



MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
901 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa
Tuesday, January 28, 2014 – 9:30 a.m.

The School Board of Hillsborough County, Florida, met in workshop session January 28, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in the Staff Conference Room, 901 East Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, with Superintendent MaryEllen Elia and Board Members Doretha W. Edgecomb, April Griffin, Carol Kurdell, Candy Olson, Cindy Stuart, Susan Valdes, and Stacy White. Chair Kurdell presided.

Others present:

School Board Attorney – Jim Porter

Deputy Superintendent – Jeff Eakins

Assistant Superintendents/Division Chiefs:

Facilities – Cathy Valdes

Government Relations – Connie Milito

Communications Officer – Stephen Hegarty

External Communications Manager – Tonya Arja

Senior Administrative Secretary (Recording) – Patti McBride

News Media Representatives:

Tampa Bay Times – Marlene Sokol

Approximately three people were in the audience, including other school district personnel.

Chair Kurdell called the workshop to order at 9:30 a.m., and made brief remarks on the workshop.

(1) School Board Way of Work

- Presenter: Jeff Eakins, Deputy Superintendent

This workshop was held to allow for the Board to discuss their way of work as a school board. There was general discussion to include:

- Board member roles and responsibilities
 - Jim Porter discussed the Florida Constitution, Article IX, explaining board members' roles and responsibilities as elected officials, and legal (liability) consequences.
 - Board liaison is Jeff Eakins – He will work with staff (solutions) and inform board members of resolve (healing of issue) — he will track issues, and a timeline will be developed for response from staff and follow-up with board.
- Communication Policy/Procedures
 - Review board's way of work annually (as soon as possible) after the chair/vice chair reorganize – board and staff will have understanding of way of work – there should be an open, trusting, collaborative system in place to easily exchange information.
 - Suspended Agenda – provides clarity/closure

- Mr. Porter was asked to review Policy 3112- Board-Staff Communications (any suggestions/input from board members should be given to Mr. Porter by February 5) – Mr. Porter will bring back for future workshop discussion.
 - Customer Service Initiative discussed by Mr. Eakins.
- Board meeting protocols
- Deadline for pulled items – avoiding multiple drafts of pulled items – leave times at 5 p.m. on Friday and noon on Monday.
 - Reviewed start time of meetings – consistent time (board tried alternating times) – the Board will vote at February 11 board meeting to change time. (Jeff Eakins distributed handout on board meeting times and audience comments.)

Further conversation on “way of work” will continue at the 2 p.m. workshop.

With no further discussion, the workshop adjourned at 11:47 a.m. (*Audio recording on file.*)