

**Bronson, FL**  
**February 4, 2014**  
**5:20 p.m.**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The School Board of Levy County met in Executive Session this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February at 5:20 p.m. with Board Chair Robert Philpot, Rick Turner, Paige Brookins, Chris Cowart, Cameron Asbell and Board Attorney David Delaney present.

**Expulsion Hearing:** The Board heard information regarding recommendation for expulsion. After the School Administrator and parents were sworn in by the court reporter and had given testimony, the following action was taken by the Board.

- 1) **Student 14-10** (student and parent present): Chris Cowart moved with second by Paige Brookins to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel the student for the remainder of the 2013-2014 SY and the 2014-2015 SY, with student being allowed to enroll at Hilltop Alternative School and to receive appropriate counseling while enrolled at Hilltop. Motion carried.
- 2) **Student 14-09** (student and parents present): Chris Cowart moved with second by Paige Brookins to table a recommendation at this time, allowing the Superintendent to meet with the School Board Administrative Team to explore further options for disciplinary action with the stipulation that the student's suspension from CMHS be extended until the next board meeting on February 18, 2014, and the student would not be allowed on any school campus or to attend any extracurricular activities at any school within Levy County. Motion carried.

**6:00 p.m.**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

The Board then met in regular session to continue with the remaining business of the Board.

From the audience, Board Chair Robert Philpot recognized Todd Gray. Mr. Gray said he was attending the meeting because his firm had not been selected on the short list of Construction Management Firms to present a proposal to the Board for the new WMHS project on February 18<sup>th</sup>. He said he was very disappointed that his firm had not been chosen because they are a local firm that would employ local people to do the work, putting money back into the county. He then introduced Mr. Chuck Roberts, owner of Culpepper Construction, the sub-contractor. Mr. Roberts explained to the Board that he had recently purchased Culpepper Construction and that was why there was a letter of surety instead of a complete financial statement for his company. He said he wanted to reassure the Board that his company has the capacity to meet the needs of the WMHS project. He said he wanted to make certain Gray Construction was not selected on that account and wanted to clear up any questions the Board or the committee might have. Mr. Gray said the RFQ ad had said there would be at least 3 presenters at the February 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, and asked if the board would consider having 4 presenters, allowing him to present. At that time, Board Chair Robert Philpot asked Jeff Edison to review the RFQ process for selection of the recommended firms. Mr. Philpot thanked Mr. Gray for his comments and information. Mr. Gray said he was not disagreeing with the review committee, but just wanted them to consider using local contractors who support the School Board and the county, and it was "hard to swallow" that his firm had not been chosen to present.

**Request to Amend Charter to allow VPK – WWCS:** Dr. Cornell, Director of Whispering Winds Charter School, presented rationale for the Board to allow the Charter School to amend their charter contract to add Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten to their offering in the fall for the new School Year. After discussion, Rick Turner moved with second by Cameron Asbell to amend the Charter School's charter contract to include VPK beginning in the fall of 2014 for the new school year, motion carried.

**LIA Design and Creation Presentation:** Barb Rivers reviewed the design and creation of Levy Interim Assessments for the district. She said that for Differentiated Accountability assessment requirements, the district must prescribe interim

(benchmark baseline, mid-year and mini) assessments in reading, writing, mathematics, and science for Level 1-3 students, AND that the district must participate in the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR) for Level 1-3 students. After a power-point presentation that reviewed the process for creating the LIA, the Board thanked Ms. Rivers for providing them with the information.

**Employee Recommendation: Nancy Priest - Suspension/Termination:** Superintendent Hastings made a recommendation for Board approval that Nancy Priest's employment with the School Board of Levy County be terminated as of tonight's meeting date, February 4, 2014, pursuant to FL Statute 1012.33 and School Board policy 6.11. After discussion and review of the evidence presented by the Superintendent, Paige Brookins moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation, second by Chris Cowart, motion carried.

**Minutes:** Cameron Asbell moved with second by Paige Brookins to approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2014 Board Meeting as submitted with the Board Agenda. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:** After discussion, Rick Turner moved with second by Chris Cowart, to approve the following items on the consent agenda with changes as recommended by the Superintendent. Motion carried.

**1. GENERAL ITEMS:**

**a) Employee Status Changes:**

1. Sheena Price, YTS Teacher Aide, *resignation for retirement*, effective May 31, 2014.
2. Wanda Castell, YTS Data Entry Clerk, *resignation for retirement*, effective July 1, 2014.
3. Susan Pasti, District ESE Secretary, *internal transfer* to Hospital / Homebound Teacher, effective April 1, 2013, replacing Marcia Baughn.

**b) Family Medical Leave Request:**

1. Greg Wright, District Bus Driver, January 13 through March 31, 2014.

**c) Personal Leave in Excess of Six (6) Days Leave Request:**

1. Lindsey Johns, District Bus Aide, January 21, 2014 through February 14, 2014, 6.25 hours per day.

**d) Professional Leave Requests:**

1. Secondary Reading Conference, Clearwater *amend date to* January 22(pm) – 26, 2014, expenses paid from project #11332 for the following: Carol Jones Dubois, Natalie Steinberg, Fidah Williams, and Linda Campbell.
2. FL Educational Technology Conference, January 28(pm) – 31, 2014, Orlando *amend to add* as follows:  
Charlotte Andrews, CES      expenses paid by employee, sub only cost to Board  
Rebecca Mack, CMHS      expenses paid from project #15322  
Stephanie Parks, CMHS      expenses paid from project #15322
3. Michelle W. Crawford, District TIF Coordinator, January 22 – 24, 2014, AVID Conference, Ft. Myers, expenses paid from AVID project #14897 and Title II project #40220F2014.

4. Steve Tyson and Joseph Wain, District Transportation Department, February 19 – 21, 2014, Mid year Transportation Director's Meeting, Tallahassee, expenses paid from project #17800.
5. FL DOE Local Assessment Training, Part 2, February 17 and 18, 2014, Orlando, expenses reimbursed by FL DOE: Barbara Rivers, Kathryn Lawrence and Michael Homan
6. Dr. Patrick Wnek, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, February 20 and 21, 2014, presenter at the College Board Forum, Atlanta, GA, expenses paid by College Board, no cost to Board.
7. Teresa Pinder, District Local Assistive Technology Specialist (LATS), February 24(pm) – 26, 2014, Technology Advisory Meeting and AT Work Group, New Smyrna, all expenses paid by MTSS, no cost to Board.
8. Rebecca M. Tyson, District Food Service Coordinator, April 23 – 27, 2014, FL School Nutrition Association State Conference, Orlando, expenses paid from project #41000.
9. Natalie Couey, WMS Teacher and FFA Advisor, May 4 and 5, 2014, FL FFA Award Training, Haines City, expense paid from project #15300.
10. FASFEPA / ECTAC Federal Grants Conference, May 5 – 7, 2014, Tampa, as follows:  
Valerie Boughanem – expenses paid from Title III project #40293F2014  
Laura Brown – expenses paid from Title I project #42412F2014 and reimbursed by FL DOE  
Michael Homan, Lori Lott and Anna Mikell – expenses paid from Title I project #42412F2014
11. Maya Hebert, WMS Teacher, January 30 and 31, 2014, AP Symposium, Jacksonville, no cost to Board.

**e) Student Trip Requests:**

1. FL State Fair, Tampa, Livestock Show and Judging Contests, sub only cost to Board:  
BMHS Marcia Smith, 2 students, personal vehicle – February 5 – 8, 2014  
CMHS Dallas Locke, 2 students, personal vehicle – February 5 – 9, 2014  
WHS Ben Randolph, 7 students, county van – February 7 and 8, 2014
2. WMS AVID Class Trip, March 21 and 22, 2014, Atlanta Hawks Sports Marketing Speaker Series and College Fair, Atlanta, GA, chaperones Stephanie and Trevor Yocum, Katie West, Tanya and Jeff Taylor, 50 students, commercial carrier – BUS, expenses paid by AVID project #14897.
3. CMHS / BMHS Student Government FASC State Convention, February 14 – 16, 2014, Lake City, chaperones Valerie and Ron Perez, Kim Nemeth, 30 students, 1 regular school bus, expenses paid internal account, no cost to board.
4. YTS FCAT Reward / Incentive Trip for Level 4 and 5 Students, February 11, 2014, Crackers Restaurant in Crystal River, chaperones Melody Carson and Denise Dillon, 28 students, commercial carrier – LIMOSUINE, expenses paid from internal account, no cost to Board.
5. Judy Beauchamp, BMHS Teacher, February 7(pm) and 8, 2014, State Weightlifting Meet, Kissimmee, Tanya Mercer Chaperone, 1 student, county vehicle, expenses paid internal account, no cost to Board.

f) **Recommendations:**

1. Out-of-field assignments for 2013-2014 school year:

Site	Employee	Certification	OOF Area(s)
WMS	Kathryn West	Health K-12; MGI Curr. 5-9; Gifted End.	M/J Int. Rdg.
HAS	Sandra Foster	Elem Ed K-6; ESOL K-12; EMH K-12; Art K-12; Math 5-9	Lib Arts Math; Pre-Calculus

2. Cliff M. Lohrey, WHS Teacher, effective February 18, 2014, replacing James Baker.
3. Lewis Hughes, Maintenance Department – Electrician, effective February 17, 2014, vacancy.
4. Alexandria Zettler, CKS OPS Avid Tutor, effective January 20, 2014.
5. Molly L. Cowart, CKS OPS Avid Tutor, effective January 20, 2014.

2. **FINANCE:**

- a) General Fund Budget Summary Info as of January 2014
- b) Budget Amendments #5A and #5B
- c) School Recognition A+ Bonus for 2012-2013, gross amount paid from project #13450F2013 for all schools: **(SEE SUPPLEMENTAL MINUTES)**

**Superintendent's Comments / Recommendations:** Superintendent Hastings said the new WMHS was in the Governor's budget. He said that the Governor had also recommended continued increases up to 400 million to fund teacher and ESP pay raises. He said with the state predicting some 12,000 new students entering FL schools, the Governor's budget comes in higher than in 2007, but it actually funds some 80,000 more students now than back in 2007. He said sparcity and technology funding was up a little statewide, but with the need to upgrade the district's infrastructure for the next phase of Bring Your Own Device (BOYD), the \$300,000 Levy County would get won't go far. He reported that the Professional Development Day on February 3<sup>rd</sup> was a great success and very well done by District staff and the presenters with a variety of offerings for our teachers. He said he was very pleased with the GALA and that the event was at sold out capacity this year, thanking everyone involved.

**Board Comments:** Cameron Asbell commented also on the GALA event. He also commented that he appreciated the follow-up presentations on programs the Board had approved and would like to see that continue. Chris Cowart said he had attended the Professional Development Day also and appreciated the planning by District staff. He said he has heard good things about the Healthcare Center and how it's working out. He also said there may be funding from the BP Restore Act for a new aquarium in Cedar Key that schools could use for environmental science instruction. He said the Foundation raised \$35,000.00 at the GALA and thanked everyone involved for helping to make it such a successful fundraiser for the Foundation. Rick Turner said we needed to make sure "Welcome Visitors" was an item added back on the Board Agenda to show that we do include comments / information from the public as part of Board Meetings. Robert Philpot also commented on Professional Development Day saying he was very impressed with the presenters and hopes the District will continue to offer such high quality events for our teachers.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Robert O. Hastings, Secretary

APPROVED:

Robert E. Philpot, Chairman