**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY**

**REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 8, 2003**

**MINUTES**

The School Board of St. Lucie County held a regular meeting in the School Board Room on April 8, 2003 at approximately 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: DR. JOHN CARVELLI, Chairman

Member Residing in District No. 3

MS. CAROL A. HILSON, Vice Chairman

Member Residing in District No. 2

MRS. KATHRYN HENSLEY

Member Residing in District No. 4

DR. JUDI MILLER

Member Residing in District No. 1

DR. SAMUEL S. GAINES (arrived at 7:14 p.m.

prior to the consent agenda vote)

Member Residing in District No. 5

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: DR. WILLIAM VOGEL, Executive Officer/

Superintendent of Schools

MR. DANIEL B. HARRELL

Attorney to the School Board

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Carvelli called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Action: There was a motion to approve the minutes for the

March 25, 2003 regular meeting (Hilson/Miller/Carried 4-0).

**SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

1. Educational Lamp Award

The following employees received Educational Lamp Awards for their outstanding performance in customer relations: Juanita Wright from Floresta Elementary, Janice Sizemore from F. K. Sweet Elementary, Fonzie Knott from the Maintenance Department, George Coker from the Maintenance Department, and Joe Piper, also from the Maintenance Department.

2. United Way of St. Lucie County Campaign Awards

Mrs. Karen Knapp, Executive Director of United Way, recognized schools for their contributions to this year’s campaign. Mrs. Knapp also thanked the Board for loaning Mrs. Susan Helms-Smith as “loaned executive” on the campaign. Rivers Edge Elementary, Northport Middle School, and Fort Pierce Westwood gave the largest gift this year for elementary, middle and high level respectively. Schools that had the largest amount of employee giving were Fairlawn Elementary, Forest Grove Middle and Fort Pierce Westwood High. Schools that received the Spirit Award (for donating over $900) were Frances K. Sweet Elementary, Port St. Lucie High School, Rivers Edge Elementary, St. Lucie West Middle, and Windmill Point Elementary.

Mr. Marty Sanders, Executive Director for Facilities and Maintenance, and his wife were recognized for their support and efforts as co-chairs during the fund raising campaign.

3. District All-Star Team for Commissioner’s Academic Challenge

Mrs. Theressa Gaines, Math Specialist, informed the Board that students from all five high schools participated in two rounds of intense academic challenges. All-stars were chosen on the basis of their high individual scores and/or their strength in specific disciplines. Ms. Lynda Reynen coached all members of the All-Star Team and was to take them to the state competition in April. The team members were Aurelio Rivera from Fort Pierce Central High, Lizet Dominguez from Fort Pierce Westwood High, Jerry He from Lincoln Park Academy, Noel Trew from Lincoln Park Academy, Kris Tantillo from Lincoln Park Academy, and Chris Scheiner from Port St. Lucie High.

Addendum 35. Forest Grove Middle School FCAT Incentive Presentations

The Board was asked to recognize the Mets, the Willie Gary Foundation, the District’s transportation department and security department employees, Forest Grove Middle School, and the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Department for their outstanding contribution to the Forest Grove Middle FCAT incentive. Students had reached the incentive goal and were going to be bused to the Mets Stadium to see a baseball game. A plan was put in place to use the opportunity to evacuate the school as quickly as possible. The evacuation was very successful with the cooperation and effort from all departments and employees involved in the trial run.

Addendum 36. St. Lucie West Centennial High Automotive Technology Program Achievement

Mrs. Trina Trimm, principal at St. Lucie West Centennial High, Ms. Kathie Schmidt, Director of Career and Technical Education, and Mr. Bobby Shaw, automotive technology program instructor, informed the Board that the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) had set high standards for certification of technician training programs through a process known as NATEF evaluation. The St. Lucie West Centennial High School’s automotive technology program had participated in the evaluation process in February 2003 and had been notified that they had achieved this significant industry certification in all areas attempted. The Board was asked to recognize the school’s automotive program for NATEF.

Addendum 37. School Library Media Week Proclamation, April 6 - 12, 2003

Ms. Carole Gooden, from the Learning Resources Department, read the resolution designating the week of April 6-12, 2003 as School library Media Week.

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board adopt

the resolution (Miller/Hensley/Carried 4-0).

4. St. Lucie West Middle School Donation (Total Value $4,500)

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board accept

the donation totaling $4,500 on behalf of St. Lucie

West Middle School (Hensley/Hilson/Carried 4-0).

**STAFF REPORTS**

5. Curriculum Report - WLX-TV ***(Delete***) No report was given on this subject.

6. Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability Update – Ms. Martha Wellman chief policy analyst from the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA), updated the Board on accountability findings of the district that had recently undergone a thorough review. The final report was not yet published but it was anticipated it would be ready for a public hearing to be held on May 13, 2003. Ms. Wellman stated the district had received the highest score in the state and was currently using 88.3% of the 214 “best practices” that OPPAGA uses to assess a district’s performance. It was a clear sign that the schools were on the right track in St. Lucie County. State law now required that all districts undergo such reviews every five years. Thus far, eleven reviews had been completed in the state. Board members were very pleased and thanked the administrative team and employees who worked so diligently to reach this achievement. It was noted that all of the recommendations were going to be addressed and some had already been brought into compliance. Once significant strides in those areas were reached, the district could be awarded a “Seal of Best Financial Management” from the Florida Board of Education. Dr. Vogel and his staff along with board members were eager to begin work toward obtaining the seal.

7. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Vogel called on Dr. Tim Giannoni, president of Excel Alternatives, Inc. who informed the Board that the welfare and workforce service division of Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) had acquired Excel Alternatives, Inc. (Excel). A letter dated March 20, 2003 had been received by the Board as official notification of the pending change in Excel’s corporate structure and assignment of current contract. The Excel Board of Directors had been seeking a strategic partner for the past three years and was very pleased with the impending transaction. The Excel Board of Directors had approved the general framework of the acquisition contract and was expecting to meet the following timeline: March 31, 2003 formal signing of purchase agreement; month of April contract partner meetings and formal transition planning; May 1, 2003 transaction closing; month of May Excel Board of Directors action related to partner appreciation. Dr. Giannoni informed the Board that other than the fact that Excel would now operate under the ACS name, there would be no change in the relationship with the School Board. There would be no disruption in services. Existing operations and project teams were to remain in place.

Dr. Vogel also explained that ACS was the largest and most experienced provider of welfare and workforce services in the nation--welfare to work transitions were there specialty. In response to Dr. Miller’s question, Dr. Giannoni confirmed that he was comfortable with ACS even with their lack of experience with youth. The partnership would make greater resources available to continue to focus on helping students. Dr. Miller pointed out that timing was an issue when signing up for remainder of the school year. Dr. Miller asked for a full presentation with ACS personally before the Board was asked to make a commitment beyond this school year (see consent item #15).

Dr. Vogel reminded board members that the next expulsion meeting was scheduled for April 23, 2003 at 5:00 p.m.

On another matter, Dr. Vogel informed the Board that the new billboard that had been donated would soon be displaying the message, “ Sun, Beach, Teach...in St. Lucie County 772-468-5010 with Cathy Mattia, Teacher of the Year nominee, and other students.

Dr. Vogel reviewed his leadership team changes with the Board and then announced that the public hearing to receive the OPPAGA final report would be held on May 13, 2003 at Southern Oaks Middle School.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board approve

consent agenda items #8, #9, #11 through #15, and addendum

items #38 through #43 (Hensley/Miller/Carried 5-0----Dr. Gaines

arrived late at 7:14 p.m. in time to vote on the consent agenda).

Specific recommendations for each consent item are listed below.

8. Personnel Agenda & Leaves – recommended that the Board approve the nine-page report as presented and amended.

9. 2003-2004 Leadership Team & Job Descriptions – recommended that the Board approve the organizational leadership chart and administrative job descriptions as presented (see supplemental minutes packet).

Addendum 38. Declaration of Surplus Property - recommended that the Board declare the list of property (see supplemental minutes packet) to be surplus and authorize staff to dispose of it in a manner consistent with law.

Addendum 39. Renewal of 237.161 Loan - recommended that the Board approve the second renewal of the 237.161 loan, the proceeds of which ($2,500,000) were used for renovation projects at Fort Pierce Central High, Northport Middle, and Rivers Edge Elementary. The balance of the loan is $1,5000,000 with $500,000 annual payments extending through April 2006.

Addendum 40. Audit Report for Elementary Schools’ Internal Accounts 06-30-02 - recommended that the Board accept the audit report for the elementary schools’ internal accounts for the year ended June 30, 2002.

Addendum 41. Audit Report for Middle and High Schools’ Internal Accounts 06/30/02 - recommended that the Board accept the audit report for the middle and high schools’ internal accounts for the year ended June 30, 2002.

Addendum 42. Audit Report for St. Lucie County School District 06/30/02 - recommended that the Board accept the audit report for the district for the year ended June 30, 2002. Dr. Miller referred to page 62 of the audit report and asked about the self-insurance fund audit. It stated the company that administers the district’s self-insured health program (accounted for as an internal service fund in the district’s financial statements) did not engage a firm to perform a financial audit of the program during the current year. As a result, the district was unable to provide audited financial statements for incorporation into its own current year financial audit. It was recommended that the district establish monitoring procedures of its third-party insurance administrator to ensure that financial information is accurate and reported timely, but also to provide assurance to the district that the program is being administered in accordance with appropriate accounting rules and regulations. Auditor Mark Barnes from Ernst & Young advised the Board that the insurance administrator was now in the process of having an audit done. Ms. Camille Hooper, Director of Finance, stated the audit should be finished in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Tim Bargeron, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, suggested when the district was looking to renew the contract with EMI, some financial penalties could be attached if they fail to follow through on some of these items. Dr. Miller expressed her concern on this situation and liked Mr. Bargeron’s suggestion.

Addendum 43. Property Disposition Report - recommended that the Board accept the report and authorize staff to remove the items from the active inventory. See corrected page indicating that Lawnwood Elementary located the equipment that changed the total amount of unlocatable equipment to $17,718.87.

10. Strategic Plan 2002-2003 ***(Delete) -*** This item was deleted from the agenda. There was no action taken by the Board on this matter.

11. Reading First Grant - recommended that the Board approve the grant proposal for $387,500 from the Florida Department of Education and authorize the superintendent/chairman to execute documents for transmittal to the appropriate agency.

12. Voluntary Public School Choice Mentor District Project - recommended that the Board approve the grant proposal for $150,000 per year up to four additional years from federal funding through the Florida Department of Education.

13. St. Lucie County Treasure Coast Regional Science & Engineering Fair Winners Trip to Cleveland, Ohio, on May 10-17, 2003 - recommended that the Board approve the St. Lucie County District students’ trip to Cleveland, Ohio on May 10-17, 2003 to participate in the International Science Fair.

14. Authorization to Advertise for Public Hearing on Proposed Final Report from OPPAGA - recommended that the Board authorize the legal advertisement for public hearing on the proposed final report from OPPAGA, as required, on May 13, 2003 at Southern Oaks Middle School.

15. Acquisition of Excel Alternatives by Affiliated Computer Services - recommended that the Board allow Excel to close with Affiliated Computer Services to change Excel corporate structure and approve to assign current contract. The new partnership will improve Excel’s capacity to serve kids, give entrée into the larger market to prove its capacity as an educational provider, and provide greater resources. Pricing would remain the same and the same people would remain in place. Other than the fact that Excel will now operate under the ACS name, there would be no change in its relationship with the School Board. ACS had acquired Excel because of the talent, experience, and service orientation of its employees, therefore, there would be no disruption in services. Dr. Miller requested that a full presentation with ACS personally involved be made to the Board before it made a commitment beyond this school year (include expectations of where students would come out).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

16. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #230/KD/05-27-91/0371/02-03

17. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #231/JO/01-15-88/0401/02-03

18. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #232/LG/11-26-89/0261/02-03

19. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #233/WC/02-23-87/0301/02-03

20. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #234/RB/04-13-87/0401/02-03

21. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #235/JM/03-06-85/0201/02-03

22. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #236/BN/03-09-89/0261/02-03

23. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #237/MP/12-01-87/0261/02-03

24. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #238/ER/06-28-85/0201/02-03

25. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #239/VS/09-18-88/0301/02-03

26. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #240/CM/03-30-86/0301/02-03

27. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #241/JM/01-20-86/0161/02-03

28. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #242/JM/02-24-86/0401/02-03

29. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #243/CS/09-04-88/0131/02-03

30. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #244/EM/11-26-84/0201/02-03

31. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #245/TM/02-12-88/0201/02-03

32. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #246/LF/01-04-88/0371/02-03

33. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #247/EB/07-24-91/0111/02-03

34. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #248/JK/07-29-88/0161/02-03

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board combine

items #16 through #34 into one recommendation for approval of

Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty,

and Final Order #230 through #248 (Hensley/Miller/Carried 5-0).

Discussion: prior to stating the question, Mrs. Barbara Slaga, Executive Director of Student Services and Exceptional Student Education, who also sits on the expulsion review committee, commented on the delay in bringing some of the stipulated agreements forward to the Board. The problem of having enough resource people in place was discussed. Mrs. Slaga agreed that there was a need for more clerical help.

**FACILITIES REPORT**

No report.

**ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

No report.

**CTA REPORT**

No report.

**CWA REPORT**

No report.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS**

Mrs. Hensley informed board members she had attended the ag tour recently that focused on aquaculture and Harbor Branch and she was pleased with the number of school system people who also attended.

On another matter, Mrs. Hensley stated the Workforce Development Board had held a strategic planning meeting recently and there were indications that the four county group could build a stronger relationship.

Mrs. Hensley referred to a letter board members had received from Hospice of the Treasure Coast asking for a board member to sit on their Ethics Committee. Dr. Miller volunteered to serve on the committee and Mrs. Harrison was asked to notify Mrs. Weber at Hospice of the Treasure Coast with Dr. Miller’s name and contact information.

Dr. Miller thanked Mrs. Susan Helms-Smith for preparing and setting up the volunteer luncheon. There was a good turnout and board members appreciated the recognition of so many volunteers.

Dr. Gaines had recently returned from the National School Boards Association annual conference and told board members that other states were having similar funding problems. Financial predictions and teacher shortages were major concerns. Teachers were not interested in their roles because they were not adequately paid. The state of Alaska was still offering top money for teachers. Mrs. Hensley noted she had personal knowledge that Iowa and Illinois were no different. In Oregon, they were closing school 2-3 weeks earlier.

Dr. Gaines said our people only see what is going on here but if some of the leaders could see what others were going through it may be of some help. With the OPPAGA report, this district was doing something right and Dr. Gaines hoped that the reporters would let it be known that the district had done the best job in the state.

**DR. VOGEL ANNOUNCES HIS ACCEPTANCE OF SEMINOLE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY**

Dr. Vogel informed the Board that shortly before the meeting he had received a call from Seminole County. The School Board of Seminole County unanimously offered him the superintendent’s position and Dr. Vogel had responded that with successful contract negotiations, he would take the position.

Chairman Carvelli thanked Dr. Vogel for his announcement and congratulated him on his successful endeavor. Dr. Carvelli also stated that he had talked with Mr. Jim Huge of Huge and Associates. Mr. Huge had indicated he would be willing to work with the Board as consultant during a superintendent search. Mr. Huge had worked with the Board in the past on previous searches. Dr. Carvelli asked other board members if they wanted to use Mr. Huge as search consultant. Individual members affirmed they would be willing to have Mr. Huge as consultant. Most of the discussion pertained to the timeline that was needed. Dr. Carvelli stated that July 1, 2003 was the date Dr. Vogel would be in Seminole County. In talking with Mr. Huge, he indicated he had done searches within 60 days and he could do the search within 60-90 days.

Mrs. Hensley preferred 60 days if possible. She would like to have a profile, name, and/or face to give to staff before Dr. Vogel left the district. Dr. Gaines agreed to move ahead forthwith but cautioned that (too much) haste sometimes makes waste. Move with haste but be careful so the Board gets someone it wants. Dr. Miller believed that the Board needed to move expediently and needed to be able to offer something before Dr. Vogel left. If that was not possible, then maybe an interim needed to be put in place. Dr. Miller also preferred looking at candidates that had Florida experience and mentioned advertising in Florida. Mrs. Hensley mentioned that the advertisement could be Florida experience preferred which did not necessarily mean a potential candidate had to live in Florida. Dr. Gaines stated he did not want to be locked in to someone who may be seasoned and/or experienced. The district also needed someone with energy and heart--don’t get locked into making sure we have to have someone in place and don’t close the door on anybody. Dr. Miller clarified that she still did not want a nationwide search just to make sure everyone else was saying the same thing. There may be many candidates that Jim Huge will know about but advertising nationally would get the Board into a whole different area. Dr. Carvelli agreed the Board should not limit itself but Mr. Huge has contacts throughout the nation with Florida experience. Dr. Gaines summarized if the Board had confidence in Mr. Huge then give him his freedom to do what the Board wants him to do. Keep it nationally open but not nationally advertised.

Dr. Carvelli indicated he had stressed to Mr. Huge that the Board wanted a fit and Mr. Huge felt it was doable. The Board had already taken a step when it pulled the Community Review Committee together. Dr. Carvelli asked Attorney Dan Harrell to contact Mr. Huge to work out a contract. Mr. Harrell asked for more specific parameters from board members.

Chairman Carvelli suggested that Mr. Huge work with the Board at its annual goals workshop as well as the superintendent search workshop--both could be held around May 1-2 when Mr. Huge was scheduled to be in this area. Mr. Huge would be asked to contact individual board members and then would work with the group to start the advertising process. Candidates could then be brought in for interviews, followed by site visits. Dr. Carvelli asked Ms. Michelle Sjogren, Director of Communications Office, to draft a brochure and application. Ms. Sue Ranew, Director of Personnel was asked to be the contact person.

Ms. Hilson had not had the opportunity to meet or work with Mr. Huge before but she indicated she would put her trust in the other board members’ advice.

**UNSCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

There were no unscheduled speakers.

**ADJOURNMENT 8:43 p.m.**

After conducting all business scheduled to come before the Board, Chairman Carvelli adjourned the regular April 8, 2003 meeting at approximately 8:43 p.m.