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

**REGULAR MEETING – May 13, 2003**

**MINUTES**

The School Board of St. Lucie County held a regular meeting in the cafeteria at Southern Oaks Middle School on May 13, 2003 at approximately 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: DR. JOHN CARVELLI, Chairman

Member Residing in District No. 2

MS. CAROL A. HILSON, Vice Chairman

Member Residing in District No. 3

DR. SAMUEL S. GAINES

Member Residing in District No. 5

MRS. KATHRYN HENSLEY

Member Residing in District No. 4

DR. JUDI MLLER

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. Christine Harrison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Final Report from the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA)

Chairman Carvelli called for comments from staff and board members prior to opening the public hearing. Dr. Vogel, Ms. Camille Hooper, Director of Finance, and Ms. Martha Wellman from OPPAGA, explained the long process the district had undertaken of which it had met 189 best practices out of 214, achieving the highest rating in the state thus far. OPPAGA looked into 13 different areas that took a year for all departments to pull information together to be submitted.

The OPPAGA Best Financial Management Practices Review was presented to the Board on April 8, 2003, and included various recommendations in each of the areas covered in the review. Of these, OPPAGA had indicated that the Board must implement the recommendations (or at least make a good faith effort toward implementing them) in order to receive the Seal of Best Practices. Each department has prepared an Action Plan to indicate how they will implement the recommendations, which were submitted to the Board on May 13, 2003. Ms. Wellman indicated the district had made a long, hard effort and the OPPAGA team would come back to review its progress on the recommendations required for the Seal of Best Practices.

Chairman Carvelli opened the public hearing and asked for comments from the audience. Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

Ms. Hilson referred to the OPPAGA recommendation that the district should assess its school-based administrative staffing to determine whether it could bring the number of (middle school deans) closer to accreditation standards and stated she was not comfortable with that recommendation. Ms. Wellman stated they were not asking the district to do that this year but to take a look at that and consider there may be variation how that is addressed. Dr. Vogel explained that staff had done a study of other Treasure Coast districts and St. Lucie County did have one additional dean/assistant principal at its schools for a higher number than other districts. Some districts have flexibility of using people for extra help. Each school in the district has been notified there may be a reduction but based on the legislative session, our intent was to benchmark this item and check to see what other people were doing.

Dr. Miller stated she supported moving forward in this and in considering working toward the gold seal. She would like to look at this recommendation in conjunction with the budget and the strategic goals so the Board could look at it as a package and not as individual documents. Mrs. Hensley appreciated the process and indicated it had been a very positive experience for the team. The caliber of people we had to work with had not been anticipated and the Board appreciated the information it got back. Some staff had already started to address recommendations without an official vote. Dr. Carvelli thanked Ms. Wellman and her colleagues—staff had taken the audit very seriously. Dr. Gaines reminded everyone that he had been chairman when the audit had started and the district had weathered the storm and came through in flying colors. He thanked the team and OPPAGA personnel for their efforts in demonstrating what the district knew all along—that it was doing something right.

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board accept the

OPPAGA recommendations required for Seal of Best Practices

Executive Summary of May 13, 2003 (Gaines/Hensley/Carried 5-0).

**MINUTES**

Action: There was a motion to approve the minutes for the April 22, 2003

Workshop and regular Meetings, and the April 23, 2003 expulsion

meeting (Miller/Gaines/Carried 5-0).

**SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

1. Educational Lamp Award

The following employees received the Educational Lamp award for their outstanding performance in customer relations: Winnie Wynn from Morningside Elementary, the entire cafeteria staff at White City Elementary, James Boozer and Paul Rust from the Security Department.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION - PAULA HOLTZMAN FROM TRIBUNE

Dr. Vogel surprised Ms. Paula Holtzman, former school beat reporter for the district who was returning to Pennsylvania by recognizing her for the outstanding job she had done in covering the school district. Dr. Vogel presented Paula with a certificate of appreciation and thanked her for her help.

2. Math Super Star Winners

Mrs. Theressa Gaines, mathematics curriculum specialist, recognized all of the students, grades 1 through 8, who had successfully participated in the Math Super Star optional curriculum enrichment program designed to help students reinforce the mathematics competencies contained in the Sunshine State Standards.

3. Morningside Elementary Odyssey of the Mind 2003 State Winners

Principal Pauline Hebb introduced her team of students who had won the state Odyssey of the Mind competition and who were not invited to participate in the world competition in Iowa in May. The students received plaques in recognition of their achievement and then delighted everyone by presenting a part of their play on dingo fence.

4. Cookie Bake-off Contest Winners

The following schools won the cookie bake-off contest in designated areas:

Chocolate Chip Champion – Frances K. Sweet Elementary (Baker Fannie Carr)

Peanut Butter Beauties – Southern Oaks Middle (Baker Herminia McDowell)

Baker’s Secret – Dale Cassens School (Baker Corinne Horner)

Oh Delicious Oatmeal – Morningside Elementary ( Baker Sandy Patten)

5. Florida HOSA/Health State Winners

Ms. Kathie Schmidt, Director of Career and Technical Education, asked the Board to recognize the following students for their outstanding achievements at the State HOSA Leadership Conference:

Lisa Harrison St. Lucie West Centennial High Medical Math 1st Place

Samantha Pullins Port St. Lucie High Courtesy Corps 1st Place

Shakiva Ruff St. Lucie West Centennial High Biomedical Debate 4th Place

Ashley Williams St. Lucie West Centennial High Biomedical Debate 4th Place

Elishia McKay St. Lucie West Centennial High Biomedical Debate 4th Place

Mike Collins Fort Pierce Westwood High Veterinarian Assist. 1st Place

Keith Howard Fort Pierce Westwood High Veterinarian Assist. 2nd Place

Stephen Reuther Fort Pierce Westwood High Veterinarian Assist. 3rd Place

First, second and third place winners at State HOSA qualify to participate at the National HOSA Competition to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, June 18-22, 2003.

6. VICA/Auto State Winners

Ms. Schmidt asked the Board to recognize Walter Posten, Jr. from St. Lucie West Centennial High School, who placed 3rd in the Skills USA/VICA State competition. The student was awarded a $1,000 scholarship to Universal Technical Institute and a set of “Snap-On” wrenches. Principal Trina Trimm accepted the plaque on behalf of the student who could not be present.

7. St. Lucie West Centennial Band and Color Guard State Festival Award Winners

Principal Trina Trimm and band director Kirk Jackson from St. Lucie West Centennial High, introduced students who were part of the band and color guard that received an excellent rating at state competition. Individual students also received “superior” ratings for various solos and were recognized and congratulated.

8. St. Lucie West Centennial High School 2003 National Latin Exam Winners

Mrs. Trimm asked the Board to recognize the St. Lucie West Centennial High School 2003 National Latin Exam Winners. The following students competed with 127,000 students from all fifty states and 9 foreign countries:

Latin I Preston Sunderwirth Magna Cum Laude

Shawntay Brantley Magna Cum Laude

Bronia Hauman Magna Cum Laude

Kellie Keene Magna Cum Laude

Desiree Castiglia Cum Laude

Latin II La’Tressa Adams Silver Medal/Maxima Cum Laude

Francisco Salto Silver Medal/Maxima Cum Laude

9. St. Lucie West Centennial PARADE Classroom Poetry Winner

In celebration of National Poetry Month, PARADE Classroom sponsored its third annual poetry contest. This year, America’s Poet Laureate, Billy Collins, judged the finalists. He selected “Being Painted Black”, by Laura Phillips, a student at St. Lucie West Centennial High School, as the winner. Laura came forward to be recognized by the Board and read her poem for all to hear.

10. St. Lucie West Centennial High Donations (Total Value $2,630)

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board

accept the donation of $2,630 on behalf of St. Lucie

West Centennial High (accepted by general consensus).

SPECIAL ITEM FORT PIERCE MAGNET SCHOOL OF THE ARTS DONATION ($12,400)

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board accept

the donation totaling $12,400 on behalf of Fort Pierce Magnet

School of the Arts (Gaines/Miller/Carried 5-0) (Added to the

agenda by general consensus).

**STAFF REPORTS**

11. Curriculum Report

Ms. Lisa Cash, principal at White City Elementary, presented the district’s plan for an elementary reading camp that principals had prepared in a very short time with very little concrete direction from the state and no money. The camp was an opportunity for students who scored in Level I on the reading portion of the 2003 third grade FCAT to receive additional instruction in reading, however, attendance did not provide for automatic promotion to the next grade. Bayshore Elementary and Garden City Elementary would house the reading camps Monday - Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. from June 10, 2003 through June 26, 2003. State law allowed students who score in Level I on the 3rd grade FCAT reading to be promoted if they can demonstrate reading proficiency on another state approved reading test. Florida has approved the SAT 9, a nationally recognized reading test, to meet requirement of the law. Students could take the SAT 9 on May 23, 2003 without the benefit of the reading camp or take it on June 26, 2003 after attending reading camp. Students would need to meet the state required 51 percentile or better. Each student’s score on the SAT 9 would determine promotion to the next grade. Should they score below the 51st percentile, they will be retained.

Ms. Linda Smiley, Coordinator of 21st Century Community Learning Centers, reviewed the district’s Senior and Rising Senior FCAT Summer Camp plan. The district was offering a summer tutoring session for all seniors and rising seniors who have not passed the state mandated FCAT, a requirement for graduation. Fort Pierce Westwood and Central would provide tutoring for their students. Lincoln Park Academy will provide assistance for all other students through out the county who need help in passing the FCAT. Teachers should have certification in Math and/or English. The tutoring sessions were to be held Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. from June 9 to June 19, 2003. The 21st Century Grant would help with the funding.

12. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Vogel announced that the district had received unofficial notice that it had been selected to receive funding through the Voluntary Public School Choice Mentor District Project.

Dr. Vogel asked board members to schedule a two-hour workshop on collaborative bargaining with Dr. Ron Stone, Mr. Jay Moore, and all bargaining teams. Suggested dates for the workshop were either June 3 or June 24. Board members were asked to check their calendars and get back with Dr. Vogel on the date.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board approve

consent agenda items #13 through #23 and addendum

items #29 through #32 (with caveat that #30 would be

brought back to update the Board and possible amendment

at Dr. Miller’s request) (Miller/Hilson/Carried 5-0).

Discussion: prior to stating the question, Dr. Miller expressed her concern that the progress report (item #30) was being recommended for approval without having integrated any OPPAGA suggestions—there may be some things the Board may want to include as a priority. Dr. Miller also wanted to integrate the budget and strategic plan with the OPPAGA report in conjunction with the annual progress report and goals. Mr. John Lynch, Director of Assessment and Evaluation, stated the progress report was just one part of the strategic plan and once the Board approves the goals and any OPPAGA recommendations, they will be addressed in the plan. This was an ongoing process and staff would have all of it combined together, hopefully by the end of June.

Specific recommendations for each consent agenda item are listed below.

13. Personnel Agenda & Leaves (Re-appointment of Professional Support Staff) – recommended that the Board approve the 85-page report as presented and amended, including the reappointments of professional support staff.

14. Approval of 2003-2004 Contract Negotiation Teams – recommended that the Board approve the contract negotiation team members for 2003-2004 as presented.

*Addendum 29. Approval of Job Descriptions – recommended that the Board approve job descriptions for seven food service positions (all grant funded); eight student services positions (paid through monies recouped from Medicaid Certified School Match Program); four curriculum positions (grant funded); and three student assignment/communications positions (financial impact absorbed by shifting of other positions). See supplemental minutes packet for list.*

*Addendum 30. Superintendent’s Annual Progress Report (Best Practices Recommendation Action Plan) – recommended that the Board approve the annual progress report dated May 1, 2003 with the caveat that it be brought back to the Board with the strategic plan, budget and OPPAGA recommendations for final review./amendment.*

*Addendum 31. Reading Camp – recommended that the Board approve the reading camp as presented.*

*Addendum 32. Learn & Serve America Grant – recommended that the Board approve the grant proposal for $3,500 for Forest Grove Middle School in partnership with St. Lucie County Council on Aging.*

15. CTA Contract Waiver for Chester A. Moore Elementary - recommended that the Board approve the CTA contract waiver of Article V Section Y to allow Chester A. Moore Elementary teachers to conference with parents on report card day and receive compensatory time on early dismissal day.

16. Budget Amendment #11 – recommended that the Board approve budget amendment #11 (special revenue-other/total revisions +$l,054,468.20, -$52,798.80). Budget amendment #11 added and/or amended various grant awards and also made appropriation function/object changes.

17. Interagency Agreement with Wakulla and Calhoun County School Districts for the Formation of School District Administrative Technology Association (SDATA) – recommended that the Board approve the interagency agreement as reviewed and corrected by Attorney Dan Harrell (see supplemental minutes packet).

18. Quarterly Investment Report 03/31/03 – recommended that the Board accept the investment report for 3/31/03.

19. Amendment to Agreement Dated January 13, 2003 with Marilyn Burns Education Associates (Math Solutions) – recommended that the Board approve the amendment to agreement dated January 13, 2003 with Marilyn Burns Education Associates (Math Solutions) in the amount of $33,600 due July 27, 2003 for a five-day workshop held in June for the purpose of providing strategies for standards-based instruction in grades K-8 for up to 80 teachers ($33,600 amended contract from $49,200 for 120 participants).

20. Sylvan Learning Contract for Migrant Summer Camp - recommended that the Board approve the proposal to provide small group instruction to migrant elementary and middle school students through Sylvan Educational Solutions. Economic impact $112,000 from U. S. Dept. of Education ( Federal Title I: Part C).

21. Bi-annual School Bleacher Inspections: Proposal for Professional Consulting Services with TLC Associates - recommended that the Board authorize TLC Associates to perform required bi-annual bleacher safety inspections. Economic impact $17,647 from various capital funds.

22. Proposal for Professional Consulting Services with OCI Associates, Inc., for Windmill Point Chiller Plant Design - recommended that the Board authorize OCI Associates to design a chiller, cooling tower, pumps for the aging air-cooled chiller plant at Windmill Point Elementary. Economic impact $21,000 from various capital funds.

23. Articulation Agreements with Florida Culinary- recommended that the Board approve the eleven articulation agreements for Career & Technical Programs with New England Institute of Technology/Florida Culinary Institute. No economic impact to the Board (see supplemental minutes packet for list of new and revised agreements).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

24. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #251/TA/08-07-87/0401/02-03

25. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #252/FT/10-08-86/0201/02-03

26. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #253/CR/06-08-87/0401/02-03

27. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #254/DH/07-20-87/0321/02-03

28. Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #255/BS/09-16-86/0201/02-03 ***(Delete)***

Action: The superintendent recommended that the Board combine items #24 through #27

(item #28 was deleted from the agenda) into one recommendation for approval

of Stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law & Penalty, and Final Order #251

through #254 (Hensley/Miller/Carried 5-0).

Discussion: prior to stating the question, board members discussed their reasons for asking that item #28 be deleted. The student had three full pages of referrals on her record and, as frequently discussed by board members in the past, concern was expressed again that some intervention was needed at the school level to prevent this from happening. So many consistent disruptions by students tie up staff time and take away from instructional time. Dr. Vogel and Ms. Tracie Wilkie from the ESE Department, responded that staff was working on training others to identify behavior referrals, offer strategies to help analyze the situation and develop a behavior plan to assist students. Ms. Hilson was afraid this may add to the problem of retaining teachers. Dr. Gaines stated the record reflected that most of the referrals were given while the student was attending Lincoln Park Academy and it should never had gotten to this point. Lincoln Park Academy needed to get back on target with what it was doing. If kids were not functioning, they needed to be put out of the school.

**FACILITIES REPORT**

Mr. Marty Sanders, Executive Director of Facilities and Maintenance, gave board members a project update list to review but had no official report. Board members had questions about the Northport project and the relocation of the district office. Suggestions were offered as to the timeline and scheduling of moving departments so it could be done with the least disruption. The employees and public needed information as quickly as possible in order to prepare for the move and in order to know where to go to speak with district personnel. Dr. Carvelli was not happy to see that the construction manager had a difference of opinion on the completion date and noted that only the Board can alter the contract.

**ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

*Addendum 33. Requested Lease of Mobile Home to Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)* ***(Delete) -*** this item was deleted from the agenda. IFAS withdrew its request.

*Addendum 34. USDA Lease Extension of Property* ***(Delete)*** - this item was deleted from the agenda to allow time for further study by staff.

**CTA REPORT**

No report.

**CWA REPORT**

No report.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS**

Chairman Carvelli informed board members he had talked with Mr. Jim Huge, consultant for the Board’s superintendent search, and there were two matters that the Board needed to resolve:

1) Composition of the Superintendent Search Committee

Should the Board finalize the committee list using the top three appointees (of each board member)*and* the one or two alternates (of each board member) or finalize the list using *only* the top three appointees only. It was determined that all names submitted, top three and alternates, would be included on the committee list with the addition of one name (on behalf of Dr. Gaines who wanted a Haitian representative) Marie Entienne, an employee with Indian River Community College.

2) School Board Meeting to review committee’s recommendations

Board members were asked to contact their office assistant to determine what time to meet on May 28, 2003.

**UNSCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

There were no unscheduled speakers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

After conducting all business scheduled to come before the Board, Chairman Carvelli adjourned the May 13, 2003 regular meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m.