



11 20 2018 School Board Reorganization Meeting 9 00 AM

For ADA assistance, contact the Office of Equity and Compliance, 534-0781, at least 3 business days before the meeting. A voluntary invocation may be offered before the opening of the School Board meeting by a private citizen. The views or beliefs expressed in the invocation have not been reviewed nor approved by the School Board, and the Board is not allowed, by law, to endorse the religious beliefs or view of this, or any other speaker.

Pledge of Allegiance

Call Meeting to Order

Acceptance of Agenda

1. [Accept the Agenda of the November 20, 2018 Reorganization Meeting](#)

Motions:

Motion to accept the Agenda for the November 20, 2018 Reorganization Meeting. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Sara Beth Reynolds

Second: Lori Cunningham

Lori Cunningham - Aye

Kay Fields - Aye

Sarah Fortney - Not Present

Lisa Miller - Not Present

Sara Beth Reynolds - Aye

Billy Townsend - Aye

Special Recognitions

Public Comments on Agenda Items

2. [SPEAKERS](#)

Approval of Minutes

Oath of Office

3. [Sarah Fortney, School Board Member District 3](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Fortney voiced appreciation for all the support she received over the past two years. She will miss her classroom but intends to serve the district to the best of her ability and with the same passion she had in the classroom. She thanked her family, her neighbor Diane, Pike who is streaming this event, her friends and co-workers. She is humbled to serve.

4. [Kay Fields, School Board Member District 5](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Fields thanked God for his faithfulness and provided comments on events that occurred during this campaign. This was her fifth campaign and the most unusual she has ever experienced. To have a sitting board member openly campaign to unseat a sitting board member is unconscionable. If Mr. Townsend had been kind and respectful of her opinions and that of others, he would not have had to campaign so hard to unseat her. His bullying and blogging false things about her and her husband only encouraged her to work that much harder to retain the seat. His tactics and ugliness helped her focus on what was important. What he and others meant for her bad, God turned it to her good. She stated that what goes around comes around and Mr. Townsend will reap what he sowed. She thanked her husband for his wise counsel and encouragement along the way. She also thanked the voters for their confidence that has allowed her to return for a fifth term. She promised to be a strong voice for all children. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

5. [Lynn Wilson, School Board Member District 6](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson thanked the voters for their confidence. He looks forward to working with his fellow board members and superintendent in continuing to move the district forward. He recognized his wife and son who were in attendance.

6. [Lisa Miller, School Board Member District 7](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Miller voiced appreciation for those who have been dedicated to her campaign this year and when she ran four years ago. She stated she is the first board seat that will represent students with disabilities and thanked everyone for their confidence in electing someone that will speak for all students no matter their ability and the staff that serves them.

Reorganization of the Board

7. [Election of Chairman](#)

Minutes:

The floor was opened for nominations:

Ms. Reynolds nominated Lynn Wilson to serve as Chair.

There were no other nominations.

Motions:

Motion to close nominations and name Lynn Wilson as Board Chair.

- PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Lori Cunningham

Second: Billy Townsend

Lori Cunningham - Aye

Kay Fields - Aye

Sarah Fortney - Aye

Lisa Miller - Aye

Sara Beth Reynolds - Aye

Billy Townsend - Aye

Lynn Wilson - Aye

8. [Election of Vice Chairman](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Townsend nominated Lori Cunningham to serve as Vice Chair.

There were no other nominations.

Motions:

Motion to close nominations and name Lori Cunningham as Vice Chair.

- PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Billy Townsend

Second: Lynn Wilson

Lori Cunningham - Aye

Kay Fields - Aye

Sarah Fortney - Aye

Lisa Miller - Aye

Sara Beth Reynolds - Aye

Billy Townsend	- Aye
Lynn Wilson	- Aye

9. [Designation of time, date and place of School Board Meeting](#)

Minutes:

Motions:	
Motion to hold Work Sessions on the second and fourth Tuesdays in the Superintendent's Conference Room at 9:00 AM and 12:30 PM, respectively. School Board Meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday at 5:00 PM in the School Board Auditorium located at 1915 S. Floral Avenue, Bartow, Fl.	- PASS
Additional meetings of the School Board will be scheduled as needed.	
Vote Results	
Motion: Lisa Miller	
Second: Lynn Wilson	
Lori Cunningham	- Aye
Kay Fields	- Aye
Sarah Fortney	- Aye
Lisa Miller	- Aye
Sara Beth Reynolds	- Aye
Billy Townsend	- Aye
Lynn Wilson	- Aye

Motion Minutes:

Mr. Townsend announced that he would like to schedule an informal meeting of the Board for Sunday, December 2nd at 2:30 PM to discuss constituent service. It would allow an opportunity for the Board to get to know one another outside the pressure of a work session with limited time to discuss topics. Some board members may not be able or wish to attend but it would be a start.

Mrs. Cunningham suggested an evening during the week, perhaps Tuesday, December 4th.

Ms. Fortney believes different times for meetings are needed to allow employees to add their input.

Mr. Wilson asked the School Board Attorney, Wes Bridges, to provide input.

Mr. Bridges stated that if it is an informal meeting with one or two board members in attendance, there would be no formal actions taken. The only requirement would be a formal notice and open to the public. If it is to be a regularly established meeting of the school board, he suggested someone be there to record it and take minutes.

Mr. Wilson clarified that Mr. Townsend's request is for an informal meeting which would only require a public notice.

Mr. Townsend confirmed that was his request but he would like it taped. He believes to have a staff member there taking minutes is a waste of time but feels it should be taped so people can listen to it. He doesn't expect a formal agenda. The idea is for the Board to come together outside the pressure of a work session where you have 15 minutes increments to discuss things. For the first meeting he would like to talk about how the Board can address constituents' concerns. How the Board can divide them up amongst themselves in a way that is efficient and useful and how that may play into how staff wants it done. Staff is welcome to come obviously but it is a meeting for the Board and the public who wants to come and tell the Board things. Details would need to be worked out on the structure on how the Board talks with the public. This would be an experimental process; just do one and learn from there is his thoughts.

Mr. Wilson summarized that it will be an informal meeting; it will require a public notice and is to be recorded, however, no actions will take place. Mr. Townsend stated that in no circumstance does he see any actions taken place - it would be a 'white board' session.

Mrs. Miller stated that the city holds Policy Meetings twice a month. They are informal sessions where they review things that may possibly become agenda items but there is no formality to the meeting, it is just an open discussion. She believes this is something the Board should consider.

Mrs. Byrd noted that there is a Quarterly Sales Tax Oversight Committee meeting scheduled for the 4th. After a brief discussion on alternate dates, Superintendent Byrd suggested that the Board's Executive Assistance, Susan, coordinate dates with the Board.

10. [Resolution 2018/2019 - 11; Warrants Drawn Against School Funds](#)

Attachment: [Resolution 2018 2019 11.pdf](#)

Motions:

Motion to approve Resolution 2018/19-11,

authorizing Banks to honor and cash warrants signed by the Board Chair and Secretary to the School Board. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Lori Cunningham

Second: Sara Beth Reynolds

Lori Cunningham - Aye

Kay Fields - Aye

Sarah Fortney - Aye

Lisa Miller - Aye

Sara Beth Reynolds - Aye

Billy Townsend - Aye

Lynn Wilson - Aye

11. [Proceedings of School Board Meetings](#)

Motions:

Motion to approve that proceedings of the School Board Meetings will be held in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Revised and Rules of the Administrative Procedures Act. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Sara Beth Reynolds

Second: Billy Townsend

Lori Cunningham - Aye

Kay Fields - Aye

Sarah Fortney - Aye

Lisa Miller - Aye

Sara Beth Reynolds - Aye

Billy Townsend - Aye

Lynn Wilson - Aye

Approval of Consent Agenda

New Administrator Announcements

Consent

Regular

Public Hearing

Superintendent's Report

12. [Superintendent's Comments](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Byrd wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Attorney's Report

Auditor's Report

Board Members' Report

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

Minutes:

Mr. Townsend congratulated Mrs. Fields on her re-election; it was a hard fought campaign. He believes in political competition; he believes it makes everyone better; it forces us to think about things. He welcomes anybody who decides to run against him in 2020. That is part of the process, it is not about us or what we are entitled to. These seats aren't personal seats they are the public seats and the public deserves to be competed for. He makes no apologies for that and he asked for no one not to compete with him.

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

Minutes:

Mrs. Cunningham congratulated Mrs. Miller and Ms. Fortney for their successful campaigns and to Mrs. Fields for her re-election. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and encouraged everyone to read over the holidays.

Mrs. Cunningham congratulated Mr. Wilson on being re-elected unopposed and for his guidance again as Board Chair.

15. [Sarah Fortney, District 3](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Fortney commented she looks forward to working with the Board and the Superintendent and her staff to move the district forward as she has been in the classroom. She congratulated Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Fields.

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

Minutes:

Ms. Reynolds asked who is the alternate for the FSBA Board of Directors. Mr. Wilson clarified that Mrs. Cunningham is the alternate.

She, too, congratulated Mrs. Miller, Ms. Fortney, and Mrs. Fields.

Ms. Reynolds wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Minutes:

Mrs. Fields congratulated Ms. Fortney and Mrs. Miller on their election to the School Board and looks forward to working with them.

She thanked her family and friends in attendance.

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

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson congratulated Ms. Fortney, Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Fields on their elections. He thanked everyone for coming to support their newly elected board members.

He is grateful for all the hard workers that helped with the half cent sales tax referendum. It was very time consuming but the district will reap the benefits in the coming years.

19. [Lisa Miller, District 7](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Miller voiced appreciation to her family and friends. She appreciates this opportunity, the Superintendent and her motto of Students First. She will represent all students. Mrs. Miller stated her only agenda is to move the board forward and being the voice of all students and the staff of Polk County. This is a higher honor than any Governor appointment. She will look for the guidance of her fellow board members and rely on their years of experience and energy on her journey as a board member.

Public Comments Addressing Items Not on Agenda

20. [SPEAKERS](#)

Minutes:

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 AM. Minutes were approved and attested this 11th day of December, 2018.

Lynn Wilson, Board Chair

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent