THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Special Meeting – May 1, 2003

MINUTES

The School Board of St. Lucie County held a special meeting in the culinary arts room at St. Lucie West Centennial High School at approximately 5:30 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

SUPERINTENDENT’S ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT/GOALS

Chairman Carvelli opened the meeting and the superintendent and staff began reviewing the priority goals, objectives and strategies for 2002-2003 that included (see supplemental minutes packet)

Goal A: Student Performance (State Goal #3)

Goal B: Career and Technical Education (State Goal #2)

Goal C: Teachers and Staff (State Goal #6)

Goal D: School Safety and Environment (State Goal #5)

Goal E: School and Community Involvement (State Goal #8)

Goal F: Facilities

Goal G: Finance.

During a recess in the meeting, Centennial’s culinary arts students served dinner to the group. At approximately 6:15 p.m. the meeting was reconvened.

The Year in Review/ Celebrating Our Success portion of the report pointed out highlights, one of which was the fact that the district had undergone an audit review performed by the Florida Legislature’s Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA), and had received the highest initial ranking ever awarded. The district was currently using 88.3% (189 of 214) of the best practices adopted by the Commissioner of Education. The district was commended for being well managed and a good steward of public resources. Dr. Vogel indicated to the Board that it would be asked to discuss the Best Practices Recommendation Action Plan from OPPAGA at a public hearing scheduled for May 13, 2003. The report came at a good time and Dr. Vogel noted that the district was ready to “gear up” for another bond issue. Dr. Miller suggested using the OPPAGA report in marketing the bond issue—it was the best third party information. If the district obtained the OPPAGA “gold seal” through its best practices recommendations action plan, it was suggested that a gold seal could be embossed on the marketing literature/stationary, etc.

It was discussed that a system needed to be put in place to monitor and/or decrease the number of students with multiple discipline referrals before they came to the Board. Students should be identified early on. Dr. Vogel also stated that if the Legislature did not look at new funding sources in Florida, the local government would have to have new major revenue sources for operations. The only option in Statute now was a millage increase but it was only a four-year issue.

In reviewing Proposed New Goals for Consideration, board members requested that one item be pulled off the list, i.e., “increase the number of students involved in extra curricular activities”. Board members indicated this item was a cost issue and did not belong on the new goals list. It also may raise expectations when the Board knew there was no funding—the community would see that item as an “athletics” item. It was hoped that the district would be able to just maintain extra curricular activities due to the lack of funding expected in this year’s budget. Board members were hearing from community members that they were afraid that art and music would be lost (not funded) this year. Dr. Vogel agreed with board members’ comments and stated that the Board would have to go out and say it wanted art, etc. in every school and ask the community to fund it. Dr. Gaines thought the community would not mind raising the money if it understood that what they pay did not come to the district in taxes. People would need assurance that their tax money would come direct to the district. Mrs. Hensley suggested the Board consider new revenue sources for operations—make them external as well as internal. Dr. Vogel noted that some districts charge for transportation and textbooks.

Recap of discussion is listed below.

- A public hearing on the OPPAGA report was scheduled to come before

the Board on May 13, 2003.

- Use the OPPAGA report to market district; make actual separate piece

short, sweet, to the point, and powerful.

- Attempt to obtain the OPPAGA gold seal before going out to voters for

bond issue; use seal on district literature, etc.

- Delete following goal from proposed new goals: “increase the number of

students involved in extra curricular activities. This would take people

and funds but the budget was unknown for the next 5-6 years. Don’t raise

expectations of students and parents if the district cannot fund. It was hoped

that programs could be maintained for next year. A cut in athletics would

be upsetting to community.

- Mr. Sanders, Executive Director of Facilities & Maintenance, had worked up

a plan to reduce energy costs regarding Siemens Award.

- Decrease number of students with multiple discipline referrals. Need system

to identify students early to prevent multiple referrals.

- Consider new revenue sources for operations. If Legislature does

not look at new funding source in Florida, the local government would

have to have new major revenue sources. Only option in statute now

was millage increase but it was only a four year issue.

Discussion ended and Chairman Carvelli adjourned the special May 1, 2003 meeting at approximately 6:55 p.m.