

**Bronson, FL
December 16, 2014
8:30 a.m.**

REGULAR SESSION

The School Board of Levy County met in Executive Session this 16th day of December, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. with Board Chair Rick Turner, Paige Brookins, Chris Cowart, Cameron Asbell, Robert Philpot and Board Attorney David Delaney present.

Superintendent Hastings introduced Judge James T. Browning who administered the Oath of Office to Rick Turner, Robert Philpot and Cameron Asbell, returning Board Members who ran unopposed in the 2014 election. The Board then went into Executive Session to consider students for expulsion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Expulsion Hearings: The Board heard information regarding recommendations for expulsion. After the School Administrator and parent/guardians were sworn in by the Court Reporter and had given testimony, the following action was taken by the Board.

Student 15-03 (student and parent present): Chris Cowart moved with second by Cameron Asbell to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel the student for the remainder of the 2014-2015 SY and the 2015-2016 SY, with the opportunity to enroll at Levy Learning Academy beginning the 2nd semester on January 16, 2015. Motion carried.

Student 15-04 (student and parent present): Robert Philpot moved with second by Paige Brookins to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to expel the student for the remainder of the 2014-2015 SY and the 2015-2016 SY, with the opportunity to enroll at Levy Learning Academy beginning the 2nd semester on January 16, 2015. Motion carried.

LLA Recommendations – Return to School for 2nd Semester 2014/2015 SY Levy Learning Academy Principal Dennis Webber reported on each students' academic and behavioral progress at LLA. After questioning the student and parents, the Board took the following action:

Student 14-21 (student and parents present): Superintendent Hastings made the recommendation for the student to return to CMHS for the 2nd semester of the school year, beginning January 16, 2015. Chris Cowart moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation, second by Paige Brookins, motion carried.

Student 14-05 (student and parents present): Superintendent Hastings made the recommendation for the student to return to WHS for the 2nd semester of the school year, beginning January 16, 2015, pending a certified clean drug test (not a home test administered by the parents). Robert Philpot moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation, second by Cameron Asbell, motion carried.

**9:20 a.m.
REGULAR SESSION**

Resolution #15-01 "Assessment and Accountability" : As requested by the Board at the December 2, 2014 Board Meeting, Superintendent Hastings presented Resolution #15-01 "Assessment and Accountability" and the cover letter to Governor Rick Scott and Florida Legislators for Board Approval. After review and discussion, Chris Cowart made the motion to approve the Resolution and distribute to everyone addressed in the cover letter, second by Paige Brookins, motion carried. The original copies of the Resolution and the cover letter were signed by the Superintendent and all

Board Members to be mailed to the Governor and Legislators. (see supplemental minutes)

Budget for GMP - New Williston Middle High School: Jeff Edison and Bob Clemons presented the estimated budget for the New Williston Middle High School. After review and discussion of the budget which provides for a 10% retainage and other additional items, Cameron Asbell moved to approve the Budget as presented, second by Paige Brookins, motion carried. (see supplemental minutes)

Contract for Sale and Purchase – Escobar Easement New WMHS: Jeff Edison reviewed with the Board the final contract, including pictures of the property location, for the purchase of the easement property for the new WMHS. He said there were no substantial changes from the previous document, mainly typos that were corrected. He said Attorney Charles Koval expects that the original contract with all the sellers' signatures should be received after the New Year, at which point Mr. Edison will bring the original document back before the board for final approval and signatures. Board Chairman Rick Turner thanked Mr. Edison for the update. (see supplemental minutes)

Request for Public Hearing January 20, 2015 to Adopt/Amend School Board Policies: Jeff Edison then requested approval to advertise for a Public Hearing on January 20, 2015 concerning the following Board Policies: 1.01 Mission Statement, 3.12 Public Info and Inspection of Records, 4.01 Student Progression Plan, 4.06 Requirements for Graduation, 4.36 Allocation of Instructional Materials, 4.40 District and State-Wide Assessment Program, 4.41 Security of Tests, 5.19 Educational Records, 5.20 Directory Information Draft, 5.021 Homeless Student, 5.32 Club Initiation Ceremony-Hazing Activities, 6.30 Assessment of Employees, and 6.37 Employee Personnel Files. Mr. Edison said no changes were needed for Board Policy 5.021 and it would be pulled from the list of policies for consideration. He said Policies 3.12, 4.01, 4.36 and 5.20 had statute reference changes only. During review and discussion, changes were made to Policies 4.40, 5.19 and 6.30. Mr. Edison noted the changes and will correct the copies for Board Approval at the Public Hearing on January 20th. After further review and discussion, Chris Cowart moved to allow advertisement for Public Hearing on January 20, 2015, second by Cameron Asbell, motion carried. (see supplemental minutes)

Minutes: Robert Philpot moved with second by Paige Brookins to approve the Minutes of the November 12, 2014 Board Policy Workshop and the December 2, 2014 Board Meeting, with changes as submitted with the Board Agenda. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda: Jeff Edison informed the Board that item 2. under f) Student Trip Requests would be pulled from the consent agenda due to conflicting information regarding transportation. After discussion, Paige Brookins 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) Personnel Changes / Recommendations:

1. Katherine Corbin – CMHS, status funding change effective August 11, 2014 as follows:

From	1000E 6400 0130 0051 11332	64%
	4210E 5100 0120 0051 40241F2015	33%
	4210E 6400 0130 0051 40241F2015	3%
To	4210E 6400 0130 0051 40220F2015	64%
	4210E 5100 0120 0051 40241F2015	33%
	4210E 6400 0130 0051 40241F2015	3%

2. Whitney Drew, JBES Teacher transfer to WMS Teacher, effective January 5, 2015.
3. Jack Dulaney, Vision Christian Academy Title I OPS Paraprofessional, increase hours worked from

4.5 per day to 6.0 per day, effective December 18, 2014.

4. Sally Throckmorton, WES Teacher, **exiting DROP**, effective January 30, 2015, and payment for any unused sick leave.
5. Lois Solly, CMHS Guidance Counselor, **resignation for retirement**, effective January 16, 2015, and payment for any unused leave.
6. Hang Thanh (Julie) Nguyen, BES Guidance Counselor, **resignation** effective December 12, 2014, and payment for any unused leave, original hire date August 11, 2008.
7. Christina Story – CMHS, status funding change effective September 8, 2014 as follows:

From	4240E 5200 0120 0051 40230F2015	100%
To	1000E 5200 0120 0051 11020	100%
8. Wilda Long, CMHS Teacher, effective January 5, 2015, replacing Jerrine McClelland.
9. Joe P. Yoder, YTS Teacher, effective January 5, 2015, replacing Laura Brannen.
10. Cynthia Battle, WHS Teacher, effective December 8, 2014, replacing Phil Dignan.

b) Family Medical Request:

1. Patricia Crews, CMHS Teacher Aide, December 4 (4.5 hours) – December 19, 2014 (7.5 hours per day).

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

1. Virginia Floyd, Transportation, November 26 – December 19, 2014 (6.5 hours per day).
2. Robin Romagnolo, BES VPK Teacher Aide, August 17 **amend dates to** through December 7, 2014.

d) Illness-In-The-Line-Of-Duty Leave Request:

1. Laura Brown, District Coordinator PK/Truancy/SS, December 4, and 5, 2014 (8.0 hours per day).
2. Andree Robinson, YTS Data Entry Clerk, December 2, 2014 (1.0 hour).
3. Yvonne Rogers, CKS Teacher Aide, December 4, 2014 (6.0 hours).

e) Professional Leave Request:

1. Scott Hall, WHS Teacher, December 4 and 5, 2014, FACA Baseball Clinic, Daytona Beach, sub only cost to Board.
2. Valerie Boughanem, Disitrect Testing / ESOL Coordinator, January 19 (pm) 20 and 21, 2015, Worldclass Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) New State Standards for English Language Development (ELLs) Conference, Tampa, paid from project #18320.
3. Kathryn M. Lawrence, District STEM Coordinator, January 20 – 23, 2015, FETC Conference and FL Association of Mathematics Supervisors Meeting, Orlando, paid from projects #43407F2015 and

#40270F2015.

4. Rachel Ortiz, LLA Teacher, FL Educational Technology Conference, January 20 and 21, 2015, Orlando, expenses from Professional Development for Digital Learning Grant project #43407F2015.
5. Dr. Rosalind Hall, Director ESE / SS, April 25 – 29, 2015, LRP Legal Issues of Educating Students with Disabilities, Denver, CO, expenses paid from IDEA project #40230.
6. Nathaniel Davis, District Coordinator MIS/Technology, March 11 – 13, 2015, Skyward iCON Conference, St. Petersburg, expenses paid from project #13751.
7. Ben Randolph, WHS Teacher and FFA Advisor, January 22-25, 2015, Mid-Winter Conference at the Leadership Training Center, Haines City, expenses paid from project #15322.
8. National AVID Conference, December 10(pm)-13, 2014, Orlando, expenses paid by AVID / GearUP reimbursement project #14895: Katie Jones, April Fleetwood and Danielle Rosson.
9. Chad Brock, January 3 and 4, 2015, American Baseball Coaches Assn. Conference, Orlando, no cost to Board.
10. FETC Conference, January 20 – 23, 2015, Orlando as follows:
Matthew McLelland – CMHS, expense paid from project #43407F2015
Clayton Allen – CES, expenses paid Prof. Dev. for Digital Learning Grant project #43407F2015
Charlotte Andrews – CES, sub only cost to Board
11. Carol Jones, District, January 22-24, 2015, Secondary Reading Conference, Jacksonville, expenses paid from project #11332.

f) Student Trip Requests:

1. CMHS Varsity Cheerleaders – December 4 – 7, 2014, perform at all championship game, Charlotte North Carolina, Coach Tammy Garner and chaperones Steven Gardner, Linda Jones, Brian Jones, Melissa Allen and Will Allen, 14 students, private vehicles, all expenses paid internal account, no cost to Board.

2. FINANCE:

- a) Financial Statement as of November 2014
- b) Budget Amendments #6A and #6B
- c) Permission to declare the following items as surplus property, and to sell items on the on-line auction “govdeals.com”:

<u>Property No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Acquisition</u>	<u>Amount</u>
C – 8502	International Bus, #9803	05 / 98	\$41,559.00
C – 8503	International Bus, # 9804	05 / 98	\$41,559.00
C – 8508	International Bus, # 9861	05 / 98	\$41,559.00
C – 8510	International Bus, # 9863	05 / 98	\$41,559.00
C – 9186	Thomas Built Bus, # 9910	07 / 99	\$47,188.00

Superintendent's Comments / Recommendations: Superintendent Hastings read his reponse to the accusations Gerald Lawrence has voiced against him and the Board, both at the Board Meetings and on social media. He said he wanted to read his response to the Board and make it part of the official minutes. Mr. Hastings reminded the Board that School Board Offices would be closed from December 22 through January 5th and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. (see attachment "A" and supplemental minutes)

Board Comments: Paige Brookins informed the Board she would have a conflict with the January 20, 2015 Board Meeting. She asked that the time be changed from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cameron Asbell moved to change the meeting time as requested from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., second by Chris Cowart, motion carried. Mr. Hastings said Pam would advertise the change in meeting time in local newspapers as required. Paige also requested to add to the next Board Agenda the recommendation to flip-flop the day meeting (1st Board Meeting at 9:00 a.m.) and the night meeting (2nd Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.) to accommodate a conflict she has. She said she takes being a Board Member very serious and does not want to miss any meetings. Superintendent Hastings said it would be on the next Board Agenda for consideration. All Board Members wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned with the Board going to CES for their School Visit.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Robert O. Hastings, Secretary

Rick Turner, Chairman

Attachment “A” RESPONSE TO G. LAWRENCE

Members of the Board, I have spent the last thirty years defending and protecting the students, educators and staff of our schools in Levy County. As the Superintendent of Schools, I will continue to support our dedicated teachers as they labor in the educating of students. Education is not an easy occupation, but the intrinsic reward is the knowledge that we are doing a noble work for the individual and our society as a whole.

Furthermore, I know that each of you share the same passion for our students and educational system that I possess. Collectively, we have dedicated well over a century, either teaching or administrating in the Levy County Schools. It is this passion, this commitment that continues to push Levy educators and students to greater achievements. Allow me to enumerate just a few of these accomplishments’.

- 1) High schools nationally acclaimed for high quality advanced placement and dual enrollment programs
- 2) End of course exams ranks Levy Students in the top 15% of the state in geometry and U.S. History while 99% of eighth graders pass the EOC for algebra 1.
- 3) In 2013 the Florida College Board named Levy County to the AP honor roll. Only one of eleven districts in the state to receive this honor.
- 4) Since 2010 we increased the number of high school students taking dual enrollment college courses by 54%.
- 5) The accolades in our multitude of other programs are too many to enumerate, i.e. athletics, band, chorus, vocational and their clubs, THE LIST GOES ON.....
- 6) This by NO means is an exhaustive list, but just a sampling of the wonderful attributes of the Levy County School system.

I would never portray the idea that we have met all of our goals and are satisfied with our achievements. There is much work to be done and we will continue to devote all resources to move our district upwards.

While serving as Superintendent there have been many additional challenges placed on educators by the Federal and State Legislatures. These include, but not limited to: a reduction in State budget by 11 million dollars; changes in evaluation systems; changes in pay scale structure; changes in state standardized testing, and more (much more) testing of students; curriculum changes; etc. In fact we are currently addressing 34 mandated and largely unfunded mandates.

Even though I make no apology for holding employees to a high standard of accountability and will not tolerate unlawful activities, the mistreatment of children, nor unacceptable job performance; I hold our 900 employees in high esteem. It is truly a time for compassion for our educators, administrators, educational support personnel and most importantly ---- our students. It is a time for working together, a time to help each other. Together we can make a difference!!

Robert O. Hastings, Superintendent