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

Special Meeting – May 28, 2003

**MINUTES**

The School Board of St. Lucie County held a special meeting in the School Board Room on May 28, 2003 that began at approximately 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: DR. JOHN CARVELLI, Chairman

Member Residing in District No. 3

MS. CAROL A. HILSON, Vice Chairman

Members 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 MR. JIM HUGE

Superintendent Search Consultant

MR. DANIEL B. HARRELL

Attorney to the School Board

**SPECIAL MEETING TO CONSIDER CANDIDATES FOR SUPERINTENDENCY**

Chairman Carvelli called the meeting to order and Consultant Jim Huge informed the Board that there was a strong pool of six candidates from which four “super stars” were going to be recommended for the superintendent’s position based on the superintendent search committee’s recommendation that he would be bringing forward. The six candidates who had applied were Mr. John F. Dixon, Dr. Nicholas A. Fischer, Mr. E. Wayne Gent, Mr. Michael J. Lannon, Mr. Glenn R. Pierce, and Dr. Joseph J. Wise.

Mr. Huge informed the Board that a seventh application had been faxed to the personnel department on May 27, 2003 at 4:56 p.m., which was within the 5:00 p.m. deadline. However, the fax machine ran out of paper and staff did not find the application for Mr. Leon Hobbs until May 28th.

The Board discussed the possibility of extending the application deadline but was advised it may want to hold off making that decision until a later date. Mr. Huge assured the Board that even though there were only seven applications received, they were experienced and high quality individuals. He had been contacted by or had contacted 127 other potential candidates, which was about normal.

Board members received copies of the seven (7) applications to read and agreed they would tally their points before Mr. Huge informed them of the superintendent search committee’s recommendation. Dr. Gaines clarified that Mr. Huge had completed the background and community checks “due diligence”. Mr. Huge confirmed he had determined there was nothing of concern with the final four that were being recommended by the superintendent search committee. Mr. Huge had spoken with people who knew them and did not anticipate any problems.

For the record, Dr. Carvelli and Attorney Harrell informed the Board that one of the applicants, Mr. E. Wayne Gent, was the direct supervisor of Dr. Carvelli and after consulting with the ethics committee in the attorney general’s office, Mr. Harrell advised that Dr. Carvelli may and probably should abstain from voting for the candidates under Florida Statute 286.012 even though Form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal and Other Local Public Officers form would be completed and filed with the official minutes. Consequently, Dr. Carvelli abstained from writing any names down to be added to the tally count.

After reading the applications, board members (except for Dr. Carvelli) were asked to list the top four names of those they wanted to interview and those they thought could do the job from the current information received thus far. The names were tallied by Mr. Huge who announced that the Board’s top four names were identical, but not of the same consistency, with the superintendent search committee’s top four picks.

The committee had recommended Mr. Michael Lannon and Dr. Nicholas Fischer (both received 16 points each; one member of the 18 member committee voted no recommendation); Mr. E. Wayne Gent received 10 points and Dr. Joseph Wise received 2 points.

The Board tally was: Mr. Michael Lannon received 4 points, Dr. Nicholas Fischer received 3 points, Dr. Joseph Wise received 2 points, and Mr. Wayne Gent received 1 point. Mr. Huge recommended that the Board invite all four candidates to interview on June 11, 12, and 13 with the caveat that two of the four may drop out. Board members recalled a previous search when finalists had dropped out but with Mr. Huge’s leadership this time, it was felt that the results would not be a problem if that happened again. The Board concurred with Mr. Huge’s suggestion that it interview all four top candidates. It was reiterated that Dr. Carvelli could not participate in the selection process until Mr. Gent was eliminated. Mr. Harrell stated that Dr. Carvelli could participate in the process in terms of discussion but any part in the selecting of an individual was not appropriate and Dr. Carvelli would need to abstain. Dr. Carvelli could give his opinion regarding any individual as a public citizen but as long as Mr. Gent was directly in the mix, Dr. Carvelli would not be able to vote.

Mr. Huge suggested the Board invite the four candidates (Mr. Lannon, Dr. Fischer, Mr. Gent and Dr. Wise) to interview on June 11, 12, 13 and if one or two dropped out for any reason during that timeframe, then he recommended the Board invite the other two (Mr. Dixon and Mr. Pierce)to interview.

Board members were comfortable with Mr. Huge’s suggestion and looked forward to finding a good match between the final candidate and the district. Mr. Huge indicated he would call the four final candidates in the evening immediately following the meeting. Board members were asked to review a list of questions and return to Mr. Huge as soon as possible.

Discussion ended the Chairman Carvelli adjourned the special May 28, 2003 meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.