



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 24, 2021
Lake Wales High School (Media Center)
2:00PM – Social Distancing

Please join us via Zoom Meeting (3:00pm)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81113878053?pwd=cDRRYjRPYnkxOU5EU05HSWF3Mi9CUT09>

Meeting ID: 811 1387 8053

Passcode: UEx9PX

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, Marcia Rose, Stacie Padgett, Julie Unzueta, Renee Moore, David Waldrop, Aundrea Croft, Kim Griffiths, Cheryl Pitts, Roxanne Anderson, Me’Lisa Williams, Jon Hodach, April Barnhardt, Nancy Hancock, Anna Barcenas, Blake Fann, Mellissa Ard, Shay Hixenbaugh

Others Present: Robin Gibson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Andy Oguntola, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 2:15pm.

II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation and pledge were done by Trustee Greg Hall.

III. PRIVATE MEETING TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION – ATTORNEY/BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT (2:00PM – 3:00PM - 1 HOUR)

Private meeting ended at 3:21pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Howard Kay and seconded by Trustee David Fisher. Motion approved unanimously.

IV. 3:00pm In person & Zoom – Board Meeting continued:

APPROVAL OF BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES (April 22, 2021) and BOARD MEETING MINUTES (April 26, April 29, 2021 & May 5, 2021).

Dr. Andy Oguntola, Chair – Continued Board Meeting at 3:30pm.

Recommend approval of the Board Work Session Minutes and Meeting Minutes as presented at the May 24, 2021 Board of Trustees Work Session. Motion to approve the Work Session of April 22, 2021 minutes was made by Vice Chair Danny Gill and seconded by Trustee Howard Kay. Motion approved unanimously. Motion to approve the April 26, 2021 and April 29, 2021 was made by Vice Chair Danny Gill and seconded by Trustee Howard Kay. Motion approved unanimously. Motion to approve the May 5, 2021 Board Meeting minutes was made by Trustee David Fisher and seconded by Vice Chair Danny Gill. Motion approved unanimously. Trustee Gaston: Asked about the contract not being received for approval. Dr. Acevedo shared we talked about the contract calendar and the contract in our previous meeting. Chair Oguntola asked that we go back and review the recording and come back if needed for any changes in the next meeting.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT **Alricky Smith, Superintendent/CFO**
Recommend approval of the monthly financials as reviewed and presented at the May 20, 2021 Board of Trustees Work Session. Motion to approve was made by Trustee David Fisher and seconded by Trustee Howard Kay. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT **Alricky Smith, Superintendent/CFO**

A. Personnel Changes

Recommend approval of the Personnel Changes as reviewed and presented at the May 20, 2021 Board of Trustees Work Session. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Paul Gerrard and seconded by Trustee Howard Kay. Motion approved unanimously. This was just for Blake Fann at DRFBP and the new hire position at the High School.

B. FSBA – Florida School Board Association for the Superintendent Search

Recommend approval of the FSBA as reviewed and presented at the May 20, 2021 Board of Trustees Work Session. Chair Oguntola recused himself from this process as he is not sure if he will apply for the Superintendent position so Vice Chair Gill will do this motion for approval. Vice Chair Gill called for a motion to approve the FSBA for the Superintendent Search which was made by Trustee Greg Hall and seconded by Trustee David Fisher. Motion approved unanimously.

C. LWCS Bylaw Changes – pages 1-4 – Article I - IV

Recommend approval of the LWCS Bylaw Changes – pages 1-4 – Articles I-IV as reviewed and presented at the May 20, 2021 Board of Trustees Work Session. Motion to approve was made by Trustee David Fisher and seconded by Trustee Howard Kay. Motion approved unanimously.

- 1. Chair Oguntola called for motion - Trustees to become paid members. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Becky Gaston and seconded by Vice-Chair Gill. After discussion by Trustees motion was not approved 6 to 1.**

D. Principal Appointments

Recommend approval of the Principal Appointments as reviewed and presented at the May 20, 2021 Board of Trustees Work Session. Motion to approve was made to approve Anna Barcenas as the Principal for Polk Avenue Elementary by Trustee David Fisher and seconded by Trustee Howard Kay. Motion approved unanimously. Motion was made to approve Rebecca Thomas as the Principal for Hillcrest Elementary by Trustee Howard Kay and seconded by Trustee Greg Hall. Motion approved 5/2.

E. Updated Mask Policy

Recommend approval of the Updated Mask Policy as reviewed and presented at the May 20, 2021 Board of Trustees Work Session. Motion to approve was made by Trustee David Fisher and seconded by Trustee Howard Kay. Motion approved unanimously. Per Nurse Rose this is a trial basis for students mask to be optional if they choose to wear it or not during the summer. We'll continue to talk with CDC for any changes.

VII. NEXT BOARD WORK SESSION AND MEETING

The May Board of Trustees **Work Session/Finance – Thursday, June 17, 2021 at LW High School (Media Center)**. The all-day Board Retreat (8:00am) and Board of Trustees Meeting will be on **Monday, June 21, 2021** at Edward W. Bok Academy, South. The Board Meeting will begin at 3:00 PM. Zoom is available due to social distancing.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE (None)

IX. SCHEDULED PERSON'S ADDRESSING THE BOARD - (2 minutes please)

Becky Gaston, Trustee – shared her thoughts on attracting new teachers by increasing the incoming teacher salary. I received calls regarding the employee contract about firing without cause for employees. Is this in the Superintendent or the attorney contract? Evaluation should be done on an annual basis. I would like the Board to reconsider amending these clauses. We have to treat our teachers with respect and dignity for the signing of the new contracts on July 1, 2021 so the teachers can feel secure. This wording is shady and it creates anxiety and stress with no recourse. This contract is not right and we as Trustees need to fix this with the July 1, 2021 contract.

Lindsey Seay – I am speaking for myself and teachers who fear they will be fired if they speak out. Fix the issues going on within the Board before you make school changes and while you are actively making changes to the bylaws. Concern about mask being optional for 2021-2022 school year. Concerned about mask for kids in school. Want an apology for Jennifer Barrow and reinstated to her position. Wants answers as to Kim Griffiths being transferred. Would like to see more effort notifying the public about meetings.

Karen Holman – Concerned about changes being made at Hillcrest with Principal and AP. These changes is stressing the teachers and students. I sent an email with questions to the Board teacher representative and it was forwarded to the attorney and Superintendent and no answer was received.

Emily Martin – Dr. Jackson made a poor decision putting Jennifer Barrow in the ESE position. This is evident in the comment Ms. Barrow made about this position being less prestigious than the Principal position. How are we supposed to feel with her not fighting for my child and I had to move her to Polk Avenue. Is Jennifer more important than our employees at the District Office. What message does this send and why is she not on administrative leave until this is settled?

X. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Andy Oguntola, Chair

Solidify this foundation while we are placing new Principals. Bok North has it's first graduation of 8th graders. We need to be prepared for the largest 8th grade class in our city going into the high school. We need to make sure we have the capacity at the high school for these students.

Thanks to Gail Quam for her years of service – 36 years at one school.

Principal Quam: It has been an honor and a privilege and I appreciate all of you!

XI. TRUSTEES REPORT

Howard Kay – Lot of good points from Lindsey Seay and I hope that you guys see we are on the right track and trying. Please provide us a list of your constructive suggestions of things you would like to see done.

Becky Gaston – Once the teachers bring things to do Board don't just let it sit at the Central Office. Let there be action behind this from the Board.

David Fisher – Thanks to Principal Gail Quam for all your years of service. The school is indebted to you!

Jennifer Simpson – Thanks Mrs. Quam. So much to celebrate with the high school graduation and celebration 100 years of graduation.

Dr. Greg Hall – I will be contacting FSBA to ram up our Superintendent Search after our vote today. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Paul Gerrard – Encourage all to attend the graduation. Principal Dunson and her staff does a great job with graduation and the students are appreciative! We are trying to make things better and we'll keep working on this!

XII. ADJOURN

Meeting Adjourned at 4:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marie Cherrington-Gray, Corporate Secretary

Board Approved: _____