CALL TO ORDER: School Board Meeting Room
5:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Chairman

PRAYER Chairman

ROLL CALL

Members Allen, Chancey, Hollingsworth, Snyder (Absent), Stanko
Superintendent Dr. Karyn Gary
Attorney Bucky Waldron
Others Theresa Hill, Sue Hoffman, Steve and Sherry Owens, Dianne Baxley, Clitia South, Laurie Albritton, Jane Cline, Mark and Shannon Fusco, Meghan Lipe, Penny Kurtz, Jennifer Whitmore, Julie Chidsey, Dianne Moncrief, Marilyn Goodman, Jim Backer, Carrie Fuller, Debbie Crews, Ruth Ann Smith, Melba Barnwell, Lindsay Turner, Nelson Stephenson, Mark Pryor, Sarah Giddens, Others

Approval of Minutes --

Minutes
On motion by William Stanko and second by Karen Chancey, the Board unanimously approved the following:
Regular minutes of 5.28.13

Rodney Hollingsworth had a question pertaining to the May 28th School Board Meeting minutes. He requested that a statement made by Dr. Gary in reference to Mrs. Fusco’s PAF be added to the May 28, 2013, minutes. Dr. Gary stated that by law the school board minutes are not required to be verbatim.

Mr. Hollingsworth agreed with Dr. Gary that minutes are not verbatim, but he wanted to include the statement that Dr. Gary made in reference to Mrs. Fusco’s PAF.

Supplemental Minutes Warrants
On motion by Karen Chancey and second by William Stanko, the Board unanimously approved the following:
Check Register

Reports --

Attorney
No report at this time.

Board Members
No reports at this time.

Staff
Dr. Gary made a report on the status of dual enrollment. She stated that all students who requested to be enrolled for Summer A and Summer B semesters had been approved.
She further stated that Mr. Ray Klejmont, Associate Director of Human Resources, is retiring effective June 30, 2013.

Acting DHS Principal Bob Shayman announced his resignation in order to accept an assistant superintendent position in Hardee County.

Instructional Services is being reconfigured. Dr. Gary will have a new flow chart and plan available to board members.

The Environmental Learning Lab will have a new focus for the fall. The focus will be an Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Science approach.

Dr. Gary and Mr. Morgan will be meeting the week of June 24th to review all teacher performance evaluations and ensure that evaluations were performed effectively and that everyone was treated fairly.

The next Transportation Workshop will be held Tuesday, June 25, 2013, at 5:00 PM. Materials were presented to board members to review prior to the workshop.

Theresa Griffin, School Social Worker, has drafted a Student Services Report (handout). The district is considering reconfiguring this department to better serve our students. The focus of the revisions will include attendance, home education, and dropout prevention in order to meet all statutory requirements.

Public Presentations
No public presentations were given.

Routine Business --
On motion by Ronny Allen and second William Stanko, the Board unanimously approved the following unless otherwise noted:

Personnel Action Summary
Temporary Duty Leave Requests
Leave of Absences Request

New Business --
On motion by Ronny Allen and second by Karen Chancey, the Board unanimously approved the following unless otherwise noted:

Administrative
4.01 - Administrative

A. DECC Additional Pay Request
B. DCHS FFA State Convention Letter
C. DMS FFA Convention
D. DCHS School Recognition Distribution
Pulled for further discussion

Ronny Allen asked Dr. Gary a question in reference to the release of the school recognition dollars. He was questioning why two people were not being paid recognition dollars.
Dr. Gary stated that according to Florida Statute, if there’s an open investigation, which there still is, monies allocated for those in question will be held until the investigation is complete. Therefore, the allocation for Shannon Fusco, Karen Pella, and Paul Curtis will be held until the final report is received. Allocation will then be released if the investigation proves to be unfounded. Mr. Allen asked Mr. Waldron to look into this and wanted his motion to reflect that if the board can legally pay these individuals, we are to do so. Mr. Waldron stated that he will get back with Dr. Gary by email with an answer.

E. DCHS HOSA Field Trip Request

F. 2013.2014 Instructional Recommendations

G. 2013.2014 Support Staff Recommendations

4.02 – Grant Apps/Agreements/Contracts/Plans/Resolutions

H. Agreement between DCSB and Red Cross

I. Agreement between DCSB and Seminole County

J. HEC Resolution

K. Stipend Request – Teach Town Training

L. Stipend Request – Summer Workshop

4.03 – Student Services

M. Out of County Student Reassignment Request Summary – Attached

Superintendent --

Superintendent Information
The district had many retirement celebrations; extends congratulations to all retirees.

Graduations and promotions at all schools were wonderful. DeSoto Middle School especially – went very smooth.

Summer School schedules have been completed and the elementary sessions have begun.

Changes that we have sent to parents and posted online in reference to the uniform policy. It is more relaxed than last year. Striped shirts are allowed and students can wear other shirts besides polo’s. Those were two major changes that the school principal’s recommended. Ronny Allen questioned whether or not the changes needed to be approved by the board. Mr. Waldron believes it does. Mr. Waldron will check on the process.

The district is working on aligning duties so that we can meet the needs of Human Resource positions. The applications are being reviewed and interviews will take place the week of June 24th.

Public Presentations --

Public Presentations
There were no public presentations.
**Board Member Presentations**

Karen Chancey: We certainly had a busy end of year, but it went well. Asking Mr. Hollingsworth with board’s approval to contact the Department of Education: to do an investigation on grade change accusations that were made. Feels that would be the best interest of the board. It will bring a clarification to everything. Then we’ll be able to move forward.

Rodney Hollingsworth indicated that he received a letter from the Department of Education in response to a letter sent to Department Of Education from Mrs. Fusco.

Mrs. Chancey reiterated that she wants to be sure that the board is doing everything we should and could do involving this. Mentioned that she met with her mentor that is in the Florida School Board Association; and upon her recommendation last week, she is aware that there has been contacts made that the Department of Education (according to her) is not doing an investigation and they don’t do that unless the board requests it.

Mr. Hollingsworth did speak with someone from DOE: DOE only investigates fraud and mismanagement of funds. An interim report, however, can be supplied by the superintendent.

Dr. Gary indicated that she will not give report until investigation is complete. Those were the instructions that she’s following.

Mr. Stanko reported that the DeSoto Middle School Promotion was the best he’s seen. Other promotions went well. Checked in on summer school at West Elementary this morning which was also going smooth.

Mr. Allen asked Mr. Waldron to check on the role of transferring a principal to another school without board approval. (Stephenson to DHS)

Mr. Waldron stated that the board has the right to approve the positions. You allocate the positions that we have in the district and you also approve the individuals who are put in those positions as far as Instructional Personnel, Administrators, and Principals.

Dr. Gary responded that the list of administrative recommendations will go before the board on June 25th.

Mr. Allen questioned the effective date of Mr. Stephenson’s transfer to DeSoto High School.

Dr. Gary responded that the transfer took place to make certain Summer School runs smoothly and that everything is in order.

Bucky Waldron: To answer your question, Dr. Gary would not be able to appoint a principal. She could do it temporarily. As of going into next school year, the board must approve those decisions.

Ronny Allen: When it comes to having credentials, nothing could be added or subtracted to what it says now without board approval.

Bucky Waldron: You have the policy for that. You set the description and the requirements for the job. But if that’s changed, you (the board) will have to approve them.

Ronny Allen: Adds that “communication between the Superintendent and (at least this) Board member is “atrocious”. I’ve asked many times that if there was a major decision being made, before a mass email goes out to everyone, that this board member will be at least notified of what’s going on so that if I receive phone calls, I will be able to inform others (public) of what’s going on. I’ve always been told a major decision before it’s been released to the public. It’s not professional; it shows total disregard for this Board. I don’t understand it. I was assured it’d be better and it would not happen again. It continues. I’m upset about letters that went out today about who’s not getting their jobs back. I don’t understand the problem that a simple phone calls can’t be made. I’m not used to it, it’s almost like the board doesn’t
That’s why I’m having Bucky look these certain things up. We’re supposed to be a team, we’re supposed to work as a team but it’s not happening. Communication should be there. It’s not.

Dr. Gary: I don’t think it’s fair when members call and tell my secretary “I won’t throw you under the bus, I want this information” and my secretary feels very intimidated.

Ronny Allen: That was not the conversation. And, she’s our secretary. I ask for specific information about four times and I haven’t got it yet. I told her “I don’t want to throw anybody under the bus” I want the information. I don’t want to do it in a public meeting, I don’t want to get on to anybody, but when a board member asks for certain things, he should be able to receive it. I want to be involved in the information.

Dr. Gary: What information haven’t you received? I’m not aware of it.

Ronny Allen: Will speak with after or at a later date. It’s simple information that you shouldn’t be bothered with. Simple forms or packets, even job applicants that I wanted to see to be involved. Has asked three times and sent an email so it’s official. It’s nothing that I thought you should be involved in. It’s your concern, but it’s not dealing with you – you’re busy enough. But I can start going to you every time I want to get information. But I shouldn’t have to do that. I should be able to use our Board Secretary to say “I need this information” and that’s the way it worked in the past.

Bucky Waldron: I work with Dr. Gary every day and I do not perceive a lack of communication. May be ignorance as to what the board actually wants. I do not believe she’s trying to hold back information. There’s a different degree of information that each board member wants. As time goes on it will get better.

Bucky Waldron: Apologized on his behalf for not keeping up with litigation. Never thought it was an issue that board wanted information on but will consider that now. All sorts of things going on that he’s kept Superintendent informed on and will start to thoroughly inform the board. Will be happy to do that in the future. Will inform the board of legal issues where employees are suing us, where students or parents are suing us, and other legal incidents that have been happening.

Rodney Hollingsworth: Added that the chain should keep going, the Superintendent can inform board but not necessarily publicly.

Bill Stanko: Praises Nelson Stephenson as best principal he’s seen in a long time. I have been over to the middle school and have really watched it change for the better. He’s a great asset to our county. I agree that we need better communication. It’s a two way street; some of us are not working with the Superintendent and so I think we need to get together and get things done.

Ronny Allen: In no way was I talking about Mr. Stephenson’s ability to do well but shouldn’t we keep him at DMS to keep building what he’s been doing? We need stability in one school instead of instability in two. Why take him from DMS when he’s doing well over there? Even if the high school has no stability at this time, we should still keep stability at the middle school. There’s been no finding of guilt or any other information since the last meeting; it’s been drug on and it’s ridiculous that the investigation is taking this long. I thought DOE might get involved to speed this up because it’s ruined careers. If it happens that there’s no fault, no guilt on the accused, who’s at fault then? You’re talking about litigation.

Bill Stanko: I have heard of investigations going on two years.

Ronny Allen: School recognition dollars were withheld because of this. Unless maybe the flyer in the paper sped that up.
Dr. Gary: The reason why the dollars were released was because it was at year end. The dollars were scheduled to be released prior to the flyer being in the paper. The teachers and everyone who receives those dollars, if we are asked to pay them back, then the district would have to pay them back and get the money from the people who received them and shouldn’t have received them. That’s the legal aspect. Should the board ask for those dollars, that’s something that the board and Mr. Waldron will have to answer. The reason to release them is because it’s the end of school, some of the teachers are not going to come back to the district and it’s time to move on. It does not mean that the investigation is over, it doesn’t mean that there’s any guilt or innocence on any of the parties. We’re releasing those dollars.

Rodney Hollingsworth: High School Graduation: Disappointed especially since beach balls kept flying. I was embarrassed to see the class of 2013 partake in a disruptive manner. Mrs. Trawick tried to stop it; thanks her for that. Other Administration should have stopped service. There were students trying to pay attention but their caps kept getting knocked off, kept getting hit in the face, etc. Says he should have stopped it himself, didn’t know how to react to such a disturbance. Some 2013 class members apologized to him. Class sponsors shouldn’t have returned beach balls.

Dr. Gary: Mr. Wood and Jody Sullivan removed a number of the beach balls. The student sponsors kept throwing balls back to the students after they were taken away. Next year we will hold a higher level of expectation.

Adjournment –

Adjournment

On motion by Karen Chancey and second by William Stanko, the Board unanimously approved the following:

Adjournment 6:11 PM

Submitted by Taylor Hezlitt, acting board secretary