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

**REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 22, 2003**

**MINUTES**

The School Board of St. Lucie County held a regular meeting in the School Board Room on April 22, 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

DR. SAMUEL S. GAINES

Member Residing in District No. 5

MRS. KATHRYN HENSLEY

Member Residing in District No. 4

DR. JUDI MILLER

Member Residing in District No. 1

ALSO PRESENT: 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 Mrs. Hensley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

Action: There was a motion to approve the minutes for the April 8, 2003

regular meeting (Hensley/Miller/Carried 5-0).

**SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

1. Educational Lamp Award

The following employees received the Educational Lamp Award for outstanding customer relations service: Stephanie Smith from Garden City Elementary, Carolyn Modine from Lawnwood Elementary, John Messina from St. Lucie West Centennial High, Bill Tomlinson from the ESE Department, and Rick Curby from the Transportation Department.

2. Clean Campus Award for March and April

Mr. Scott Stephenson from Choice Sanitation presented the “Clean Campus” award for March to Bayshore Elementary. Lawnwood Elementary won the “Clean Campus” aware for the month of April 2003.

3. Heritage Festival National Choral Competition Winner - St. Lucie West Centennial High School Chorus

Principal Trina Trimm asked the Board to recognize Centennial’s Chorus who had participated in the Heritage Festival National Choral Competition and received three superior ratings. The Chorus entertained the Board by singing two selections from their competition program.

4. Elementary and Middle School Social Studies Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Gloria Johnson, Executive Director for Zone 3, introduced the principals from Dan McCarty Middle and Morningside Elementary who then asked the Board to recognize their respective social studies teachers of the year: Mr., Jerous Vincent from Dan McCarty Middle, and Mr. Eric Graff from Morningside Elementary.

5. Regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition First Place Winner - Morningside Elementary School

Principal Pauline Hebb from Morningside Elementary asked the Board to recognize her students who were the first place winners of the Regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition. Ms. Cathy Oliver, their second grade teacher for gifted students was also recognized along with former principal Ms. Kerry Eshleman, and Ms. Cindy Swertfager, classroom aide, who spent many hours ensuring the success of the team winners.

6. Morningside Elementary Donation (Total Value $13,140)

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board accept

the donation totaling $13,140 on behalf of Morningside

Elementary (Gaines/Hilson/Carried 5-0).

7. Artwork Award for April 2003

Chairman Carvelli presented the artwork award to F. K. Sweet Elementary.

**STAFF REPORTS**

8. Curriculum Report

a) WLX-TV Report- Dr. Gordon Archer, Director of Media Services and Staff Development, and the entire media services staff members were present for the meeting and a video presentation on WLX-TV. The district operates two cable channels. The first channel, broadcast on channels 13 on Comcast (formerly AT & T) and WBS/Sprint, and channel 19 on Adelphia, provides quality instructional and locally produced programming to schools, homes, and other places of learning by way of innovative technology. Daily programming provides students, parents, and teachers in St. Lucie County with engaging instructional programs that support the mission of the school district and the Sunshine State Standards. The second channel, cable channel 20 on WBS/Sprint, broadcasts staff development programs to assist teachers in improving their skills and providing them with up-to-date educational information delivered by experts. Inservice credit may be obtained through viewing distance learning programs.

Staff Development and Media Services provides support to school library media programs such as advocacy, information technology support, opportunities for resource sharing, and professional development. During scheduled media specialists’ professional development sessions, information is shared on new technology and materials and on state and local initiatives. The director works closely with Management Information Systems and School Improvement to ensure each library media program is meeting district technology standards.

A variety of professional training and support services are available to employees of the district through the Department of Staff Development and Media Services. The attitudes, skills, and knowledge of instructional personnel, professional support personnel, and administrators are critical factors in student achievement. The primary objective is to support professional development training and programs for all employees that are appropriate to accomplish district-level and school-level goals and objectives that can help all employees focus on improving student performance. The department provides inservice training as a means of extending and/or renewing teacher and administrator certificates. Other programs coordinated by the department include a program to assist, train, and support the beginning teacher, and several programs to support and train new administrators.

A booklet was provided for each board member that outlined standards and guidelines for 2002-2003.

b) DIBELS Update - Mr. Bill Donelson, Director of Student Services, described a work group in Florida that developed training modules for curriculum based measurement (CBM) and dynamic indicators of basic early literacy (DIBELS). A pilot site was developed in Indian River County over the last six years and many people played a part in developing district norms here in St. Lucie County. DIBELS is part of the district’s “Just Read, Florida” grant that will be implemented next year. Mr. Donelson introduced four trainers who had prepared reading coaches and school-based teams: Barbara Casteen, Tim Martin, Janet Preston, and Susan Mason.

Ms. Mason explained that “No Child Left Behind” was what DIBELS was all about. In 1995-96, Mrs. Queen Townsend had heard about curriculum based measurement and had directed student services department to develop norms for the district. From 1996-98, student services had collaborated with curriculum, ESE, FDLRS, and explored how to manage the kind of data received from doing a “norming” for a county. Also, a trial run was done on two schools to see how it would work. In 1998-99, the district completed fall, winter, and spring norms and collected all of data first through fifth grade at Fairlawn Elementary, Lakewood Park Elementary, Morningside Elementary, Rivers Edge Elementary, Weatherbee Elementary, and Windmill Point Elementary. The data meant that any child could be checked in the area of reading and compare them on our curriculum here compared to all other children in the same grade. Growth could quickly be measured. All data was then input to arrive at statistics. In 1999-2000, manuals were prepared with all of the norms, first grade through fifth grade, including directions of what the information meant. In 2000-2001, the process of training school personnel and getting information out about CBM was undertaken. In 2002, limited training was continued because of all other reading initiatives that were coming forward. State level trainers came to the district and with the Governor’s Reading First initiative, the district is set to go forward and will become a leader in the state.

Ms. Janet Preston informed the Board that CBM was a specific set of procedures for assessing basic skills in reading, spelling, written expression, and math. In St. Lucie County, the focus has been on reading fluency. CBM was developed in the late 70’s and early 80’s at the University of Minnesota’s Institute for Research on Learning Disabilities. It grew out of a need for student performance measures in the basic skill areas that would also monitor student growth in these areas over a relatively short period of time. CBM provides dynamic indicators of basic skills or DIBS. They are indicators in the sense that they are representative of a skill but they do not give all of the information needed about a skill. For decades, the medical field has used dynamic indicators when they record temperatures, blood pressure, height, weight. Temperature will not tell you what is exactly wrong with a child’s health but it will tell you that a child is ill and when that child is getting better. CBM and DIBELS works in a similar way, picking up degrees of growth in early literacy skills. The use of CBM and DIBELS has become especially relevant to Florida schools since the passage of legislation requiring intensive interventions and ongoing monitoring of students who are having difficulty in reading.

Ms. Barbara Casteen stated that FDLRS had supported this initiative for several years. CBM and DIBELS have been state-wide mandated initiatives for about five years. This year FDLRS was also given the Just Read initiative of which DIBELS was a part. DIBELS and CBM each take a full day of training or which five measures are a part: letter naming fluency in K-1; sounds fluency timed task K; performance tasks where student gives sound; phonemes segmentation fluency; nonsense word fluency, and oral reading fluency. Training of school-based teams from the four schools that were applying for the next round of Reading First grants was scheduled for May 12, 2003 in room 132 at the HRD facility. Board members were invited to attend. Ms. Casteen mentioned there was a lot of research on correlating DIBELS with oral reading fluency-if children do well on the dynamic indicators then it correlated with a score of 3 or above on high stakes testing. This was why staff felt so strongly about this collaboration between student services, FDLRS, and ESE.

9. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Vogel mentioned that a report on Excel Alternative, Inc. would be presented at the next board meeting. Also, there would be an executive session held immediately following this meeting to discuss CWA negotiations.

Regarding the potential leasing of vacated homes at a reduced rate to help teachers moving to this area, Dr. Vogel informed board members that several staff members had met with personnel from the City of Port St. Lucie and it was discovered there were fixed costs that the city had in maintaining those homes--impact fees, taxes, they were not homesteaded, liability insurance, upkeep and maintenance. Possibly the district could hire a company for property management but there was no answer as to who would maintain the upkeep. The district was not staffed in its maintenance department to provide services. It was looking like there were more challenges facing the city and/or the district and the cost was approaching what people would rent houses for at full cost. It might not work out financially for a party coming in. Neither the district nor the city was in a position to take on a landlord capacity due to cost involved. Even if both entities worked together it did not seem it would work out or be of benefit.

Dr. Vogel asked Mr. Tim Bargeron, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, to give a rundown on the Governor’s statewide proposals and the Senate and House budgets. Dr. Vogel reminded everyone that Senator Ken Pruitt had indicated he could not do it alone in the Senate and the Senate was doing everything it could to provide more money for education. The House budget would result in a very difficult year for the district. On Wednesday, April 23, a press conference was scheduled at 9:30 a.m. Staff was trying to get the word out that everyone needed to support Senator Pruitt.

Mr. Bargeron stressed that the House budget would be devastating to the district. Of the $10.7 million that the district would receive next year, there would be no opportunity to use those funds at the Board’s discretion or to cover the $1,400,000 in expected property casualty insurance increase next year, or to offset the $2.2 million in health insurance increases that will be experienced next year. Roughly, fuel and utility increases were expected to go up $700,000. Next year, with the House proposal, would be very, very difficult. Staff has talked about some budget planning for next year--what can be done? The district just received the best rating in the state on the OPPAGA review during which the auditors told staff there were very few places left to cut in the district. Mr. Bargeron guessed that the class size reduction dollars would have to be used for growth--that eat up about half of the class size reduction, which would put the district in a position of not having sufficient funds to fund the reduction of two students per class. The district most likely would have to fight a battle later on when some state auditors reviewed the budget and found the class size reduction money was not used to reduce class. Mr. Bargeron maintained that the district could easily explain that it did not get the dollars necessary to actually support that initiative.

Dr. Miller asked how much would the district be in a position to cut. Mr. Bargeron stated the difference between the discretionary revenue and the House plan and the district’s fixed costs (including growth) was $3.1 million so the district would be starting off the year in a $3.1 million hole. Mr. Bargeron proposed taking the class size reduction funding and using it for the growth as much as possible to maintain. Every district in the state will be facing the same thing. The House budget takes money that is supporting current programs, channels it into two new programs and doesn’t replenish the funding.

Dr. Carvelli had looked at the FSBA analysis that showed the House Bill would be about $200 million less overall then the FEFP. The Senate Bill was about $300 million above last year’s funding. Also, some of the program cost factors (in both House and Senate) K-3 were going down a little and middle school vocational was going down to base funding which was unbelievable. The program cost factors are supposed to be derived by the three year averages reported by the cost report state-wide so there should be some data to support that change. The Senate and the House both had the same cost factors except for the middle school vocational that was mentioned.

Mr. Bargeron noted that in looking at the total dollars between the House and the Senate budget, the gap was much greater than it appeared because of the way the House was taking the dollars and putting them into categoricals. Other concerns were the possibility they would take away 25% of instructional materials dollars, 50% of teacher training dollars, and 20% of public school technology dollars. The House was putting those dollars into class size reduction and best programs which were recurring expenditure programs. If the dollars are put into salaries, then the district has lost 25% of its textbook allocation forever.

Mrs. Hensley understood that the Senate Bill was really not adequate but the House Bill was devastating so the districts were in the position of fighting for something that would only hurt a little less than the other. It was understood by people who had been in Tallahassee many years that they had never seen anything like it before--this was the worst year ever and how long could it continue on like this? Dr. Vogel agreed it seemed like every year funding got worse. The dual enrollment in the House was only funded at half. This was a major concern because students were always encouraged to take advanced courses. The motor fuel tax rebate had already fallen out of the House budget. The Senate budget gave the district another $4 million dollars. Dr. Vogel anticipated calling senior staff together soon to look at where they could come up with some reductions. It was agreed there were mixed messages and directions coming from Tallahassee. There were 19 districts that were losing money all across the board. Dr. Miller agreed that the budgets were very misleading and terribly inadequate.

The state projected that the district would grown by 854 when staff projected a growth of 1080 for next year. There four voucher programs in the House Bill--one having to do with a virtual kindergarten school, a home schooling type of program. This amounted to giving people $3500 to not send their kids to school but everyone knew those students would come into the public school setting at some point.

Dr. Gaines felt the discussion on budget was a good one. Board members encouraged everyone to call and write to their House representatives. Also contact the senators to thank them for their efforts.

Unscheduled speaker, Clara Cook, President of CTA/CU, also addressed budget concerns. The union’s state association was dealing with financial issues as well as the elimination of the union. Ms. Cook agreed neither budget was adequate. When educators contact their representatives they don’t seem to listen as carefully. The union members will do all it can do to help.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board approve

consent agenda items #11 through #16, #18 through #25

(Miller/Hensley/Carried 5-0).

**SEPARATE VOTE ON ITEM #10, Personnel Agenda & Leaves (Administrative Re-appointments)**

Dr. Gaines requested that item #10 be pulled from the consent agenda for separate vote. Dr. Gaines stated he had a problem with how some administrators were being moved around or put in positions where some have to retire/resign. Dr. Gaines also had a concern about changing titles (referred to recently approved organizational chart) when it appeared that a position was upgraded due to the person. Dr. Gaines stated, for the record, he understood that the Board had nothing to do with the appointments –they were strictly up to the superintendent, but he had discussed this problem with Dr. Vogel. The Board could question his decision or make a statement. Dr. Gaines stated he was not satisfied with the move of changing a position from coordinator to director and some litigation may be coming forth. Dr. Carvelli stated he also had talked with the superintendent regarding the change.

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board approve

item #10, including addendum pages 1-A and 1-B, as presented

(Hilson/Miller/Carried 4-1, Gaines against).

It was noted that item #17 was deleted since it was a duplication of #21. Also, a second addendum page 1-B was presented to the Board just before the meeting to be added to Personnel Agenda & Leaves #10)

Specific recommendations for each consent item are listed below.

10. Personnel Agenda & Leaves - (Administrative Re-appointments) – this item was deleted from the consent agenda for separate vote.

11. Ernst & Young Audit Contract Option for Fiscal Year Ended 06-30-04 – recommended that the Board approve the contract with the deletion of the arbitration clause.

12. Payment of Bills – recommended that the Board approve the payment of bills as reviewed and signed during the meeting and as filed in the business services department.

13. Monthly Financial Report 03-31-03 – recommended that the Board accept the monthly financial report for the month ended March 31, 2003.

14. DOE-required Capital Projects Project Priority List (PPL) Update – recommended that the Board approve the capital projects project priority list as required for update to allow issuance of the $800,000 series 2003 COBI bonds.

15. Bid #0304015 Test and Balance Service at St. Lucie County Public Schools District Offices (Okeechobee Road) – recommended that the Board accept the bid or, and award the contract to, Richard Flanders Enterprises, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder meeting specifications. Economic impact $21,750 funded from 0373-7400-0632-0506-3041.

16. Facility Rental Agreement with Indian River Community College – recommended that the Board approve the agreement where IRCC agrees to reimburse the district for their use of its facilities for their adult education and dual enrollment classes. The revenues received are used to offset district costs of providing for 2/3rds of district employees’ tuition for IRCC classes.

17. Contract for Interagency Agreement with Children’s Home Society *(Delete; See Item #21)*

18. Amendment to Professional Services Agreement with Dr. Robert Brugnoli – recommended that the Board approve the amendment to Dr. Robert Brugnoli’s professional services agreement for an additional $5,000 not to exceed $11,000.

19. Amendment to Agreement for Sponsored Coursework with Florida Atlantic University, College of Education, Dept. of Exceptional Student Education – recommended that the Board approve the amendment to the original agreement approved on December 10, 2002 to allow 15 participants from both Indian River County and St. Lucie County, rather than solely St. Lucie County with St. Lucie County funding a minimum of nine students. Instead of being billed three times during the course of the year, billing will be once at the beginning of the year for the full amount. Economic impact $1,523 per participant from Title I Highly Qualified.

20. Professional Services Agreement for Hospitalized/Homebound Services with Christine Tremayne – recommended that the Board approve the professional services agreement for hospitalized/homebound services with Christine Tremayne at $17.00 per hour not to exceed $5,000.

21. Children’s Home Society Collaborative Agreement – recommended that the Board approve the renewal of a continuing agreement granting permission for the presentation of Teen Life Choices, Postponing Sexual Involvement and Baby Think It Over, a child care awareness program.

22. Amendment to FY2002-2003 Carl Perkins Secondary Vocational Education Grant for Roll Forward Funds Allocation – recommended that the Board approve the project amendment representing the district’s designated allocation of Perkins funds rolled forward from FY2001-2002. Economic impact $23,539 from Carl Perkins Secondary Vocational Education Act.

23. Work Authorization to Tilden, Lobnitz, Cooper for Repairs at St. Lucie Elementary School – recommended that the Board authorize Tilden, Lobnitz, Cooper to proceed with exterior masonry wall repairs, downspout/gutter replacement, and exterior painting and finishing work at St. Lucie Elementary. Economic impact not to exceed $16,729 from capital fund.

24. Proposal for Professional Consulting Services with Culpepper & Terpening, Inc., for Fort Pierce Westwood High – recommended that the Board authorize Culpepper & Terpening, Inc., to respond to Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and complete a supplemental site assessment report (SSAR) for Fort Pierce Westwood High School. Economic impact not to exceed $20,000.

25. Additional Scope of Work for Architectural & Engineering Design Svcs. at St. Lucie County Public Schools District Offices – recommended that the Board authorize Florida Architects, Inc., to proceed with architectural and engineering design services at the new administrative office building which includes the addition of a community room and computer rooms for an additional added area of $3,180 nest. Economic impact lump sum $26,416 from capital fund.

**OTHER BUSINESS (continued from front side)**

26. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #249/VM/09-26-87/0401/02-03

27. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #250/JP/03-21-88/0321/02-03

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board combine #26

and #27 into one recommendation for approval of Stipulated

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order

#249 and #250 (Hensley/Miller/Carried 5-0).

**FACILITIES REPORT**

Mr. Marty Sanders updated the Board on the Tradition Community School and provided a drawing for review. Dr. Gaines clarified for the record that the school was not a School Board project and none of its funds were being used to get it going. Dr. Carvelli had asked for an update on the design of the school and wanted to make sure the site plan was functional, safe and operational. Dr. Vogel mentioned he had talked about the possibility of FF&E dollars but there were no other dollars on the table. When the project first started, the school was to meet all 6A2 and SREF requirements and that was why Core Communities wanted input from the district because in the future, the school may come to the Board. Dr. Vogel stated it was crucial that the district have the student stations--it was part of the district’s plan. If the project did not work out, a Plan B was going to be developed.

Mr. Andrew Favata with Core Communities stated the project needed to keep moving so it was ready when the funding became available. Everything was on schedule and Mr. Favata hoped to be able to bring back more details about cost sometime in May. If the timeline continued to move forward, a formal approval would be brought back at the Board’s first meeting in June. The project would run 12 months and would break ground on August 12, 2003.

Attorney Dan Harrell advised the Board that FAU was a university. A community development district was another unit of local government and a charter school regardless of its proponent may use the local building code which may be one of the avenues that FAU, the community development district the developer chooses to use. The collaborative effort was to assure that the educational functionality of the structure remained consistent with what St. Lucie County was anticipating although, technically, the building might be compliant with the Port St. Lucie City Code as opposed to 6A2.

**ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

28. Authorizing Acknowledgement and Consent to DOT Easement Accessing Kitterman Road

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board authorize

execution of an acknowledgment and consent to a new easement

for access and other purposes consistent with the Board’s existing

easement conditioned upon review and approval by the Assistant

Superintendent of Facilities and Support Services and counsel

(Hensley/Hilson, Carried 5-0).

See supplemental minutes packet memorandum with sketch depicting the easement

29. Agreement with Jim Huge & Associates

Action: There was a motion to retain Jim Huge and Associates as

consultant for the superintendent search (Hensley/Miller/Carried 5-0).

**CTA REPORT**

No report.

**CWA REPORT**

No report.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS**

Ms. Hilson mentioned a concern that Adriene Dover-Jefferson brought to her attention regarding the classroom space at Fort Pierce Magnet School of the Arts. If the district needed those classrooms for its students, Ms. Dover-Jefferson may need to look for space elsewhere. Dr. Gaines agreed that as soon as a definite decision was made about the classrooms, Ms. Dover-Jefferson should be informed as soon as possible. Mr. Sanders had already touched base with Indian River Community College on this matter.

**UNSCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

There were no other unscheduled speakers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

After conducting all business scheduled to come before the Board, Chairman Carvelli adjourned the April 22, 2003 regular meeting at approximately 8:25 p.m.