

A. D. Henderson University Schools Board Meeting

College of Education, Florida Atlantic University

December 1, 2004

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Mr. Fred Platt called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

II. Welcome

Mr. Platt welcomed members and guests.

Present were: Mr. Fred Platt, Dr. David Perry, Dr. Barbara Ridener, Mr. Jerry Alfano, Dr. Leonard Berry, Mr. Glenn Thomas (Ex-Officio), Mrs. Megan Yanes (Ex-Officio) and Miss Anna Sun (Ex-Officio.)

III. Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 3, 2004 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Platt, seconded by Dr. Berry, unanimously approved.

V. Recognitions and Awards

None

VI. SAC Report

Mr. Marc Hopin reported that the SAC is continuing to address the School Improvement Plan (SIP.) Dr. Lee and Mrs. Hodge presented baseline data on Grades 1- 8 in Math, Reading, and Writing which the SAC will use to track student achievement. He discussed the new state requirements for physical education next year. Mr. Platt requested that a copy of the information be Emailed to him. The PE/Healthy Lifestyles Committee is working with the PE teachers and parents to ensure the school is meeting state requirements. The next SAC meeting is scheduled for the following Tuesday at 6:00 PM in the Media Center.

VII. Director's Report

a. Facility/Traffic Initiatives, Status – Mr. Thomas advised that the new building is expected to be completed by December 15th. The contractor will remove the old PE portables. PE will occupy one of the new portables. A meeting with the contractor is scheduled for December 2nd to create a master plan for the site. Changes will be made to Lee Street which will affect the current traffic pattern and drop off areas. These changes are expected to be completed prior to the start of the 2005-06 school year. Dr. Berry requested a copy of the traffic flow plan for the Board members and recommended that Mr. Thomas contact Michael Singer of the Humanities Department to assist with landscaping.

b. FAU High Initiatives – We have received approximately 150 applications for next school year with good diversity. Approximately 1500 applications have been received for ADHUS Grades K- 8, also with good diversity. There will be 25-30 freshman slots and 10-15 slots available for the other high school grades. We are looking for small, similar partner schools to team with for social activities. There may be two academic tracks; one for Science, Math, and Technology and the second for Liberal Arts studies. Concern has been expressed regarding the algebra ability of entering freshmen. There was discussion on student placement and identifying deficiencies. Mr. Platt would like the Board to create guidelines for high school students who will be taking Algebra II to ensure they are ready.

c. Faculty Merit, Promotion, and Permanent Status – The plan containing criteria for merit, promotion, and permanent status has been approved by the faculty. Mr. Platt addressed the service and research components for beginning teachers. Mr. Thomas referred to the sheet describing accumulation of points for various activities. Mr. Platt stated that although there is a total point system, first year teachers don't have time for service and research and expressed concern that additional pressure would be put on beginning teachers in this regard. Mr. Thomas agreed that there may be limited effort in these areas but points might be picked up in other areas. Dr. Berry suggested that in the future some bonus point categories be made available. Mrs. Yanes added that activity logs be kept in connection with these bonus point categories. Mr. Thomas mentioned that in the Tier 2 portion of the plan there are more individualized and tailored goals.

VIII. Action Items

a. Approval of Foreign Language Plan – Mr. Thomas received comments from one of our Spanish language teachers that she thinks this plan would benefit both native and non-native speakers of a language. Dr. Berry mentioned that Portuguese has become more important with the increase in population of speakers of that language. Mr. Thomas added that the high school students have requested classic languages classes. Dr. Berry would like to see a two page document describing the foreign language goals of the school. Motion to approve the Foreign Language Plan made by Dr. Berry, seconded by Mrs. Yanes, unanimously approved.

b. Format for Board Policies – Mr. Thomas presented a proposed format and advised that this would be a long term process, taking three to five years. Motion to accept the format for Board policies made by Mr. Alfano, seconded by Dr. Berry, unanimously approved.

IX. Discussion Items

a. Finance Committee –

- a. Mr. Hopin reviewed the new financial report format.

- b. Some changes have been made to the draft of the Building Use Policy and the committee will continue working on it. Mr. Thomas will check with Student Government, at Dr. Berry's suggestion, and compare the university's plan to ours.

b. Personnel Committee –

- a. Mr. Thomas had been directed by the committee to check with other lab schools regarding their process for evaluating Directors and Principals. He reported that none have written procedures that are different than those established for other university employees. This issue will be discussed at the next Personnel Committee meeting.

c. Education Committee –

- a. The discussion of the 504 Suspension Policy was tabled. A copy of the plan was included in the members' binders as information. Mr. Platt mentioned that we need to compare the current handbook to this policy to ensure fairness. This will be brought up at the next committee meeting.

- b. A draft of the Dispute Resolution Policy was reviewed. There are concerns regarding the definition of a dispute. Mr. Thomas advised that the university attorney was asked to look at the plan and comment. The attorney questioned if the time frames in the policy were intended to be absolute. If so, the ability to reach resolution could be lost because of a missed deadline date. Mr. Platt commented that the Board is only involved in creating a framework for dispute resolution and would not be directly involved in the process.

X. Public Comment

Mr. Hopin addressed the Board regarding the proposed Boca Raton Charter School. He had led a group of parents to oppose the location of the project in the Research & Development Park area of the FAU campus. Because it was determined that the school site would be located in a runway clear zone, that location is no longer being pursued. Mr. Platt expressed appreciation to Mr. Hopin for his hard work.

XI. Announcements, Communications and School Board Comments

Mr. Thomas announced that we have been named a Blue Ribbon School! A flag raising ceremony is scheduled for December 17th with President Brogan in attendance. All Board members are invited. There will be ice cream treats that day for the students. Mr. Platt requested that Mr. Thomas Email date and time information to the Board members. Mr. Hopin suggested inviting members of the City Council and the Mayor.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.