



**MISSION:**

*To ensure that each student achieves his or her highest personal potential.*

**VISION:**

*To be a world-class school system.*

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY**  
**Special School Board Meeting - MINUTES**  
(School Board Meeting Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33966)  
**Tuesday, June 21, 2011**

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**Attending**

Mr. Thomas Scott., Chairman  
Superintendent

Ms. Mary Fischer, M.A., Vice Chairman  
Mr. Don Armstrong, Member

Dr. Lawrence D. Tihen, Secretary and Interim

Mr. Keith B. Martin, Board Attorney

Mr. Robert Dodig, Staff Attorney

Mrs. Donna Lesansky, Recording Secretary

**Absent**

Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier (business)

Dr. Jane E. Kuckel (vacation)

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**I. Opening Exercises**

**A. Call to Order**

The School Board of Lee County, Florida, met on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, in the School Board Meeting Room for a Special School Board Meeting. Board Chairman Thomas Scott presided and called the meeting to order at 2:33 P.M.

***Motion** by Mr. Armstrong, **seconded** by Ms. Fischer, and **carried 3-0** to adopt the agenda as the Order of Business.*

Mr. Scott acknowledged the absences of Mrs. Dozier and Dr. Kuckel. He explained that Mrs. Dozier is in Orlando on business and that Dr. Kuckel is out of state on vacation.

**II. Public Comment**

*Bob Rushlow, President of the Support Personnel Association of Lee County:* requested clarification on the personnel recommendations on this afternoon's Special Board Meeting agenda versus those on this evening's Board Meeting agenda; requested that the appointment of the Assistant Director of Maintenance (*as contained in Agenda Item V.B.*) be tabled until an investigation can be conducted to ensure that the process was properly handled.

At Dr. Tihen's request, Dr. Gregory Adkins (*Chief Human Resources Officer*) clarified that the personnel recommendations on this evening's Board Meeting agenda are for the remainder of this school year and that the ones on this afternoon's Special Board Meeting agenda are for the 2011-12 school year.

Both Dr. Tihen and Mr. William Moore (*Executive Director of School Support*) stated that there was no deviance from the process used in the selection of the individual for the position of Assistant Director of Maintenance from the process used in other selections. Mr. Moore requested that the Board not delay approval of the Superintendent's recommendation.

Mr. Scott stated that Board Members may address this issue further when Item V.B. is presented.

**III. Consent Action Items (None)****IV. Unfinished Business/Tabled Items (None)****V. Superintendent's Recommendations****A. Petition for Termination of Employment – Patricia Slade.**

*Motion by Ms. Fischer and seconded by Mr. Armstrong to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that, in light of the fact that Patricia Slade has requested an administrative hearing, the Board suspend her without pay until such time that the Board receives and acts upon the recommended order of the DOAH Administrative Law Judge.*

Neither Patricia Slade nor anyone else was present to speak on her behalf.

*Motion carried 3-0.*

**B. Personnel Recommendations.****Changes of**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Location &amp; Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
*Jason Plucker	Lehigh Senior High, Teacher to Assistant Principal	07/18/11

**Changes of**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Location &amp; Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
*Michelle Freeman	Lehigh Senior High, Teacher to Assistant Principal	07/18/11
Robert Hingson	Maintenance Services, Zone Service Manager to Assistant Director	07/01/11
*Nathan Pugh	Three Oaks Middle, Teacher to Assistant Principal for Administration	07/18/11

**Extended Leave**

<b>Extended Leave</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Effective Dates</b>
Jamie Kirschner 08/01/11-	Title I	Medical	05/28/12

**Reclassifications**

<b>Reclassifications</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Patricia Elkin	Curriculum, Quality and Staff Development	Director	07/01/11
Michael Bursztyn	Exceptional Student Educ.	Director	07/01/11
Jacqueline Turner	Student Services	Director	07/01/11
Suzanne Roshon	Career & Adult Education	Director	07/01/11

**Resignation**

<b>Resignation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Judith Hughes	Lehigh Senior High	Personal	06/28/11

**Transfers**

<b>Transfers</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
*Richard Shafer	ALC Middle/High, Assistant Principal	Island Coast High, Assistant Principal	07/18/11
*Edward Mathews	Island Coast High, Assistant Principal	Riverdale High, Assistant Principal	07/18/11
*Kenneth Best	Skyline Elementary, Assistant Principal	Caloosa Middle, Assistant Principal	07/18/11

\*Alane Adams                      Tanglewood Elementary                      ,                      Elementary “G”,  
 07/01/11    Principal    Principal

**Transfers and Changes**

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Ruth Lohmeyer	Academic Services, Principal-on-Assignment	Student Services, Coordinator	07/01/11
*Misty Bernard	East Lee County High, Teacher	Estero High                      , Asst. Principal/Curriculum	07/18/11
*Jami Covert	Estero High, Asst. Principal/Curriculum	Ida S. Baker High, Assistant Principal	07/18/11
*Susan Joiner	P.L. Dunbar Middle, Teacher	N.F. Myers Academy, Assistant Principal	07/18/11
*Dwayne Blazina	Ray V. Pottorf Elementary, Teacher	Cape Elementary, Assistant Principal	07/18/11
Linda Buckley	Title I, Principal-on-Assignment	Early Childhood Learn., Assistant Principal	07/01/11

**Professional Service**

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Previous County</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Deborah Evans	Island Coast High	Duval	01/05/11

\*Administrators appointed above will be working greater than a 196-day contract.

***Motion** by Ms. Fischer and **seconded** by Mr. Armstrong to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation that the Board approve the personnel actions including changes of assignments, extension of leave of absence, reclassifications, resignation, transfers, transfers and changes of assignments, and an instructional professional service contract.*

Mr. Armstrong stated that he felt it should be the responsibility of the new Superintendent to appoint personnel for the coming year and recommended that action on the recommendations be postponed.

Dr. Tihen stated that he has been in constant contact with Dr. Burke regarding personnel appointments and that he [Dr. Burke] has indicated that he supports proceeding with the recommendations.

Mr. Scott stated that while he is not opposing the appointments, he would like to see more detailed information come to the Board in advance of personnel recommendations to ensure that the most qualified individuals have been chosen, i.e. background on the individuals being recommended, what has been done to prepare them for the positions, whether the positions are new or if the individuals are replacing former employees.

Ms. Fischer stated that she would like to have the appointment of the Assistant Director for Maintenance Services revisited, as she does not feel the individual being recommended is the best qualified candidate.

***Motion** by Ms. Fischer to **divide** the Main Motion by removing the appointment of Robert Hingson to the position of Assistant Director of Maintenance Services.*

Mr. Martin clarified that a school board may not reject a superintendent’s personnel recommendation unless it has good cause as defined by Florida Statute: that an individual does not meet the professional qualifications required for a position or is morally disqualified due to conviction of an offense that would disqualify from eligibility for employment.

Ms. Fischer stated her belief that the individual being recommended does not meet the qualifications of the position.

*Mr. Armstrong seconded the motion to divide.*

*Motion to divide carried 2-1, with Mr. Scott casting the vote in opposition to the motion.*

*Main Motion carried 3-0.*

*Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Robert Hingson to the position of Assistant Director of Maintenance Services failed 1-2, with Ms. Fischer and Mr. Armstrong casting the votes in opposition to the motion.*

#### **C. Personnel Recommendations – Reappointments.**

*Motion by Ms. Fischer and seconded by Mr. Armstrong to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board approve the Reappointments for the 2011-2012 school year, effective July 1, 2011.*

Mr. Armstrong stated that he would rather the appointments be for a six-month period rather than a year in order to provide Dr. Burke an opportunity for review.

*Motion carried 2-1, with Mr. Armstrong casting the vote in opposition to the motion.*

#### **D. Personnel Recommendations – Summer School.**

*Motion by Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Ms. Fischer, and carried 3-0 to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board approve the 2011 Summer School Program and Extended School Year Appointments.*

### **VI. Other Business**

#### **A. Board Members' Comments**

Ms. Fischer: reported that she has visited several schools, attended student award ceremonies, high school graduations, the elementary school Book Battle, a meeting of the Drug-Free Southwest Florida Coalition, the Digital Lee Showcase, Do The Right Thing year-end ceremonies, and the *Fly Me To The Moon* Art Exhibit; provided an update on the Bullying Task Force; requested that the practice of reimbursing Board Members for in-county travel be revisited with an eye towards reinstatement.

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule this for future discussion and to have data gathered regarding the funds expended for this purpose during past fiscal years.

Mr. Armstrong: no comments

Mr. Scott: reiterated his request to have detailed information regarding personnel appointments provided to the Board in advance of recommendations coming forward.

#### **B. Attorney's Comments (None)**

#### **C. Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. Tihen: acknowledged the importance of having positions filled with the most qualified individuals.

#### **D. Next Scheduled Meetings of the Board:**

- June 21, 2011, School Board Briefing Meeting following the conclusion of this Special Meeting
- June 21, 2011, 6:00 P.M., School Board Action Meeting

### **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Scott adjourned the meeting at 3:10 P.M.

The Special School Board Meeting was reconvened at 4:12 P.M. Mr. Scott explained that several individuals who had been detained in the lobby during the Special Board Meeting were being afforded an opportunity now to address the Board regarding the personnel recommendations for the 2011-2012 school year.

Mr. Martin commented that while Board Members may receive additional input at this time, action on the issue in question had already been taken. To change that action, a motion to reconsider would have to be made.

*Ken Leppelmeier, Gulf Middle School:* stated that he was not aware of the reason why he was not reappointed for the 2011-2012.

*Joe Lawrence, Lehigh Elementary School:* stated that he received a letter of non-reappointment but was not given a reason for this.

*Ken Leppelmeier's wife:* spoke in support of her husband.

*Joe Bilardo:* spoke in support of Joe Lawrence.

*Vickie Daley:* spoke in support of Ken Leppelmeier.

Mr. Armstrong requested that Dr. Adkins investigate the concerns of the two gentlemen and provide a report within the next few days on his findings.

Dr. Adkins briefly reviewed in general the process that occurs when someone is not reappointed. He stated that he would look into the matter and provide the information to the Board.

Mr. Martin clarified that with respect to the law, Board Members do not non-reappoint individuals, they only take action to reappoint based on recommendations from the Superintendent. He added that since these are annual appointments, there is no expectation of reappointment under the law and that there need not be "cause" for non-reappointment. Mr. Martin informed the Board that, based on the information he received from Dr. Adkins, neither of the positions in question was filled by action taken during the Special Board Meeting; however, a recommendation is coming forward at tonight's Board Meeting to fill the Gulf Middle School position with someone other than Mr. Leppelmeier. He added that should the Board wish to take time to review this further, the Superintendent would need to withdraw his recommendation to fill the position.

Dr. Tihen stated that he has information regarding the non-reappointments and could provide that to the Board in an expeditious manner.

It was the consensus of the Board that Dr. Tihen provide the information to them.

The Special Board Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

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**Thomas Scott, Chairman**

ATTEST:

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**Joseph P. Burke**, Secretary & District Superintendent

*An audio-visual recording of this meeting has been produced to provide a verbatim record of the proceedings and may be viewed on the School District's Website at [www.leeschools.net/stream](http://www.leeschools.net/stream). Members of the public wishing to obtain a copy of the recording of this or any meeting of the School Board must make a request through the District's Communications Department at (239) 337-8327.*