



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

**Thursday, March 18, 2021**

**Lake Wales High School - Media Center**

**(Trustees, Principals etc.)**

**8:00am - \*Social Distancing\***

**Please join us via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86285106201?pwd=YXhnNXpVV1RRYW1kTnZ4OGpERnBHdz09>

**Meeting ID: 862 8510 6201**

**Passcode: xf9C8V**

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

**Staff Present:** Interim 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, LaPorsha Oguntola,

**Others Present:** Robin Gibson, Al Goldstein, Jim Tully

- I. CALL TO ORDER** **Alricky Smith, Interim Superintendent**  
The meeting was called to order at 8:10am.
  
- II. FINANCIAL REPORT** **Alricky Smith, CFO**
  - A. Monthly Financials**  
CFO Alricky Smith shared the monthly financials and the personnel report which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on March 30, 2021. Our General Counsel bill was discussed in detail as requested by the Board.
  - B. 2020-2021 BUDGET RESOLUTION (02-2021)**  
CFO Alricky Smith shared the 2020-2021 Budget which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on March 30, 2021.
  - C. Personnel Change**  
CFO Alricky Smith shared the Personnel Change report which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on March 30, 2021.
  
- III. LWCS SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021-2022** **Dr. Julio Acevedo, HR Mgr.**  
Dr. Acevedo shared the LWCS School Calendar for 2020-2021 which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on March 30, 2021.
  
- IV. PROFESSIONAL AND STAFF RECRUITING POLICY**  
Superintendent Smith shared the Professional and Staff Recruiting Policy which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on March 30, 2021.

**V. PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONTRACT & COMPENSATION POLICY**  
Superintendent Smith shared the Professional Staff Contract & Compensation Policy which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on March 30, 2021.

**VI. EVALUATION OF STAFF POLICY**  
Superintendent Smith shared the Evaluation & Staff Policy which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on March 30, 2021.

**VII. SUPERINTENDENT & GENERAL COUNSEL EVALUATION FORM**  
Dr. Julio Acevedo shared the Superintendent & General Counsel Evaluation which will be presented for your review and approval at the Board Meeting on March 30, 2021. Trustee Hall asked about using discretion if there is something that needs to be shared with the Superintendent or General Counsel. Chair Oguntola: You can reach out and have a one on one if needed before the public setting takes place. We want to be mindful what is put in our policy. General Counsel Gibson: You are correct with the one on one. We are under the Sunshine Law and all of our monies is provided by the public. The Board cannot talk to the Principal the Superintendent does. Trustees can talk with the Superintendent or General Counsel – the evaluation are public and your name is on the evaluation. The lawyer and the Superintendent serve the entire Board and not an individual member. The chair is the spokesman for the Board but the collective decision of the Board is what counts.

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH** **Dr. Andy Oguntola, Chair**  
Are you guys ready to move forward with this? We are also getting ready for Board training, Mrs. Marie sent you guys an email yesterday. Vice Chair Gill: The search committee has done an introduction. We need a clear job description & qualification. We also need the timeline. We need to know what the Board wants from the search committee. Are we having community forums etc. Lot of questions that we need direction on from the Board. Chair Oguntola: Superintendent Smith ha the search firm info which will be forwarded to you soon. Trustee Hall: First order would be for search committee interview the search firm to asses readiness and choosing a firm does not happen overnight. The firms has to be interviewed also.

**IX. INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT SALARY** **Dr. Andy Oguntola, Chair**  
We postponed this to ensure the teacher salary was addressed first. Even when Mr. Smith was the CFO he was underpaid. He is wearing several hats and he should be paid what the other Superintendent received and it should be retroactive. Trustee Gerrard: I agree and we have to be generous until we hire a Superintendent. Trustee Kay: I agree with you on the pay. Vice Chair Gill: I agree to a little more than the Superintendent pay of \$175,000. Chair Oguntola: So \$175,000 retroactive and also car stipend for travel. Before we hire a new Superintendent we need to do a 3-4 year contract with Mr. Smith and discus his salary at that time.

**X. ATTORNEY'S UPDATE** **Robin Gibson, Attorney**  
A lot of my time has been pend with Alricky o I affirm what you guys said earlier. A lot of time was spend with Jennifer Barrow lawyer, that has calmed down a bit. Domestic issue parental control has always been what we are confronted with throughout the system. The Bylaws and policy statement is being reviewed. We take advantage of the Board Training as we amend the Bylaws etc. I am going to sit it on it myself as I am concerned about it. We do not want to be pulled back into mediocrity, we will stay in the innovative area that we have done which is what ha made the difference for us. Capital Outlay money is of concern. Five of our schools are conversion o they are in the public

realm since the facility is theirs. Impact fees go to education. I have talked with the county attorney and they transfer the impact fees to the school board. Capital Improvements now come locally to the school board. There is a discrepancy with what is coming back to Lake Wales. The growth is in the norther part of Hwy 27 and a lot of it is in the JHW attendance zone. There will be a tremendous amount of impact fees in the future. We have a foot in conversion and start up schools so we have to work on getting an equitable balance to be able to build and maintain our schools with the monies we have/will receive. We will work with the PCSB members to assist us with this in the future. Chair Oguntola: New school started – McKeel with its own LEA. They are not paying fees etc. and we need to see what they are doing with fees etc. We’ll build relationships so we can get some of the same things that they are getting that we are not getting. Attorney Gibson: We might hear that they are schools of hope etc. Trustee Gaston: The majority of the bill I on the Barrow investigation, can we get an update on the investigation. Mr. Gibson: The report itself is complete but it primarily has statements. They summarized some of the statements. This ha been turned over to the Superintendent who will review it and get back to us. Trustee Gaston: When are we as Trustees getting an update. Superintendent Smith: We received it a few weeks ago, it is lengthy and I’ll review it on the break and get back to you guys soon. I’ll present this to you in our April meeting. If the Board wishes I’ll release it to you before sending it to Mrs. Barrow legal counsel. Robin Gibson” Once the Board gets a copy it is now a public document. Chair Oguntola: We do not want a copy until we have the summary. The Board will not act on anything this is just for informational purpose. Trustee are not paid, this is voluntary... do we have insurance? Superintendent Smith: Yes the Boar dis covered under our policy. Chair Oguntola: Just making sure we are protected. Robin Gibson: Our insurance is in case a Board member is liable. If the Board member stays in their lane they’ll be fine. Trustee Simpson: I had a teacher question, do I just sent it to you guys. Chair Oguntola: Yes, please send it to the Superintendent and General Counsel.

**XI. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT Alricky Smith, Interim Superintendent**

**A. MINUTES: Work Session Minutes - February 18, 2021 and February 22, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.**

Presented for your review and approval at the March 30, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting.

**B. NEXT MEETING DATE**

**The April Board of Trustees Work Session / Finance Meeting** will be **Thursday, April 15, 2021** at 8:00am at Lake Wales High School (Media Center). The Board of Trustees Meeting will be on **Monday, April 19, 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.

**XII. OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE**

**Principal Quam:** The calendar that we have the students are finishing and teachers returning the Tuesday after Memorial Day. Can we have them not return that day?

Robin Gibson: Please make that an administrative matter and not a board matter.

**XIII. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 10:06am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Cherrington-Gray, Corporate Secretary

Board Approved: \_\_\_\_\_