



**Board of Trustees Work Session & Finance Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday, April 22, 2021

**Lake Wales High School - Media Center
(Trustees, Principals etc.)**

Agenda - 8:00am - *Social Distancing*

Please join us via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85747652041?pwd=eU1EcHlkYUdXYjE4MXR2aHpxTk1qZz09>

Meeting ID: 857 4765 2041

Passcode: rP4E78

Trustees Present: Chair Dr. Andy Oguntola, David Fisher, Vice Chair Danny Gill, Becky Gaston, Paul Gerard, Jennifer Simpson, Dr. Greg Hall, Howard Kay

Staff Present: Superintendent - Alricky Smith, Marie Cherrington-Gray, Elizabeth Tyler, Donna Dunson, Dr. Linda Ray, Rebecca Thomas, Gail Quam, Damien Moses, Donna Drisdorn, Angela Heyward, Dr. Julio Acevedo, David Waldrop, Dustin Smiddie, Zoom participants - Marcia Rose, Stacie Padgett, Julie Unzueta, Renee Moore, Aundrea Croft, Cheryl Pitts, April Barnhardt, Nancy Hancock, Anna Barcenas, Blake Fann, Mellissa Ard, Shay Hixenbaugh, Jennifer Barrow, Dr. Barbara Jones, Krista Thompson, Anuj Saran, Cheryl Pitts, Leanne Thrift, Kim Griffiths, Jaime Winfree, Syreeta Rusley, Meghan Balliett, Nicole Sealey, Kaleigh McCoy, Stacey Butcher

Others Present: Robin Gibson, Carol Cook, Janeen D'Agostino

I. CALL TO ORDER

Alricky Smith, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 8:09am.

II. FINANCIAL REPORT

Alricky Smith, CFO

A. Monthly Financials

Superintendent/CFO Alricky Smith shared the monthly financials which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on April 26, 2021. Our General Counsel bill was also discussed in detail as requested by the Board. Trustee Gaston asked about the number of lawsuits that we have pending against LWCS at this time. Robin Gibson shared we have only two at this time. The Barrow investigation we have not received a lawsuit at this time. Chair Oguntola asked that we go into a shade meeting in the future. Attorney Gibson shared we can do this in the future, however it has to be public noticed. Everything is recorded and is made public at the end of the litigation. We have to give prior notice. Chair Oguntola shared this will afford the entire Board the opportunity to be updated. Attorney Gibson also shared this would be confidential and the attorney or Trustees cannot discuss this with anyone else.

B. Personnel Change (None)

III. BANK AUTHORIZATION LETTER

Alricky Smith, Superintendent

Superintendent Smith shared the Bank Authorization Letter for Bok North Construction Loan which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on April 26, 2021.

IV. 2021-2022 CONTRACT CALENDARS

Dr. Julio Acevedo, HR Manager shared the 2021-2022 Contract Calendars which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on April 26, 2021. Superintendent Smith asked that we do a Special Meeting in the near future regarding the teacher salary.

V. STUDENT/STAFF SICK POLICY DURING COVID 19 **Marcia Rose, RN**
Nurse Rose shared the policy which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on March 30, 2021.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH **Dr. Andy Oguntola, Chair**
Chair Oguntola asked Dr. Hall to share specifics on the Superintendent Search. Dr. Hall shared we will be looking at five search companies and then select one that will be able to assist us with the upcoming search. This will be presented for your review and approval in a future meeting. Committee: Rob Quam, Dr. Linda Ray, Shelley Jacobs, Al Goldstein, Dr. Greg Hall. Possibly adding a few more members but will get that to you at a later date.

VII. TRUSTEE 2ND TERM / NEW TRUSTEE / RESIGNATION **Dr. A. Oguntola, Chair**
We have a new teacher rep, from Hillcrest – Chayla Outing. Dr. Hall has a second term; Trustee Kay has a second term; Becky Gaston leaving the Board in June. Mr. Marcus Kirby will be taking this position effective July 1, 2021. Chair Oguntola shared his opinion on our current process and bylaws regarding terms etc. exceeding six years on the Board. I think six years should be enough time on the Board. As a Board we should look at this in the bylaws. Attorney Gibson: Bylaws and Policy Statement needs to be up to date. Our website needs to be first class and up to date. Robin Gibson: Having two ordained ministers is not a concern to be on our Board. Trustee Kay: My concern is having a voting Board of all men when 80% of our teachers are females. This is a bad perception and should be considered. Chair Oguntola: I think our Board should reflect our student population and diversity should be considered. We should make it better for our community, teachers and students when we enter these conversations at our Retreat.

VIII. ATTORNEY'S UPDATE **Robin Gibson, Attorney**

A. Succession Planning Update

Two basic goals – 1. Personal conversation with our Principals about their ideas for their succession etc.

2. Their thoughts on the qualities of our new Superintendent.

Committee: Alricky Smith, David Fisher, Julio Acevedo, Robin Gibson

Met with the six Principals, there will be some turnover in the near future. Three will be leaving within the new two years. Two will be leaving within the next eight years. One is immediate – Gail Quam is retiring this year. We need a visionary to keep us going upward. Knowledge of school law in elementary, middle an high school. Chair Oguntola: Need a list with the number of years etc. to assist the Superintendent with future planning.

B. Bylaws Update

Did a survey and it had proposed changes in the appendix and the policy statement also restated etc. We can discuss these two items at the Retreat. Please read and be prepared to do the work at the Retreat.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT **Alricky Smith, Interim Superintendent**

A. MINUTES: Work Session Minutes – March 18, 2021 and March 30, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Presented for your review and approval at the April 26, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting.

B. NEXT MEETING DATE

The May Board of Trustees Work Session / Finance Meeting will be **Thursday, May 20, 2021** at 8:00am at Lake Wales High School (Media Center). The Board of Trustees Meeting will be on **Monday, May 24, 2021** at Lake Wales High School (Media Center). The Board Meeting will begin at 3:00 PM. Both meetings are in person for Trustees and Leadership; Zoom for others due to social distancing.

X. OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

Board Workshop yesterday was amazing. Our next session have Mrs. Carol Cook attend our Retreat. We'll start changing the flow of our meeting, we will start focusing on academics. We need more informational session regarding our schools. The Superintendent should be given the task and allow him/her to take care of it. Example: Centralized cleaning for the entire system. Ask Dr. Ray to share the IB process for JHW with the Board moving forward. The Superintendent needs to be allowed to move forward with the permanent selection of the Principal positions that we have available. We need to work on the website looking really good, this is one of the main focus of our system. Thanks to Alricky for the great work he is doing. Trustee Fisher: Date of the Retreat – June 14, 2021. Dr. Oguntola: We still have time to modify the date. When Board members get an email, we need protocols and what it looks like for all. Trustee Kay: Alricky is now our Superintendent until we get another Superintendent and it should not be interim. Trustee Becky Gaston: My opinion... the email to Trustees at 10:45pm – I am very disappointed about the Superintendent decision regarding Barrows and this is going to cost the LWCS. This is going to cost us with attorney fees, loss of trust with teachers, students and parents. I am so disappointed. Dr. Oguntola: Trustees if there is anything you would like to have on the agenda please send it to Mrs. Marie and we can discuss it at our meetings. This is our agenda for all Trustees.

XI. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:45am.
Respectfully Submitted,
Marie Cherrington-Gray, Corporate Secretary

Board Approved: _____