

**MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MANATEE COUNTY
REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2003**

The School Board of Manatee County met in regular session at the School Board Administration Building on Monday, August 4, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Barbara A. Harvey, Chairman, Frank Brunner, Harry G. Kinnan, Walter E. Miller, and Larry Simmons. Also present: Dr. Roger Dearing, Superintendent.

Chairman Harvey called to order the Regular Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m., followed by an invocation by Rabbi Barbara Aiello, and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag by audience and Board Members.

MINUTES

Mr. Miller moved, with a second by Mr. Simmons, to approve the Minutes of the Workshop of July 22, 2003, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of July 28, 2003, and Workshop of July 29, 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITIONS

**ROWLETT MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND PRINCIPAL BRIAN FLYNN –
“LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE AWARD” FOR DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM**

For the second consecutive year, Rowlett Magnet Elementary School and Principal Brian Flynn have been awarded a “Little Red Schoolhouse Award” by the Florida Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals. The program gives recognition to a maximum of twenty schools throughout the state with exemplary programs in the areas of curriculum and organizational development. The “Little Red Schoolhouse Program” informs fellow educators and the general public about outstanding programs that make education for children a relevant and exciting experience.

The award-winning program at Rowlett this year is “Español en Rowlett.” All students enrolled in Rowlett Magnet Elementary School receive Spanish instruction. Students receive instruction from a video-based program entitled “Español para Ti.” This program offers students the unique opportunity to have instructors that are bilingual. The Dual Language classes (also called Two-Way Bilingual Immersion) combine the best of bilingual education for language minority students and immersion education for

language majority students. Students who graduate from Rowlett in the dual language program are expected to be bi-literate—able to read, write, and speak in both English and Spanish. The goal for students in regular classes is to be able to speak Spanish on a conversational level.

Tom Walker, Director of School Management, introduced Mr. Flynn and Melissa Martinez, Team Leader of Dual Language Program, at Rowlett Magnet Elementary School. Dr. Walker, Mr. Flynn and Ms. Martinez presented background information on this program. Audience and Board Members extended a round of applause.

KATHY HAYES – COMMISSIONER’S PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Kathy Hayes, Principal of Anna Maria Elementary and former Principal of Orange Ridge-Bullock Elementary School, has been awarded the Commissioner’s Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership. This award recognizes exemplary principals for their contributions to their schools and community.

Principals are nominated by their district for spearheading initiatives to increase student performance, promote safe learning environments, and establish partnerships with parents and community members. Only one elementary, middle, and high school principal from each of Florida’s five regions is recognized by Florida’s Education Commissioner at the Florida Association of School Administrators Summer Conference.

Dr. Walker introduced Mrs. Hayes and presented background information on this award.

Mrs. Hayes thanked staff, students and community of Orange Ridge-Bullock Elementary School for helping her to achieve this award. She said that while she was at the school for four years, she followed in the footsteps of her mentor and friend at the school, Fran Padgett (presently the Director of Exceptional Student Education).

Dr. Dearing, on behalf of the Board, presented Mrs. Hayes with the trophy award.

Also present were Mrs. Hayes’ daughter Whitney, son Morgan, and her husband, Ron Hayes. Audience and Board Members extended Mrs. Hayes a round of applause.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Kinnan moved, with a second by Mr. Simmons to accept the Consent Items as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Purchase(s) Bids Under \$100,000.00

Approval of Renewal (1) of Invitation for Bid on Food Service Small Cafeteria Supplies, MCSD No. 03-0020-KS

Approved of Renewal (1) of Invitation for Bid on Food Service Small Cafeteria Supplies from Sysco Food Services – West Coast Florida, Florida Registration No. F95000003760, as required, for the period of August 5, 2003 through August 4, 2004, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00. The estimated expenditures will be paid from various School Food Service Budget Accounts. (Original bid was approved on July 29, 2002.)

Approval of the Use of Broward County School Board Bid on Bleacher Repair Services, MCSD No. 04-0043-ML

Approved of Bleacher Repair Services, based on the Broward County School Board bid, to Certified Gym Repair, Inc., Florida Registration No. P960000091892, Charron Sports Services, Inc., Florida Registration No. F01000004860, and Lyle Bleachers, Inc., Florida Registration No. P97000027604, as required, for the period of August 5, 2003 through December 31, 2004, not to exceed \$50,000.00. The requested expenditures will be charged to various General Operating Funds, Special Projects, Federal Funds and Capital Outlay Accounts.

Approval of the Use of Pinellas County School Board Proposal on Indoor Environmental Quality Consulting Services, MCSD No. 04-0045-ML

Approved of the purchase of Indoor Environmental Quality Consulting Services, utilizing the Pinellas County School Board proposal, to Salazar Consulting Group, Inc., Florida Registration No. P99000070273, as required, for the period of August 5, 2003 through August 4, 2004, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00. The funds for these expenditures will be charged to various General Operating Funds and Various Capital Outlay Accounts.

Contracts and Grants

1. Approved of Robert H. Prine Elementary School – Amendment 1 – Agreement Between Owner and Architect/Engineer (Harvard Jolly Clees Toppe Architects, P.A.). Amendment 1 will provide additional Architectural fees to prepare a Castaldi Report on North Building No. 1 which includes the Media Center. That report will analyze renovation

versus new construction. The fee for Amendment 1 is \$2,500.00 and is included in the total project budget of \$12,987,000.00.

2. Approved to renew the contract between the City of Palmetto and the School Board of Manatee County for School Resource Officers (SROs) for the 2003-2004 School Year. The City of Palmetto will continue to provide two (2.0) SROs for this time period with the following school assignments: Lincoln Middle and Palmetto High Schools. Both entities will continue to share the costs of SROs equally. This contract will not exceed \$47,000.00 and will be paid from Safe Schools categorical funds. The exact total is dependent upon the budget passed by the City of Palmetto, as their fiscal year begins in October, 2003.
3. Approved of the contract between Knowledge Learning Enterprises, INC., d/b/a Medallion School Partnerships, and the School District of Manatee County to provide before- and after-school enrichment programs for the 2003-2004 school year. The programs will be provided at the following schools: Braden River, Kinnan, Miller, Orange Ridge-Bullock, Rowlett, Sea Breeze, Tara and Witt Elementary Schools. In addition, the parents at McNeal Elementary have requested that the program be made available for their children. The district will receive a lease payment from Medallion of \$200.00 per week, per site for before- and after-school space usage. When a facility is used on days when school is not in session, Medallion will make a lease payment of \$8.00 per hour for each hour of use beyond its normal daily usage.
4. Approved to renew the contract with Pinnacle Academy, Inc., for the 2003-2004 school year. This contract is making a limited number of slots (ten) available for exceptional students who are not eligible for the McKay Scholarship. It provides for Pinnacle Academy to receive 95 percent of the earned FTE (Full Time Equivalency) and related funds. The students will be funded under contract for one year. Once the student meets eligibility for McKay Scholarship and the parent wishes to continue at Pinnacle, he or she would need to apply for the scholarship.
5. Approved to renew the contract with Manatee Memorial Hospital and Health Systems for on-the-job training for the 2003-2004 school year for high school Exceptional Student Education students. Cost of transportation for the school year will be appropriately allocated through the Manatee County School Board Transportation Department budget and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act funds.
6. Approved addendum to the contract with Manatee County Family YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association, Inc.) to provide "Pryme Time"

before- and/or after-school program at Palma Sola Elementary School (P.S.E.S.) during the 2003-2004 school year. The addendum modifies the contract to include P.S.E.S. as a participating elementary school. All terms and conditions in the 2003-2004 Board-approved contract will apply to the program at P.S.E.S. Manatee County Family YMCA will pay the school the same facility usage fee (\$5.00 per hour) as agreed to in the original 2003-2004 contract. (Original contract approved on June 16, 2003.)

- 7. Approved to submit the Reading Coach Model Grant Application for 2003-2004. This grant application requests the hiring of reading coaches for elementary schools in Manatee County. The schools included are: Ballard, Bayshore, Daughtrey, Wakeland, Moody, Tillman, Oneco, Orange Ridge-Bullock, Palm View, Palmetto, Samoset, and Rowlett Elementary Schools; and Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) and Center Academy Charter (C.A.C.) Schools. P.A.L. and C.A.C. Schools will share one reading coach. The total of \$849,494.16 would pay for reading coaches for the fourteen schools. This amount includes salary, fringe benefits, training, materials, travel and indirect cost for the reading coaches for the school year. No matching funds are required.
- 8. Approved to accept the no cost extension budget period to July 31, 2003 for the Comprehensive School Reform Grant, Title I, Part F. (Originally approved to accept and expend the grant for the project budget period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, on September 23, 2003.)
- 9. Approved to accept the no cost extension budget period to July 31, 2003 for the Comprehensive School Reform Grant, Title V, Part D. (Originally approved to accept and expend the grant for the project budget period of July 12, 2002 through June 30, 2003, on September 23, 2003.)

Finance

- 1. Approved of the Food Service (Grapevine Cafeteria) Change Fund for the 2003-2004 School Year.

Department	Individual Responsible	Amount
Grapevine Cafeteria	Tammy Howard	\$75.00

Human Resources

- 1-5. Approved the Personnel List and Addendum as presented, copies of which can be found in the Supplemental Minute Book.

Miscellaneous

1. Approved to amend the School Health Services Plan 2002-2004. The Manatee County Health Department (M.C.H.D.) submitted an amendment for the following changes: 1) Change the ending date from June 30, 2003 to June 30, 2004. Section 3 should read: The term of this contract shall be August 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004; 2) Change the Health Department contact person to Ron Drachler, Operations Analyst I. Full-time nurses have been provided in-kind to Blackburn Elementary and Palmetto High Schools by the School Board. The M.C.H.D. has provided the funds for a health support aide for each health room. (Original Plan for 2002-2004 was approved on April 21, 2003.)

INFORMATION

A listing of Leaves was provided to the Board for its information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Reverend Don Thompson – suggested a sensible alternative to the Lord’s Prayer for the opening Invocation at Board Meetings and referred to verses that precede the Lord’s Prayer and the ending verses of the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew Chapter 6. He noted that some students (of different faiths) in our schools have difficulty speaking to this issue because they fear repercussion. Rev. Thompson emphasized the importance of keeping order and civility at all school levels. He said that he had heard Chairman Harvey speak at the funeral of James Brier (Manatee High School student who was killed in a student altercation off campus), where she had called for an end to violence; he did not want violence increased by having this issue be a divisive force among our children, staff and teachers. He suggested using the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer (working in reconciliation and forgiveness with one another).
2. Pat Baker – thanked the Board for their stand on the Lord’s Prayer and said it is fitting for the School Board to be using a teaching model for the prayer. She said her belief is that Muslims, Jews and Christians all have the same God in “Our Father,” and so this prayer should not be divisive.
3. Joshua Leuchter – said the Board Members are leaders of a school community with rapidly changing demographics. He said that tolerance and understanding of different view points is essential for leaders of governmental bodies to have;

and strength comes from putting our arms around each other in friendship and understanding. Mr. Leuchter said that reciting a religious Christian, Muslim, Jewish or Hindu prayer to open School Board meetings has not, and will not, improve academic performance of the students or student/teacher ratios in the classroom. He urged the Board to be inclusive and not exclusive.

4. Starloe Galleta – said many people could care less what is done at the beginning of Board Meetings if it helps the children of this district. She queried how students from different religious backgrounds would feel were they to attend a Board Meeting and heard the Lord’s Prayer. She said this Board has the right to pray before Board Meetings, but not to impose it on other people. Ms. Galleta added that the Board’s job is to defend all of our students and work for all of them, regardless of their religion. Regarding a lawsuit, she asked why we are not suing the State for the lack of funding this year, and challenging the Class Size Amendment as opposed to involvement in a lawsuit over invocation. She said that if the Board continues to say a prayer, however it is, than we have all gained.
5. Thomas C. Washburn – said he believes in the public school system and is a Christian. He noted that our community is one of diversity – racial, cultural and religious; and the School Board serves the entire Manatee County community. Therefore, he believes prayers at School Board Meetings should be inclusive.
6. Jay Ruth - said he is not offended by recitation of the Lord’s Prayer at the start of School Board Meetings, and he does not see why it is a problem just because one group does not like it. He emphasized that we are a free nation.
7. Edward Niedz – said he is a parent, taxpayer and disabled American who put his life on the line to ensure that all Americans, including minorities, were able to enjoy their freedoms, guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States of America. He said he believes the mission of the School Board directly involves the education of the children of Manatee County, not spending taxpayers’ money and time on constitutional issues. He noted that only eight states spend less than our district does per student. Mr. Niedz suggested the Board have a moment of silence or words of wisdom and say their personal prayers before coming to work.
8. Robert Remington – encouraged the Board to continue praying and **not saying** the Lord’s Prayer at the beginning of School Board Meetings. He said the two reasons are: 1) the Declaration of Independence; 2) the person objecting to this prayer (Steven Rosenauer) describes himself as Jewish but not religious. He cited

an article written by Reverend Barbara Aiello in the June 19 issue of the Manatee Herald Tribune where she notes that Jesus, a kosher Jew, taught his friends the Lord's Prayer; the Kadish, which is a Jewish prayer, repeats almost exactly the same words as in the Lord's Prayer. Mr. Remington stated that Mr. Rosenauer, as a Jew, has no grounds for objecting to the Board's use of this prayer because it is a Christian prayer. He said the only objection Mr. Rosenauer could have is that the Board acknowledges God and admits its need for His help in its deliberations; that he seems to want to establish his irreligion as the established religion and prohibit the Board its First Amendment right to free exercise of religion.

9. Dave Marvel – said that as a U.S. Marine he swore upon the Constitution and unto God to uphold the rights of this country. He noted that nowhere in the Lord's Prayer does it mention a Buddhist, Catholic or Christian - it says God. He said he would be ashamed if the Lord's Prayer is taken out of the School Board (Meetings).
10. Dolores Aanensen (Manatee School District Retiree) – said she believes the Board is doing the right thing by keeping the Lord's Prayer in its Meetings. She commented that it is amazing that only one person (Madeline O'Hare) can take prayer out of schools. She said, "For those people who don't want to pray, walk out the door; come back in afterwards."
11. Thomas Petrie – said he is opposed to the Board starting its Meetings with religious prayer "because it teaches what is in fact, mythology." He contended that it was not the removal of prayer that caused a rise in teen pregnancies, drug use and criminal behavior, but rather, the ignoring of Science.
12. Betsy Nelson – spoke for the separation of church and state. She asked, "Where does the protection of individual liberties end?" She encouraged the Board to commit to a time of silence at the start of its Meetings.
13. Mario Cimbaro – read a paragraph from a book by David Barton, entitled ***The Myth of Separation***. The founders considered religion and morality to be "necessary to good government and to the happiness of mankind and that it shall forever be encouraged." Referring to the First Amendment, he said that the framers of the document felt that schools and educational system were the proper means to encourage religion, morality and knowledge. He said he is in favor of Lord's Prayer being said (at beginning of Board Meetings). He suggested that a public notice be placed in the hallway that before the business session takes place a prayer would be said.

14. Mary Bristol – said she grew up in Saudi Arabia and raised as a Catholic. She spoke about her experiences in Saudi Arabia, where there was no separation of church and state. She said that when the Board does not consider the fact that people who attend public meetings may not hold their religious convictions, then the Board is behaving in the same manner and spirit as the Saudi government. She suggested the use of a moment of silence.
15. Edward Stanley – said “The unambiguous First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America declares that Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” He said that the Congress of the United States is a legislative body and the Manatee School Board is not. He added that to begin a Board session with the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer does not constitute a system-wide affecting mandate that affects the entire student body; but it is a Constitutionally-protected right of the free exercise thereof for the individual Board Members. He urged the Board not to give in to Mr. Rosenour’s demand that the Board respect his sensitivity while he scorns theirs. He said there is nothing offensive or controversial about the Lord’s Prayer, whatever a person’s religious persuasion may be.
16. Rabbi Barbara Aiello (Tempel Beth El) - related how her parents came from Europe to this country to make a new life. She said that like her father before her, she thanked God for this country, for its dedication to accepting and appreciating diversity and for the opportunity that we each have to pray and worship as we choose. She said that Board Members demonstrate respect through the guidelines they write, their accessibility to citizens and by their behavior, which lets people know that every child counts and each has intrinsic worth. She said Dr. Dearing put it best when he appeared on local television this past weekend and he said that as Superintendent of Schools, his priorities are simple and straight forward, relating to his ABCs (Academic excellence, Better communication and Construction) to benefit all of Manatee’s children. She asked the Board to expand on those ABCs, to add D for Diversity and to take steps to show our commitment to all of our citizens. She asked the Board to consider opening Board Meetings with words of wisdom, words of reflection that are inclusive and celebrate the rich diversity that characterizes Manatee County.
17. Valerie Colleran (Former Teacher and Member of Tallevast Action Group) – said she attended a press conference today where Mr. Kinnan spoke on behalf of the Resolution the School Board wrote relating to the Salvation Army rehabilitation

center and the location of it. She expressed appreciation for the Board's Mission Statement and the Resolution that backs it - about keeping our students safe.

18. Berneice Scott – spoke about the Tallevast community and the press conference held there today. She said the community is concerned about the adverse effect of the rehabilitation center being located in their community on the well being of their citizens and children. She asked the Board to consider exerting pressure to prevent the placement of this center in this community. She said the community appreciated Mr. Kinnan being present at their meeting today.
19. Raphael Allen - said he is not the leader of a prayer band (speaking of the Board Meeting of July 28, where he was the first speaker (regarding Central Bradenton area school site) followed by several speakers who spoke about the issue of Board invocation). He said the Board should revisit the Tallevast issue as an Agenda item, to let people know that the School Board does not support it.

Mark Barnebey, School Board Attorney, said the Resolution has been conveyed to the County Commission on two occasions.

Chairman Harvey concurred with Barnebey and asked if there is anything else the School Board could do.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Kinnan

Back to School – said next week will be an opportunity for all Manatee County School employees to welcome the start of school.

Tallevast Community – said he hopes the County Commission and Planning Board will have an opportunity to incorporate the thoughts of this Board as they deliberate on this issue. He said the main concern of the Board is always safety, and that remains unchanged today.

No Child Left Behind – congratulated the teachers and students of Wakeland and Samoset Elementary Schools for improving two grade levels. He said a workshop is scheduled in September regarding No Child Left Behind. He said we have to reconcile the fact that we have our people on this parallel track, working on what the State requires, and here is the federal government working on a parallel track with what they

require; there is no connection between the two, and it is unfair and wrong. Mr. Kinnan said the situation has to be resolved, and that perhaps Dan Miller or Katherine Harris' office may have answers on this situation, before the Board Workshop of September 9.

18 Credits for Graduation – said that at the direction of the Board, he wrote a letter to Bill Galvano, Legislative Chairman, and is waiting to hear from him regarding questions on the 18 credits issue. He said the Board is very troubled by this issue; that it will work counter to the Legislature's intent.

Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT) Scores – said he had asked (via the Board Workflow Chart) for a list of those people who were affected by the test scores this past year and when and how they were going to be notified. He said it would behoove us to find out what the plans are regarding this issue for next year; is it in effect again this fall? He emphasized we should make sure that 1) everyone who did graduate with the alternative method last year has been notified and 2) find out what is going on this year.

Reading Across the Curriculum (Book) - thanked Vince Trinci (Social Studies Teacher) and Ken Washio (High School Media Specialist) of Manatee High School for the book, a reference guide for each faculty member to use to teach education and reading throughout the whole curriculum in an effort to improve reading scores.

Well Wishes – said we wish well to everybody who is involved with the education of our children and will do all we can to give you everything needed to do the job.

Mr. Miller

Thank You to Rabbi Barbara Aiello - thanked her for being with us this evening.

Public Comments Regarding Board Invocation – expressed appreciation for all of the comments made this evening. He clarified that the Board has not taken “a stand” on this issue but have individually expressed their opinions and feelings regarding the same; the comments made tonight will help the Board to form its final decision.

W. D. Sugg Middle School Newsletter – commended W. D. Sugg Middle School’s newsletter, “The Watch,” for providing the most thorough back-to-school information he has ever seen put out by a school.

Policy Regarding Competitive Cheerleading – noted that Broward County has passed a Policy that competitive cheerleading will now be considered a sport; they are petitioning the Florida High School Activities Association (FHSAA). He said that Title IX has already stated that competitive cheerleading can now be considered a competitive sport.

Letter from School Board Attorney Regarding Land Development Code Proposed Amendment – asked that Mr. Barnebey, Mike Pendley, Facilities Planner, and Superintendent Dearing would keep the Board advised of the status of this amendment because we need to be sure that our interest is protected on this matter.

Castaldi Study on Prine Elementary School – said he had voted this evening on this item because it is an instrument that is available, but he did not believe it is the most thorough. He added that it is commonly used and the price is modest. He said the newer (1986) media center and classrooms could, without impacting the new elementary school, be used for other purposes if it makes sense to do so, because it is so difficult to obtain usable space.

No Child Left Behind/Adequate Yearly Progress Grades – referred to an editorial last week by an area newspaper to the north about Bush vs. Bush, where it made a comparison, saying how can we have the Governor of Florida with his A+ Plan and schools doing really well and being rewarded financially for their excellence and achievement; President Bush and the federal government saying that we are not doing well. He suggested that in addition to Congressman Harris, we could speak with Congressman Davis regarding this issue at the Workshop of August 26.

Editorial Regarding School Double Standards – said another editorial in the same newspaper yesterday had mentioned school double standards. He said that in 1969, he had led a campaign in the Panhandle for school vouchers which was unsuccessful because it had no support. He said he found interesting the dynamics of legislative support for public education then versus today. He said that at that time one of the comments made to him by a parent was, “We are very concerned about that legislation

because we are going to have to be accountable to the state legislature if it passes, and they are going to have control of our private and parochial schools.” He said that in the year 2003, we have the voucher program in place, but there is little or no accountability. He said he hoped we will speak to our legislative delegation about the funds (\$146 million) directed to parochial schools and that if we are to be accountable, these schools could stand the same accountability.

Mr. Simmons

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) – said that a meeting will be held on August 13, at 7:00 p.m., at the Public Library downtown to discuss FCAT and some ways of hopefully starting a grassroots campaign to deal with the pressures and issues of FCAT. He noted there have been news articles lately about other states having concerns about their “high stakes testing” and are starting to review the emotional pressure it puts on the students.

Thank You to Staff at Parent Information Center – thanked the people who started the Parent Information Center today. He said it is an opportunity for our parents to come and receive information about all of the district’s school programs and is situated only about a block and a half from the Administrative Building, on Manatee Avenue East.

Back-to-School – welcomed teachers, especially the many newly hired teachers in the district, back to school tomorrow. He agreed with a recent news article that said that Manatee County is considered one of the best places in country to live. He said that next Monday, we will be welcoming around 39,000 students to our schools. Mr. Simmons said the teachers, principals and all of our schools will be ready to greet the students and encourage them to do the best they can. He said the district offers an outstanding opportunity for each of them, and he hopes each student will take advantage of the opportunity offered.

Mr. Brunner

Policy Regarding Competitive Cheerleading - said he is in favor, if the Board either by consensus or at a future Board Meeting, advocates or endorses the concept of Florida High School Activities Association

(FHSA) allowing competitive cheerleading to be treated equally under Title IX.

W. D. Sugg Middle School Newsletter – said he enjoyed reading “The Watch,” the school’s newsletter. He said it gave rules and practical applications on what is acceptable, to give parents guidelines and understanding and expectations of the upcoming school year.

Memorandum from Brenda O’Connor, Assistant Principal of Southeast High School (SEHS) - said Board Members received a memo from Ms. O’Connor regarding the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at the school. He noted that twenty-nine of the seniors in the program received IB diplomas. In addition, in the other grades there was an 87 percent passing rate. Mr. Brunner requested that Superintendent Dearing pass on kudos to SEHS from the Board.

Physicals and Shot Requirements – reminded parents that incoming kindergarteners are required to have physicals and shots to enter public schools; that incoming seventh graders are required to have upgraded shots. He said that various organizations have been, and are continuing to provide, those services free of charge. He pointed out that there will be a back-to-school health fair this Wednesday at the North Manatee Health Care Center, where they will be providing those services free of charge.

Impact Fee Study - said he understands that the County Commission has recently engaged in an impact fee study; and in speaking to several County Commissioners, he learned that they are looking at revisiting their whole impact fee structure and perhaps updating it in the future. He suggested it would be beneficial for us to have some dialogue with the County Commission so that the School Board could also update its fee schedule. Mr. Brunner suggested a discussion at a Workshop or placement as an Agenda item.

Public Comments – thanked the speakers this evening for their input and Rabbi Aiello (for invocation). He noted there will be a Board Workshop on August 18th regarding Board Invocation; once the Board Members have had an opportunity to consider all the facts, they will be making decisions regarding process. He commented that this Board has had a practice (saying the Lord’s Prayer) of well over twenty years that has come under fire, and he stated, “This was not a fight or an issue that we started, nor wanted.” He said he has difficulty understanding why anyone can have a

problem with five individuals coming together (reciting the Lord's Prayer) before they are asked to take on tremendous burden and challenge to make decisions with a great responsibility for our young people. He said it is unfortunate that some people have been offended by that and that it has been divisive, and that has never been the intent, nor the practice, for over twenty years.

Mrs. Harvey

Back-to-School Bash – said that Educational Consultant Consortium sponsored an event this past Saturday, at Mount Raymond Missionary Baptist Church, where 140 backpacks and 250 plus school material packets were distributed to students. She thanked Dr. Dearing for stopping by and speaking to parents and students. Mrs. Harvey said throughout the years, many children missed the first few days of school if they did not have new clothing or school supplies. She said that her group has and will continue to assist with obtaining school supplies, but if there is someone without at least one new outfit, they may contact her, Lynette Edwards (Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction), Superintendent Dearing, or any school district administrator attending this evening's Board Meeting. She said that we want students to be on sure footing for a very good school year. She said our Full Service Centers have funds available; that the district's contact person for children who are living in homeless situations is Deborah Bailey, Coordinator for Project H.E.A.R.T. (Homeless Education and Resource Team), who will help with supplies and clothing.

Teachers – said that starting day for teachers is tomorrow, but many started earlier. Mrs. Harvey said she saw many teachers at Office Depot, where they were having an activity for teachers. She asked if we have all the teachers that we need.

Dr. Dearing answered in the negative.

Mrs. Harvey requested that people with a degree and love children call. She said she heard Guy Doud at a *Beginning the School Year with Prayer* event on Thursday evening at the Bradenton Auditorium, who spoke about the effect that one teacher had on his life. She said, "We want every teacher to be the teacher that stands out in the life of a child."

Tallevast Community – said she had met with representatives from the Tallevast Community, along with representatives from the Salvation Army, about five to six months ago, prior to the Resolution by the School Board in opposition to locating a drug and alcohol center near Kinnan Elementary School. She asked Mr. Barnebey if there is something else we can do as a School Board to assist that community in their plight. Mrs. Harvey said we will be meeting with the County Commissioners in the future, and we will want to put the issue on the Agenda again.

Mr. Barnebey said regarding the Tallevast situation, the Board had provided a Resolution to the Board of County Commissioners; there are limitations on what interaction we can have with them at this point, outside of a Public Hearing. He said he will talk with the County Attorney about this, but he thinks they are going to indicate that that is probably not an appropriate item to add to the School Board's Agenda. He said that information will be relayed to the Board as they consider that action.

Mrs. Harvey informed Mr. Barnebey that if she chairs that meeting, that item will be added to the Agenda.

Impact Fee - she said this item will also be something to be addressed as an Agenda item at the meeting with the County Commissioners, if appropriate.

No Child Left Behind – suggested contacting Laura Griffin at Katherine Harris' office to provide continuity for this issue.

Mr. Brunner announced that the Town Hall meeting will be this Thursday as well.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) – said the major difference he sees is where the State's accountability requires that the lowest ten percent of the students must raise their scores the same level as the entire school raised its score. Whereas, the NCLB does not look at the students in the bottom ten percent but at the ethnic sub categories. He said that could be pointed out to them and also to Representative Davis when we meet with him on August 26.

2. School Handbook – said the School Handbook was in the newspapers this past weekend and was very well done and informative. He thanked everyone who worked on it.
3. Employee Welcome Back-to-School Kick-Off – announced that this event for all employees scheduled for Wednesday, August 6, at 9:00 a.m., has been moved from Sarasota-Bradenton International Convention Center to the Manatee Convention & Civic Center.
4. Rowlett Elementary School (RES) Parent University Program – said this event will be held this Saturday at RES at 8:30 a.m.
5. McNeal Elementary School (MES) Blues Brothers and Motown Fundraiser – announced this event will be held at MES on Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. He noted that teachers could not get into the school before July 7, because it is a new school, and it is already set up and ready for the start of school.
6. Hello to Vocational Teachers – enjoyed this presentation this morning for secondary and post-secondary Manatee Technical Institute teachers at Manatee Community College Center for Innovation Technology at Lakewood Ranch Corporate Center.
7. Teacher Appraisal Task Force – said he met with about 130 teachers who are working on the district's Teacher Performance Appraisal Task Force at noon today. He noted that participation is growing.
8. Beginning the School Year with Prayer - said he attended this event at the Bradenton Auditorium last Thursday evening and that it was very insightful; most of the Board Members were there whose schedules would permit.
9. Back-to-School Bash – said he was invited by Chairman Harvey to attend this bash at Mount Raymond Missionary Baptist Church, Saturday at 12 noon. He said the program will provide a lot of supplies for the children.

SCHOOL BOARD WORKFLOW CHART

Board Members commented regarding revisions and additions to the School Board Workflow Chart.

(A copy of the current Workflow Chart can be found in the Superintendent's Office.)

BOARD COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

Mr. Kinnan

Happy Birthday to Mr. Brunner's Twin Sons - Mr. Kinnan extended a happy birthday greeting to Mr. Brunner's twin boys, who will be two years old on Sunday.

Response to Raphael Allen - Mr. Kinnan said that Raphael Allen spoke about the Central Corridor last week (under Public Comments) and mentioned what used to be Bradenton Middle School in talking about a facility or site. Mr. Kinnan said when he got home, he received a phone call from the Chief Operating Officer of the Police Athletic League, and he wanted to remind Mr. Kinnan that they have an elementary, middle and high school; and they are enhancing all three. Mr. Kinnan said he was told they are going to have a Head Start Program there soon. He added that there has been a special invitation extended, and asked that if at some point in time, Mr. Allen and any of his friends would like to go, it would be an interesting site visit to see what they are doing in affording education for young children in that area.

Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT) Scores - apologized and clarified that when he spoke about the FCAT, the SAT and the ACT - over the summer, the legislature said after the fact that even if a student did not pass the FCAT, which means you cannot graduate, if your SAT or ACT score is at a certain level, that they would retroactively confer a degree upon you. He said they gave it to us very late in the summer, well after students could retake or take for the first time either one of those tests. He said there still is a feeling that there may be some students out there that for one reason or another took the SAT or the ACT, made a certain grade, and then, which were the rules at that time, took the FCAT and did not do well and were denied graduation that might be in that new category. He said his concern is that we be sure that if any Manatee County students are affected by that, that they are told, that indeed after the fact this is the case. Mr. Kinnan also wanted to clarify whether or not the legislature is going to do this every year; he hoped that if they are going to, and will tell

us in advance so that we can, not after the fact, allow students this alternative way of preparing for graduation.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF TWO CONSULTING RESOURCE TEACHERS FOR THE MIGRANT PROGRAM TO BE PAID WITH TITLE I GRANT FUNDS

The Manatee County Migrant Education Program works with approximately 1,800 students during the year. The program provides support services which include Home/School Liaisons, health workers, recruiters, program specialists and other support staff. In addition, there are two Consulting Resource Teachers for the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program whose main focus is to work with the ESOL and immigrant population. Although many of the district's migrant students fall into one or both of the latter categories, a number of the students do not. Therefore, the provision of adequate academic support for many elementary and secondary migrant students who may not be ESOL or immigrant cannot be met by the current Title I Migrant Program personnel. Figures for 2001-2002 showed that only 12 percent of elementary, 7 percent of middle, and 42 percent of high school migrant students scored above a Level 1 in Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Reading.

With the continuing increase in accountability, including No Child Left Behind's (NCLB) Adequate Yearly Progress, it is paramount that the district provides supplemental academic support to all migrant students. The two Consulting Resource Teachers for the Migrant Program will work directly with the school's guidance department, classroom teachers, principals, students, and their families to enhance the academic opportunities for this target population, and work exclusively with and for migrant students.

These positions will be funded from Title I funds, Part A, Project # 4354, and would be subject to the grant funding in subsequent years. There are no matching requirements.

The Superintendent recommends the approval of two Consulting Resource Teachers for the Migrant Program to be paid with Title I grant funds.

Ms. Edwards presented background information regarding this Agenda item.

Mr. Miller moved, with a second by Mr. Kinnan, to approve of two Consulting Resource Teachers for the Migrant Program to be paid with Title I grant funds.

Ms. Edwards answered Board questions.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF STUDENT DAY START AND END TIMES

On May 1, 1995, the Board voted to lengthen the student day for all grade levels by 30 minutes, from six hours per day to six and one-half hours per day. Districts, however, have been required to provide and have only been funded for a five-hour student instruction day.

With the continuing education funding challenges faced by the School District, it is no longer possible to continue this lengthened student day. In order to reinstate the six-hour day, it is necessary for school start and end times to be changed.

The fiscal impact, subject to bargaining, for the 2003-2004 school year, will be a savings of up to \$600,000.00.

The Superintendent recommends approval to change the school start and end times to:

High School	7:45 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.
Middle School	9:15 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Elementary School	8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Superintendent Dearing presented background information on this Agenda item.

Board Members discussed this Agenda item.

Superintendent Dearing answered Board questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 1) David Miner - emphasized the importance of time on task. He said that money should go to the classroom; and that should be the first priority and the last priority where any money is taken from in the budget. He said the proposed action tonight is contrary to the policies and direction the Board has had in the past. Mr. Miner said there are many ways to come up with the \$620,000.00, that

he thinks is anticipated to be saved by reducing the school day by two and one-half hours each week without hurting our children and teachers in terms of the time they have to work for our children. He commented that we are fortunate to have a wise and dedicated Superintendent, and that his proposals for dealing with the budget are due great respect. However, Mr. Miner said he thought this proposal is “dead wrong”; that this proposal came in part from Budget Committees.

- 2) Sheila Marvel – reviewed the mission of the Manatee County School Board. She said that she did not think we were helping our students by eliminating time out of the school day. She said she and her husband are parents of two children, and that as a working parent, there are many parents stressing over this fifteen minute time change. She suggested that the half hour difference be taken out of the end of the day. Mrs. Marvel agreed with Mr. Miner that there are alternatives to raise funds to keep our children in school for the full curriculum, or perhaps cutting out other things during the day if we have to shorten the time.
- 3) Dave Marvel – noted the traffic jam on State Roads 70 and 64. He said that given the proposed schedule, either he or his wife will be late constantly to work unless they take another job or pay for childcare. He said there are ways to cut the budget, and perhaps we should start looking at the top salaries. He said teachers deserve more money and time for their students.
- 4) Starloe Galleta – thanked Board for answers she already received this evening for questions she had under Public Comments last week. She said she appreciated Mr. Simmons’ comments regarding elementary school students (their needs). Ms. Galleta expressed concern that one middle school will start later than the others and how that would affect that school’s lunch schedule. She said she can understand the reason for this choice tonight, but wished there was more “buy in” from the community, teachers and the schools before the Board makes choices like these.

Superintendent Dearing and Board Members discussed the Agenda item and addressed comments made by the public.

Dr. Dearing assured Chairman Harvey that he will ask principals (elementary and middle schools) to stagger their support staff schedules so that they are there at the same time this year as they were last year, to provide adult supervision for the children if there is a drop-off issue at the school.

Board Members and Superintendent Dearing continued their discussion of this Agenda item.

Mr. Miller moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to change the school start and end times to:

High School	7:45 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.
Middle School	9:15 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Elementary School	8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Motion died for lack of a second.

Superintendent Dearing answered questions from the Board and Board Members continued discussing this Agenda item.

Mr. Miller moved, with a second by Mr. Brunner, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to change the school start and end times to:

High School	7:45 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.
Middle School	9:15 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Elementary School	8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Brunner said that if Mr. Miller would add onto his motion as a friendly amendment the Superintendent's commitment that the child supervision issues will be the same as they were last year and will not be affected, or something to that effect, then he will support the motion.

Mr. Miller indicated that he would do so.

Mr. Brunner seconded the motion.

Mrs. Harvey read the motion: The motion is that we accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve to change the school start and end times to:

High School	7:45 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.
Middle School	9:15 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Elementary School	8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

with the same supervision time as school year 2002-2003. Motion carried 3-2. (Voting for: Mr. Brunner, Mr. Miller and Mrs. Harvey. Voting against: Mr. Simmons and Mr. Kinnan.)

Dr. Dearing thanked Board Members and assured them that he will send an e-mail regarding supervision time for students out tomorrow and ask Herb Tschappat (Director of School Management - Secondary Education) and Tom Walker (Director of School Management - Elementary Education) to work with our secondary and elementary schools, and that it will be mentioned at the meeting on Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Harvey adjourned the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Dr. Roger Dearing, Ex Officio Secretary
and Superintendent of Schools

Barbara A. Harvey, Chairman