



07 24 2018 TENTATIVE BUDGET 9 00 AM

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Pledge of Allegiance

Call Meeting to Order

Acceptance of Agenda

1. [Accept the Agenda for the July 24, 2018 Special School Board Meeting](#)

Motions:

Motion to accept the agenda for the Special Meeting of July 24, 2018. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Tim Harris

Second: Hazel Sellers

Lori Cunningham - Absent

Kay Fields - Aye

Tim Harris - Aye

Sara Beth Reynolds - Aye

Hazel Sellers - Aye

Billy Townsend - Aye

Special Recognitions

Public Comments on Agenda Items

2. [SPEAKERS](#)

Minutes:

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Consent Agenda

New Administrator Announcements

Consent

Regular

Business Services General Items

3. [Permission to Advertise the Superintendent's 2018-2019 Tentative Budget](#)

Attachment: [Permission to Advertise July 24, 2018 file.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer, requested to advertise the 2018-19 Tentative Budget on Saturday, July 28, 2018. The numbers may change slightly before the final vote on September 4, 2018. We ended the year at 4.26%.

Mr. Wilson asked if the 4% fund balance will affect our cash flow. Mr. Perrone responded that we may need to dip into our investment dollars or consider doing a TAN (Tax Anticipation Note). However, he doesn't believe we qualify for a TAN just yet.

Motions:

Motion to accept the 2018-2019 Tentative Budget for advertising. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Hazel Sellers

Second: Kay Fields

Lori Cunningham - Absent

Kay Fields - Aye

Tim Harris - Aye

Sara Beth Reynolds - Aye

Hazel Sellers - Aye

Billy Townsend - Aye

Lynn Wilson - Aye

Motions:

Motion to advertise on July 28, 2018, for the Public Hearing to be held no earlier than 5:01 PM on July 31, 2018. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Hazel Sellers

Second: Billy Townsend

Lori Cunningham - Absent

Kay Fields - Aye

Tim Harris - Aye

Sara Beth Reynolds - Aye

Hazel Sellers - Aye

Billy Townsend - Aye

Lynn Wilson - Aye

Public Hearing

Superintendent's Report

Attorney's Report

Auditor's Report

Board Members' Report

4. [Billy Townsend, District 1](#)

Minutes: Mr. Townsend stated that he felt that his oath required him to do the things he has done. He took an oath to the public that elected him and who are paying him. He feels compelled to tell the public the truth. His request for an outside review came from Florida Association's Fall conference. He, too, receives emails and phone calls from people who support his type of energetic oversight on actions. He appreciated Mr. Wilson's comments and will support the upgraded of Carol Matthews.

5. [Lori Cunningham, District 2](#)

6. [Hazel Sellers, District 3](#)

7. [Sara Beth Reynolds, District 4](#)

8. [Kay Fields, District 5](#)

Minutes: Mrs. Fields hopes and prays that we can get pass all of this and do what is best for all children. She looks forward to the day that we can see the good in all of us. Let's do the best job possible for our students.

9. [Lynn Wilson, District 6](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson commented that he welcomes the skills sets, back ground, experience, and enthusiasm that Mr. Townsend brought to the Board. Mr. Wilson believes it is healthy to bring forward issues, concerns, problems, and grievances to be discussed and addressed by the Board. The Board would then direct the Superintendent to act or not act on the issue. It is never appropriate for a Board to readdress issues, concerns, problems, and grievances except under certain circumstances as required by law. It is never appropriate for an individual board member to do that. It is a violation of state law, it's inconsistent with our policies; and, it's just bad business. When an individual board member involves himself in the everyday business of an organization, it can very quickly paralyze an organization. As a Board Member we all took an oath to uphold the constitution, to obey the laws of the State of Florida, follow our policies and follow Robert's Rules of Order. We have been consistently violating state law and our policies, nor have we been conducting ourselves in accordance to Robert's Rules of Order.

We probably all agree that we will not be getting any additional revenue from the State any time soon. We do have an outside group working hard to convince the community to help us. The World Class group brought in a consultant to do some polling

who spoke to each of us individually and stated that the quickest way to derail that effort is for there to be a perception that the Board isn't conducting itself as a Board. In talking with other board members, consultants, and folks in other districts who have worked through these referendums over the past years, they have said the same thing. Given the recent events and newspaper articles, Mr. Wilson's phone has been ringing constantly and people have been approaching him in public. The gravity of the situation has become very serious.

Mr. Wilson has looked at the K-12 document; it states it is a quote. It is not unusual for a quote to be signed; it signifies that a quote was received and there is an interest. Quotes have to be ratified either with a purchase order or a contract. In our case, it would be a contract. He asked Mike Perrone and Carol Matthews if we had a contract; they both said no, there is no contract. I asked if payments have been made to K-12 on the \$1.8 million quote. The answer again was no and Mrs. Matthews verified that information. However, given the recent comments, the general public may now think that something underhanded took place. We should be celebrating that the checks and balances in place are working. Instead the perception of the public is that we have lost control of the Board.

Another concern is when we invited the Sheriff to come speak to us and Mr. Townsend made the conversation intensely personal and very clearly challenged the Sheriff on having teachers carrying guns. However, Sheriff Judd repeated several times that he would work with us to create a plan. In each of those statements, you challenged the veracity of his statements. In that case, we were clearly not in compliance with Robert's Rules of Order. When we invite someone here as a guest, we have the responsibility to treat them as our guest. The reality is that it is unlikely we will be able to have another elected official come as a guest to answer questions before us.

Mr. Wilson next commented on the situation with a certain principal and a contract that was not renewed. Regardless of the merits of that situation, the reality is that the employee filed a complaint with the EEOC which means an independent investigation will be held. It is entirely inappropriate for this district to continue to engage or interject itself in that process once it's gone to a federal regulatory agency. It could be seen by them that we are interfering with their process. The teacher has chosen a path that is appropriate. For the Board to continue to involve ourselves in the process is only going to muddy the waters and create challenges for us and the employee. Mr. Wilson understands that Mr. Townsend has concerns about the principal's professional conduct. The Board directed Superintendent Byrd that we would have zero tolerance for sexual harassment. He is confident that Mrs. Byrd will address these matters appropriately. The Board has addressed every issue that Mr. Townsend has brought to the table. However, we cannot cross the line when it comes to administering punishment because it is against state laws, our policies, and Robert's Rules of Order.

Mr. Wilson stated that because he was very concerned on how conversations regarding K-12 were reported he has advised Superintendent Mrs. Byrd that her staff should not, in any circumstance, interact directly with any board member except thru her. Any information a board member would like to be brought forward should be through the Superintendent. If a board member has an issue that requires research, it should be brought to the Board for consensus to move forward. This is already the Board's policy. He is concerned that there is a possibility of an employee or former employee taking

advantage of the school district. He is working with Mr. Bridges to create a policy to address these concerns.

Mr. Wilson reminded the Board that he has been negotiating contracts with Mrs. Matthews and Mr. Bridges. He will be recommending that Mrs. Matthew be upgraded from Internal Auditor to Inspector General. This will provide her the authority to investigate both financial and non-financial matters.

He thanked Mr. Townsend for bringing things to the Board's attention as well as his enthusiasm. Mr. Wilson asked that Mr. Townsend have confidence in his colleagues. Mrs. Byrd is one of the most ethical persons he has ever worked with. Her integrity is beyond reproach and she will do everything to make sure that situations are handled correctly and properly.

Mr. Wilson reiterated that there is a lot at stake here; we need to work as a Board to solve our problems and move the District forward in a positive way.

10. [Tim Harris, District 7](#)

Minutes: Mr. Harris commented that when he and Superintendent Byrd arranged to attend a regularly scheduled staff meeting at Tenoroc High School there was no on going investigation that this Board was aware of. You were aware of it because of outside information given to you. He asked Townsend to accept that. He would appreciate Mr. Townsend refraining from insinuating that he (Mr. Harris) involved himself in the investigation.

Public Comments Addressing Items Not on Agenda

11. [SPEAKERS](#)

Minutes: Marianne Capozziello reminded everyone about Polk Education's 40,000 free book giveaway this Saturday, July 28th at Tenoroc High School.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 AM. Minutes were approved and attested this 21st day of August, 2018.

Lynn Wilson, Board Chair

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent