

**MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MANATEE COUNTY**  
**SPECIAL MEETING, MONDAY JANUARY 7, 2002**

The School Board of Manatee County met in special session at the School Board Administration Building on Monday, January 7, 2002, at 6:00 p.m.

Members present:

**Harry G. Kinnan, Chairman**

**Barbara A. Harvey**

**Walter E. Miller**

**Larry Simmons.**

Member absent: **Frank Brunner.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

It was noted that the time of hearing on the written communication sent to the employees scheduled for this evening was the opposite of the posted time on the Agenda, therefore, the order of the hearings would follow the time conveyed to each employee in the written notice and petition.

**PETITION FOR SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY OF TIMOTHY D. FOOR,  
CAFETERIA MANAGER**

Timothy Foor was placed on paid administrative leave on October 1, 2001. He was employed as a Cafeteria Manager on August 20, 1996. The petition alleges that Mr. Foor engaged in improper use of sick leave, falsification of school records (time sheets), willful absence from duty without leave, willful neglect of duty, and misconduct which disrupts the activities of the school district. The conduct and action of Mr. Foor constitutes just cause pursuant to Section 231.36 (1) (a), F.S., warranting suspension and subsequent termination of Mr. Foor.

Mr. Foor has been placed on paid administrative leave by the School Board pending a final determination on the Petition For Suspension Without Pay. However, if he is reinstated, he will receive back pay for the time of the suspension.

Rob Shapiro, Staff Attorney, presented information on behalf of the Superintendent. Composite exhibits were admitted into evidence as follows: Exhibits A-E in Attachments to Petition for Suspension Without Pay Pending Termination of

Employment for Timothy Foor, Cafeteria Manager, copies of which can be found in the Supplemental Minute Book.

Alma Gonzalez-Neimeiser, legal counsel for Mr. Foor, spoke on his behalf. She requested the Board deny the petition to recommend suspension without pay of Mr. Foor, to continue Mr. Foor's suspension with pay, pending the evidentiary hearing, which her client had previously requested.

Composite exhibits were admitted into evidence as follows: School Board of Manatee County Salary Calculations for Mr. Foor on January 2, 2002, copies of which can be found in the Supplemental Minute Book.

Board Members discussed the issue at length.

Mr. Simmons moved, with a second by Mr. Miller, to approve the Petition for Suspension Without Pay. Voting for: Mr. Kinnan, Mr. Miller and Mr. Simmons. Voting against: Mrs. Harvey. Motion carried 3-1. (Copies of Notice and Petition for Suspension Without Pay Pending Termination of Employment can be found in the Supplemental Minute Book.)

## **RECESS**

Chairman Kinnan called for a recess at 7:06 p.m., and reconvened the Special Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

## **PETITION FOR SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY OF BRENT ROMERO, TEACHER**

Brent Romero was placed on paid administrative leave on October 29, 2001. He was employed as a Teacher on August 8, 2000. The petition alleges that Mr. Romero engaged in exposure of sexual organs in front of two undercover police officers on October 26, 2001. His conduct was inconsistent with the standards of public conscience and good morals and was sufficiently notorious so as to disgrace the teaching profession. Mr. Romero's conduct has seriously impaired his effectiveness as a teacher in the Manatee County School District and his service in the community. His conduct constitutes a violation of The Code of Ethics and the Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida, as contained in State Board of Education Rule 6B-1.006, immorality and misconduct in office and is grounds for dismissal.

Mr. Romero has been placed on paid administrative leave by the School Board pending a final determination on the Petition For Suspension Without Pay. However, if he is reinstated, he will receive back pay for the time of the suspension.

It was noted that neither Mr. Romero nor his representative were present at the meeting.

Mr. Shapiro presented information on behalf of the Superintendent. Composite exhibit was admitted into evidence as follows: Letter of December 14, 2001, from Staff Attorney Shapiro to Brent Romero regarding hearing on Suspension Without Pay being rescheduled for January 7, 2002, copy of which can be found in the Supplemental Minute Book.

Mrs. Harvey moved, with a second by Mr. Simmons, to approve the Petition for Suspension Without Pay. Motion carried 40. (Copies of Notice and Petition for Suspension Without Pay Pending Termination of Employment can be found in the Supplemental Minute Book.)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Kinnan adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chairman