



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2021

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

3:00pm - *Social Distancing*

Please join us via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81936696099?pwd=NXBtNm1pd05OVkFDeXl6eDNhMmk4QT09>

Meeting ID: 819 3669 6099

Passcode: 2D7tcE

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

Staff Present: Superintendent Dr. Jesse Jackson, Alricky Smith, Marie Cherrington-Gray, Elizabeth Tyler, Donna Dunson, Dr. Linda Ray, Jennifer Barrow, Gail Quam, Damien Moses, Donna Drisdorn, Angela Heyward, Dr. Julio Acevedo, Marcia Rose, Dr. Barbara Jones, Stacie Padgett, Julie Unzueta, Renee Moore, David Waldrop, Dean Webb, Aundrea Croft, Kim Griffiths, Cheryl Pitts, Rebecca Thomas, Roxanne Anderson, Me’Lisa Williams, April Barnhardt

Others Present: Robin Gibson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andy Oguntola, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm.

II. INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation and pledge was led by Pastor Matt Simpson.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION AND MEETING MINUTES (November 16, 2020)

Request Board approval of the November 16, 2020 Board Work Session and Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve the Work Session and Meeting Minutes will be done at the February Board Meeting.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Alricky Smith, CFO

A. **Request Board approval of the Financial Report** as discussed in our Finance Meetings on **December 17, 2020** and **January 21, 2021**. Motion to approve the Financial Reports was made by Vice Chair Danny Gill and seconded by Trustee Paul Gerrard. Motion approved unanimously.

V. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Jesse Jackson, Superintendent

A. PERSONNEL CHANGES

Request Board approval of the Personnel Changes as discussed in the January 21, 2021 Work Session and Finance Meeting. Motion to approve the Personnel Report was made by Trustee Howard Kay and seconded by Trustee David Fisher. Motion approved unanimously.

B. LWCS ESE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Request Board approval of the LWCS 20-21, 21-22 & 22-23 ESE Policy approved unanimously. es & Procedures as presented in the January 21, 2021 Work Session. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Howard Kay and seconded by Trustee David Fisher. Motion approved unanimously.

C. LWCS RIGHT TO KNOW

Request Board approval of the LWCS Right to Know as presented in the January 21, 2021 Work Session. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Paul Gerrard and Vice Chair Danny Gill. Motion approved unanimously.

D. REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION – BOK NORTH LOAN

Request Board approval of the Reimbursement Resolution – Bok North Loan as presented in the January 21, 2021 Work Session. Motion to approve was made by Vice Chair Danny Gill and seconded by Trustee Howard Kay. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. NEXT BOARD WORK SESSION AND BOARD MEETING

The **February** Board of Trustee Finance Meeting and Work Session will be on **Thursday, February 18, 2021 at the LW High School (Media Center) at 8:00am.** The Board Meeting will be **Monday, February 22, 2021 at the LW High School (Media Center) at 3:00pm.** In person for Trustees and Leadership; Zoom for others.

VII. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Dr. Andy Oguntola, Chair

Please make sure as we move forward we will have full transparency and full respect for each other.

VIII. TRUSTEES REPORTS

Trustee Howard Kay – nothing; Trustee Fisher – Nothing / Trustee Gaston – Nothing / Trustee Gill – nothing/ Trustee Gerrard – Nothing

IX. PERSON’S ADDRESSING THE BOARD... list provided (2 minute limit please)

We had 14 folks scheduled to address the Board. Heard from parents/community regarding Jennifer Barrow.

X. OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE

Trustee Becky Gaston addressed the Board – she was instructed by legal counsel to stand down and today she I standing up and the Board will hear her truth. She shared her thought in her opinion with the Board regarding Dr. Jackson.

Dr. Jackson shared his thought on the current situation regarding Jennifer Barrow. Trustee Gaston questioned Dr. Jackson on knowing a Mr. Ruffin. Dr. Jackson explained how he met Mr. Ruffin.

Trustee Gaston asked if the Trustees were still allowed to make a motion. General Counsel explained there is a motion on the floor for a one week administrative leave. Chair Oguntola called for a roll call vote - Motion for the Superintendent to be placed on Administrative Leave for a week was made by Vice Chair Danny Gill and seconded by Trustee David Fisher. Roll Call - Trustee Kay - No / Trustee Gaston - Yes / Trustee Gerrard – Yes / Trustee Fisher – Yes / Trustee Dr. Hall – Yes / Vice Chair Gill – Yes / Chair Dr. Oguntola – Yes. Motion approved unanimously. Motion for CFO Alricky Smith to be the Interim Superintendent was made by Vice Chair Danny Gill and seconded by Trustee David Fisher. Roll Call Vote – Gill - Yes / Kay - Yes / Fisher - Yes / Gaston – Yes / Hall - Yes / Gerrard – Yes / Oguntola - Yes. Motion approved unanimously.

Trustee Becky Gaston called for a motion to remove Rebecca Thomas to be removed as Principal of Hillcrest Elementary and Jennifer Barrow be reinstated as Principal of Hillcrest Elementary immediately. Chair Oguntola – per General Counsel for the record, Board Members cannot reverse this decision that was made by the Superintendent. Attorney Robin Gibson – The Bylaws gives the Board no authority to act on personnel issues. Vice Chair Gill – The placement of the Principal is not ratified if she was appointed as permanent. Until it comes to the Board it is not permanent. The Board cannot reverse any decision as it is the day to day operation of the Superintendent. The Board approves and there is no other authority. Attorney Gibson – The motion is out of order. Chair Oguntola – we appreciate all of the public comments. The system is fractured and we hope we can heal for the sake of the students and employees. Thanks to all for joining us today.

XI. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 5:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marie Cherrington-Gray, Corporate Secretary

Board Approved: _____