



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, December 14, 2010

Attending

Mr. Thomas Scott., Chairman Superintendent	Dr. Lawrence D. Tihen, Secretary and Interim
Ms. Mary Fischer, M.A., Vice Chairman	Ms. Heather Hawkins, Attorney, School Support
Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Member	Mr. Robert Dodig, Staff Attorney
Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Member	
Mr. Don H. Armstrong, Member	Mrs. Donna Lesansky, Recording Secretary

I. Opening Exercises

A. Call to Order

The School Board of Lee County, Florida, met on Tuesday, December 14, 2010, in the School Board Meeting Room for a Special School Board Meeting. Board Chairman Thomas Scott presided and called the meeting to order at 2:48 P.M.

Motion by Ms. Fischer, seconded by Mrs. Dozier, and carried 5-0 to adopt the agenda as the Order of Business.

II. Public Comment (None)

III. Consent Action Items (None)

IV. Unfinished Business/Tabled Items (None)

V. Superintendent's Recommendations

A. Petition for Termination of Employment – Rufus Thomas.

Motion by Dr. Kuckel and seconded by Mr. Armstrong to accept the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board enter a Final Order thereby terminating Rufus Thomas from his employment with the District, effective end of the day December 14, 2010.

Mr. Thomas and his attorney, Geralyn Noonan, were present to address the Board. During their comments, each asserted that the recommendation for termination should not be upheld. They maintained that allegations brought forward by a family member were never substantiated.

Mr. Dodig addressed the Board on behalf of the Superintendent. Mr. Dodig informed the Board that although Mr. Thomas had originally requested an administrative hearing, he subsequently withdrew the request on the advice of his attorney. He explained that the elements of the case, therefore, are considered fact. Mr. Dodig stated that the allegations

against Mr. Thomas are such that termination is warranted, and he suggested that the Board uphold the Superintendent's recommendation.

Motion carried 4-1, with Ms. Fischer casting the vote in opposition to the Motion.

~~**B. Petition for Termination of Employment – Michael Whitewood.**~~

This item was pulled from the agenda prior to the meeting.

VI. Other Business

A. Board Members' Comments (None)

B. Attorney's Comments (None)

C. Superintendent's Comments (None)

D. Next Scheduled Meetings of the Board:

- December 14, 2010, School Board Briefing Meeting following the conclusion of this Special Board Meeting
- December 14, 2010, 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 3:08 P.M.

Thomas Scott, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lawrence D. Tihen, Ph.D., Secretary and District Interim 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 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.