grades 9

through 12. Seconded by Mrs. Prescott. Motion passes to amend the motion 4-1 with Mr. Johnson in dissent.

The following citizens were called to speak: Aja Moore, Kim Mulrooney and Diane Liptak.

The board recessed at 8:40 P.M. and reconvened at 8:53 P.M.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS (GREEN FORMS)

14. 24-1943 Citizen Input on agenda items for this meeting (Green Form)

Attachments: [Citizen Input Speaker Green Form 110917 ACC](#)

Ayanna Hypolite read the instructions for this item. The following citizens came forward to speak: Vincent Soldo, Jack Marting and Aja Moore.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

The following agenda items were pulled from the consent agenda for discussion:

21. 24-1956: Approval of Resolution No. R24-006 for the continuation of the Half-Cent Sales Surtax to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for placement on the ballot for the general election held on November 5, 2024.

22. 24-1953: Approve Job Descriptions for Director of Facilities and Construction, Facilities Department Secretary, Facilities Planning and CAD Designer Specialist, Facilities Projects Construction Manager, Fire Official Plans Examiner, Manager of Planning Design and Construction, and Planner.

23. 24-1919: Approve renewing bid no. 21-556-38 RN, Charter Bus Services - as Needed, to Various Vendors for Charter Bus Service and Authorize the Purchase of Services for Estimated Annual Amount of \$33,800.

29. 24-1951: Approve renewing bid no. 22-360-22 RN, Carpet & VCT: Installation, Removal & Repairs, to Mark's Flooring Inc for flooring needs, goods and services and authorize the purchase for an estimated annual spending of \$50,000.00.

RESULT: APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOVER: Susan Duval

SECONDER: Mark Johnson

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino, Johnson, Rodriguez

Personnel Recommendations

15. 24-1923 Approval of the Personnel Recommendations (January 9, 2024)

Attachments: [23-24 BOARD AGENDA JANUARY 9 2024](#)
[2024 Inst. Supplements & Differentiated Pay for 1-9-24](#)
[2024 Noninst., PTS & Adm. Supplements for 1-9-24](#)

- *16. [24-1947](#) Approval of Personnel Recommendations (January 23, 2024)

Attachments: [23-24 BOARD AGENDA JANUARY 23 2024 REVISED](#)
[January 23 2023 Agenda ESOL](#)
[2024 Inst. Supplements & Differentiated Pay for 1-23-24](#)
[2024 Noninst., PTS & Adm. Supplements for 1-23-24](#)

All Other Teaching & Learning Agenda Items

17. [24-1946](#) Approve out of state field trip for Chief Michael Santiago and NJROTC Cadets to Anniston, AL, for Air Rifle Nationals on February 14, 2024 through February 18, 2024.

Attachments: [Budget Sheet - CHS 021424](#)

18. [24-1948](#) Approve out of state field trip for Bethann Brooks, Jordan Hazen, and 11 students to Washington DC [Senior Class Trip] on April 4 - 7, 2024. Students are traveling with group from Nature Coast Technical High School.

Attachments: [Budget Sheet - CHS 040224A](#)

19. [24-1955](#) Approve Field Trip for Hernando and Weeki Wachee High School Students to Orlando, Florida to Attend the 2024 Florida Future Educators of America (FFEA) State Conference on February 2-4, 2024

Attachments: [Budget Sheet FFEA Field Trip](#)

All Other Business Services Agenda Items

20. [24-1858](#) Approval to Accept the 2022-2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Attachments: [2022 23 ACFR FINAL](#)
[Budget Sheet ACFR](#)

Job Descriptions

All Other Purchase Order/Bid Agenda Items

24. [24-1920](#) Approve renewing bid no. 22-934-29 RN, Irrigation Installation, Maintenance, Repairs and Services to AJ's Sprinkler & Pump Services, Inc. for irrigation needs and services and authorize the purchase for an estimated annual spending of \$50,000.00.

Attachments: [22-934-29 RN - Irrigation \(01-09-24\)](#)
[Irrigation Services Budget Sheet 12-2023](#)

25. [24-1922](#) Approve renewal of RFQ No. 9009-3100-2106, Continuing Engineering Services, to Phoenix Engineering Group, OCI Consulting Engineers, SGM Engineering, Long & Associates, Architects/Engineers, Inc., McKim & Creed, Coastal Design Consultants, Inc., Engineering Matrix, Inc., BAL Engineering, Inc., Osborn Engineering, Matern Professional Engineering, Inc., Consulting Engineering Associates, Inc., KPI Engineering, Inc., TRC Worldwide Engineering, Inc., George F. Young, Inc. and ASR Engineering, Inc., for consulting engineering services (Civil, Structural, Plumbing, Fire Protection, Mechanical, Electrical and Low Voltage Systems) for miscellaneous projects to be awarded on an ongoing basis, and authorize the purchase of said services for an estimated annual amount of \$500,000.00.

Attachments: [24-1922 Engineering Cont Service ADA](#)
[24-1922 Renewal Letters Signed](#)
[24-1922 Budget Sheet ADA](#)

26. [24-1924](#) Approve the Purchase of Pre-Advanced Placement Curriculum from the College Board and Authorize the Issuance of a Purchase Order for an Estimated Amount of \$50,510.00

Attachments: [Hernando County Schools EA207977 2023 11 08](#)
[Budget Sheet PreAP](#)

27. [24-1925](#) Approve the Renewal of the Piggyback of the School Board of Brevard County, Florida, ITB #21-159-B-HD: Books, Print & Non-Print, Instruction, Library, Curriculum, AP & Collegiate Materials & Related Ancillary Items & Services, Awarded to Multiple Vendors and Authorize the Purchase of the Goods and Services for an Estimated Annual Amount of \$100,000.00

Attachments: [22 998 59 PB RN Library Books 01 09 2024](#)
[Budget Sheet HCSB Bid 22 998 59 PB RN](#)

28. [24-1940](#) Approve the agreement and authorize the purchase of pre-construction services from Air Mechanical and Service Corp., for the J.D. Floyd Elementary Soffit Replacement Phase 2 Project for \$5,000.00.

Attachments: [24-1940 Agreement](#)
[24-1940 Budget Sheet](#)

All Other Superintendent Agenda Items

30. [24-1958](#) Approve out of state travel for John Stratton to San Diego, California for the AASA National Conference of Education on February 15-17, 2024.

Attachments: [AGENDA \(2\)](#)
[STRATTON LOR APPROVED](#)
[AASA REGISTRATION AND HOTEL](#)
[Air Reservation Cost](#)
[AASA NEC Budget Sheet](#)

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR ACTION

21. [24-1956](#) Approval of Resolution No. R24-006 for the continuation of the Half-Cent Sales Surtax to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for placement on the ballot for the general election held on November 5, 2024.

Attachments: [SB Half Cent Resolution FINAL 01092024](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC \(1\)](#)
[R24-006 012324](#)

RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

MOVER: Mark Johnson

SECONDER: Linda Prescott

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino, Johnson, Rodriguez

This item was pulled by Mark Johnson for discussion. He stated he is in favor of this item, but he does not think it is specific enough. Joyce McIntyre, Director of Finance and Ritesh Patel, Bond Counsel came forward to discuss this item. After some discussion and suggested changes, the motion was adopted as amended.

22. [24-1953](#) Approve Job Descriptions for Director of Facilities and Construction, Facilities Department Secretary, Facilities Planning and CAD Designer Specialist, Facilities Projects Construction Manager, Fire Official Plans Examiner, Manager of Planning Design and Construction, and Planner.

Attachments: [Facilities Projects Construction Manager strikethrough](#)
[Facilities Projects Construction Manager clean](#)
[Fire Official Plans Examiner strikethrough](#)
[Fire Official Plans Examiner clean](#)
[Manager of Planning Design and Construction strikethrough](#)
[Manager of Planning Design and Construction clean](#)
[Planner strikethrough](#)
[Planner clean](#)
[Director of Facilities and Construction strikethrough](#)
[Director of Facilities and Construction clean](#)
[Facilities Department Secretary strikethrough](#)
[Facilities Department Secretary clean](#)
[Facilities Planning and CAD Designer Specialist strikethrough](#)
[Facilities Planning and CAD Designer Specialist clean](#)
[2023-2024 District Admin-Index-ACC](#)
[2023-2024 Confidential-Index-ACC](#)
[2023-2024 PTS Combined-Index-ACC](#)
[24-1953 Budget Sheet](#)

RESULT: ADOPTED

MOVER: Shannon Rodriguez

SECONDER: Mark Johnson

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino, Johnson, Rodriguez

This item was pulled by Mark Johnson for discussion. Brain Ragan, Director of Facilities came forward to explain this item.

23. [24-1919](#) Approve renewing bid no. 21-556-38 RN, Charter Bus Services - as Needed, to Various Vendors for Charter Bus Service and Authorize the Purchase of Services for Estimated Annual Amount of \$33,800.

Attachments: [21-556-38 RN Charter Buses \(01-09-2024\)](#)
[3600 Charter Buses](#)

RESULT: **ADOPTED**

MOVER: Shannon Rodriguez

SECONDER: Susan Duval

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino, Johnson, Rodriguez

This item was pulled by Shannon Rodriguez for discussion. Ralph Leath, Director of Transportation came forward to explain this item.

29. [24-1951](#) Approve renewing bid no. 22-360-22 RN, Carpet & VCT: Installation, Removal & Repairs, to Mark's Flooring Inc for flooring needs, goods and services and authorize the purchase for an estimated annual spending of \$50,000.00.

Attachments: [22-360-22 RN Carpet & VCT \(01-09-24\) \(1\)](#)
[Marks Flooring Budget Sheet 2024](#)

RESULT: **ADOPTED**

MOVER: Shannon Rodriguez

SECONDER: Mark Johnson

AYES: Prescott, Duval, Guadagnino

NAYS: Johnson, Rodriguez

This item was pulled by Shannon Rodriguez for discussion. Robert Kublick, Manager of Environmental Services came forward to explain this item. After much discussion on the bid process, Mr. Johnson made a motion to table this item to the next meeting. Seconded by Shannon Rodriguez. Motion fails 2-3 with Duval, Guadagnino and Prescott in dissent.

ADDENDUM ITEMS

- [24-1987](#) Approve Proclamation No. P24-004, in support of Israel.

Attachments: [P24-004 Israel](#)

RESULT: **ADOPTED**

MOVER: Mark Johnson

SECONDER: Shannon Rodriguez

AYES: Guadagnino, Johnson, Rodriguez

NAYS: Prescott, Duval

This item was added during the adoption of the agenda.

CITIZEN INPUT ON GENERAL TOPICS (PINK FORMS)

31. 24-1944 Citizen Input on Hernando County School issues on which the School Board customarily takes action (Pink Form - non-agenda items)

Attachments: [Citizen Input Speaker Pink Form 110917 ACC](#)
[01-23-24 Handout by Mayon - Pink Sheets](#)

The following citizens came forward to speak: Kimberly Lee Lapp, Ken Mayon, Diane Liptak and Kim Mulrooney.

INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**GENERAL COUNSEL****SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS**

The Board shared comments on school recognitions, book challenges, Tallahassee update, Juneteenth, and holocaust day.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 10:51 P.M.



Superintendent

2/6/24



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.