

eAgenda

October 22, 2013 Board Work Session

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Board Work Session – October 22, 2013
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
School Board Room
4204 Okeechobee Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34947

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

1. [Call to Order](#)

Minutes:

The School Board of St. Lucie County held a Special Work Session in the School Board Room on October 22, 2013 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:16 p.m. Members present were Chairman Debbie Hawley (residing in District No. 1), Vice Chairman Donna Mills (residing in District No. 3), Member Kathryn Hensley (residing in District No. 4), Member Carol A. Hilson (residing in District No. 2), and Member Troy Ingersoll (residing in District No. 5). Superintendent Genelle Zoratti Yost, having arrived at approximately 2:26 p.m., also attended the Work Session.

Mrs. Hawley called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

2. [Nau Charter School 2013-14 School Improvement Plan Presentation](#)

Attachment: [Nau Charter School SIP2013-14.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Kathy McGinn, Assistant Superintendent for Strategic Planning and Central Services, had previously notified the Board that, in accordance with state statute, any charter school receiving a grade of "D" or "F" must present the new year's school improvement plan to the School Board, as sponsor. Nau Charter School Principal John P. Drag, Jr., who also served as School Advisory Council (SAC) chairman, was introduced to the Board and then proceeded to present Nau Charter School's 2013-14 School Improvement Plan (SIP), a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. Mr. Drag became the school's new principal effective May 1, 2013 and brought 17 years of administrative experience to the position.

At the conclusion of Mr. Drag's report and board members' questions/answers, Dr. McGinn indicated she would ask Superintendent Yost to place the Nau Charter School 2013-14 SIP on the November 12, 2013 agenda for School Board action.

3. [Strategic Planning for Student Performance](#)

Minutes:

SCHOOL MESSENGER

Continuing the Board's discussion on strategic planning for student performance, Assistant Superintendent Terence O'Leary updated the Board on School Messenger, a system designed for emergency purposes, attendance notification, and communication. Data collected over the past thirty days had been analyzed and call options were being looked at in an effort to not "over use" the system. Different offices sending (automated) calls were not aware of each others calls, consequently, guidelines needed to be in place. Using a systemic approach, Mr. O'Leary discussed aligning information, using different vehicles to get messages out, parent/student portal training, and student/parent calendar usage (post automatic grade book assignments on calendars). In addition, a sub-committee will look at setting up "cafes" at schools and other areas in the community using older computers.

DRAFTING COMMUNICATIONS PLAN PROCESS

Assistant Superintendent Kathy McGinn described areas of interest that a work group was looking at in order to craft a communications plan, such as: identifying target audiences, identifying key messages, figuring out how every piece of information causes receivers to think back about messages, looking at what people are talking about in schools, looking at the teacher evaluation system, and using Superintendent Yost's new message "cruising to excellence." The plan should describe how to build a strong understanding among internal employees so they can be advocates for our mission and our community. It should also have clarity that results in a longer lasting employee pool. It was mentioned that last year's focus groups would be reconvened to look at what needs to be done to get "the message" out, suggestions of which included student recognitions at board meetings, monthly topics on TV,

Superintendent letters, updates on graduation requirements, etc. Dr. McGinn indicated work on the communications plan would continue and she will provide further clarification to the Board during the next work session.

EMERGENCY DRILL REPORT

Last year, during Tropical Storm Isaac, staff learned that every school needed to know what was happening during a crisis even if they were not directly affected, consequently, at the direction of Superintendent Yost, a mock emergency drill was conducted by district office on October 18, 2013, with all school sites participating. Assistant Superintendent Mark Rendell assisted in directing the process that was also observed by Tom Daly from St. Lucie County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Mr. Daly provided input after the drill was completed. A command post for the crisis response team (designated district administrators) was located in the Superintendent's Conference Room. A communication hub was set up to ensure open communication with school sites. At the initiation of the plan, the crisis response commander, Superintendent Yost, assisted by essential personnel, focused on the communication process between internal and external groups that involved initial status reports followed by status updates every 30 minutes, or as needed. Board members discussed various aspects of the drill with Dr. Rendell, and looked forward to participating in the next drill come springtime. It was noted that every school did not have access to 800 MHZ radios but this would be remedied in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

4. [Time Adjourned](#)

Minutes:

The Board gave staff a list of topics it would consider during upcoming work sessions: Skyward training, program evaluation/return on investment, contract review prior to renewal, measuring tool survey, cyclical calendar, status of budget reduction plan, PD, budget strategies, legislative session debriefing, charter schools, and student calendar.

Discussion ended and Chairman Hawley adjourned the October 22, 2013 Work Session at approximately 4:16 p.m.

Note: If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the School Board regarding any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings. For this purpose, an individual should ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, at his/her own expense, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based (Sec. 286.0105 F. S.). In compliance with ADA requirements, special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting the School Board of St. Lucie County at least ten (10) working days prior to the meeting. Contact the Board's Assistant by phone 772-429-3914, fax 772-429-7559., or christine.harrison@stlucieschools.org. Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) is available at 772-429-3919. This agenda may be amended from time to time on an as needed basis and shall be published on October 15, 2013.