



Board of Trustees Board Meeting Minutes(Including Private/Shade Meeting)
Wednesday, September 8, 2021 – Lake Wales High School
9:00am – Agenda

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82410882274?pwd=dnFvcXBvY0h5QTQrUIYvT1RWTFBoZz09>

Meeting ID: 824 1088 2274

Passcode: zkRa47

Those Present: Danny Gill - Chair, David Fisher – Vice-Chair, Dr. Greg Hall, Marcus Kirby, Paul Gerrard (Zoom), Chayla Outing, Tonya Stewart, Alricky Smith, Marie Cherrington-Gray, Donna Drisdorn
Guests: Robin Gibson

- I. CALL TO ORDER** **Danny Gill, Chair**
The meeting was called to order at 9:08am.

- II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** **Dr. Greg Hall, Trustee**
Invocation and Pledge was led by Dr. Greg Hall.

- III. BOARD OF TRUSTEES – PRIVATE MEETING** **Robin Gibson, Attorney**
Trustees went into a private shade meeting at 9:10am and it ended at 10:54am.
Trustees took a mini break until 11:08am the regular meeting resumed.

- IV. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE** **Dr. Greg Hall**
Dr. Hall shared his update on the Superintendent Search Committee. Dr. Hall talked about the online survey and the Board previous ask to approve what the Search Committee is doing on behalf of the Board to approve the **Leadership Qualities Document. Motion to approve was made by Dr. Hall and seconded by Trustee David Fisher. Motion approved unanimously.**
Dr. Greg Hall: The timeline on the Superintendent portal has been updated a few times. September 13th the advertisement will go public. September 22nd is the next meeting. October 14th we also have a meeting. In November the final search process should be in progress. The finalists will be presented on November 1st. We need to meet on November 2nd to accept the finalist list and then do the finalist interviews for November 8th, 9th, 10th. This timeline will also be on the portal, please view the portal.
Trustee Paul Gerrard: Thanks to Dr. Greg Hall and this committee for the wonderful job they have done in facilitating this search. I have been thinking long and hard and after reading the survey results. I think we have the man already sitting in the Superintendent spot and Alricky Smith continues to impress me. I would like to make a motion that we suspend the Superintendent Search and offer the full time

Superintendent position to Alricky Smith. **Chair Danny Gill:** We have a motion by Trustee Paul Gerrard. With no second to the motion we will move forward.

Chair Danny Gill: Looking at the survey it appears our community is really leaning towards and would like for our leadership to be local. I am not opposed to that and I actually welcome that. How does the Board feel about us taking a two or three week pause on the National posting to see if we have any viable candidates locally in our county or state just to take a good hard look at what we have? The downside is it is paused for a few weeks. The upside is if we find a local candidate we save money with the search firm. There is no down-side to looking local first. The search committee vets the local and if they don't find the candidate then the top one or two can join the national search if we had to do that. This is something I was thinking about last night and I wanted to throw it out there for you guys to think about. Any comments?

Trustee Stewart: I am ok with it. We can take that approach and see what we can find here in the local pool.

Trustee David Fisher: Would that save us the money from the search firm?

Chair Gill: Yes, if we carried the contract out it would be to pay what we have already done with the search firm.

Trustee David Fisher: My concern is the committee has already done a lot of work and I would not like to just pull the rug out from under them. I would feel better if this is what the search committee recommended.

Chair Gill: Whatever the search committee has done we will still use that information, nothing will be thrown away. We just take a look at the local before we go national.

Trustee Greg Hall: I think that attitude the search committee has is this committee serves at the pleasure of the Board. If this is the way the Board wants it we will do it the way the Board wants it done, we serve at the pleasure of the Board. At this point I don't think anything that has been done will be lost at all. We will do exactly what the Board wants done. If you want a hiatus right now we will do it.

Chair Gill: I don't think it will alter the time-line much, would it? **Trustee Greg Hall:** I don't think we would have to change anything.

Trustee Marcus Kirby: Even the timeline because they are still searching, they would just be searching locally. I think what Danny said is important, the Superintendent has to represent this community and I don't think is a good idea to put someone in that predicament. I think it has to be someone that has a heart for the community, either tied to the school system via children or has a heart for it.

Lake Wales, we are a funny kind of people and we would need someone who knows us and who is going to represent us well. I think that is important not to bring someone in if we don't have to. Whoever it is it needs to be someone who has a heart for us and that is something you can't waiver on.

Trustee David Fisher: I think we have some great local candidate/s who would do a great job and may very well be the person/s for it. I just go back to when we started this and said we were going to do a national search. I agree with Trustee Kirby, it's a lot easier for a local person to get in here but I think we would be selling ourselves short with not going national. I am willing to go with what the Board decides. I worry about the optics of this. If we just did a national search then everybody can apply.

Chair Gill: I don't see any harm in it, if the Board is interested, we can do it. **Trustee Paul Gerrard:** I think we were a little naïve to think someone from California that could do a good job in Lake Wales. If we look at the survey it becomes evident that the community wants someone local that has ties to Lake Wales. This would help for a smoother transition.

Chair Gill:

Does anyone want to make the motion or are we moving on? We can come back to that, keep thinking about it.

- V. **SCHEDULED PERSON'S ADDRESSING THE BOARD** – None (In Person – 2 minutes) **Chair Gill:** Marie, do we have anyone scheduled? **Marie:** No Sir. We do have some guests in attendance that might want to address the Board. **Chair Gill:** Are there any guests who would like to address the Board? If so, you will have two minutes. Please identify who you are when you begin speaking.
- Lindsey Seay:** Mother of a student in our system. Question, when was this meeting planned? I would like a parent call out for meetings that are last minute. The Superintendent Search – the list is already out but not posted yet. We have a lot of local folks why are we paying \$30,000 and we can pay teachers, bus drivers etc. for spending the \$30,000.
- Jimmy Nelson:** I am curious, is this the extent of the report provided from the search committee? **Trustee Hall:** Compilation from the FSBA. **Jimmy Nelson:** This is not reflective of the forum that I attended at all. It was very clear to have someone hired from this community. The guy for the job is sitting in Lake Wales, the guy for the job is Andy Oguntola. I turned in the index card at the forum with the nomination for people. You don't have all of the information that I would want to have if I was still sitting on that Board. I know what time it is, this is important and it will take more time. **Chair Gill:** Any other comments? We won't go back and forth question/answer in this meeting, please state your point please. **Jimmy Nelson:** That's it! The man for the job is here in town and I am hoping you all can seek out this information.
- Jack Hilligoss** – Pastor Highpoint Church is Lake Wales: I'm in agreement with going local and I think you should take the motion into serious consideration. This is the general direction of the local community. I do have a couple questions that you can answer for me. I heard \$30,000 for the national search – how are we funding this? Is it coming out of the general operating budget of the school board? How are we funding this? Superintendent/CFO Alricky Smith: This is coming from the general budget. **Jack Hilligoss:** I would hope you hear your constituents and go local.
- Lindsey Seay:** This is our kids future and it should not be taken lightly.
- Walter Nelson** – Pastor Impact Church: My appreciation to this body. I have been serving as a pastor in a community dealing with the specific nuances of a local fellowship. We have had folks come into the fellowship and move into leadership. There might be someone somewhere that can come in and serve. I appeal to this body, I do believe a search committee would serve the local community. Thank you for your service.
- Mr. Fazzini:** Danny and the Board – I have lived here for perhaps longer than many of you have lived years. I was talking with Buster Gravel about baseball etc. as he was teaching his son the game. I care about us having a few things we can hand off to our grandchildren. I have been around and all across the United States. Thank you for your service. I know what you are doing and I appreciate it.

Chair Gill: I wasn't aware of these folks coming today. Dr. Hall has expressed he does not have a problem if we go local and he is the head of the Search Committee. If he doesn't have a problem with it, I surely don't.

Trustee Tonya Stewart: I am prepared to make a motion. **Chair Gill:** Ok. I will move to delay the search and we focus on the local search for the Superintendent.

Chair Gill: With a three to four week delay? **Chair Gill:** **Motion on the floor is for us to suspend the national search for three to four weeks (Dr. Hall will advise us.) for us to do a local search for candidates in the same manner we have set up now.** **Trustee Gerrard:** I'll second it. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. RATIFICATION: CERTIFICATE OF CORPORATE RESOLUTION – BOK NORTH **Alricky Smith, Superintendent/CFO**

Request Board approval of the minutes from the Tuesday, August 31, 2021 LWCS Executive Board Meeting at the Central Office for the bond issuance ratification certificate of corporate resolution for Bok North. Motion was made by Trustee Marcus Kirby and seconded by Trustee Tonya Stewart. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. NEXT BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION/FINANCE MEETING AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The September Board of Trustees **Work Session/Finance Meeting is Thursday, September 16, 2021** at Lake Wales High School at 8:00am. The September Board of Trustees Meeting will be on **Monday, September 20, 2021** at Lake Wales High School at 3:00pm.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Thank you all for your public comments. Thanks to the Board for your dedication, I know today had been a long day. With Andy's resignation that put's me back in the Chair position. We need to nominate a someone for Vice-Chair. Mr. Fisher is willing to serve in that capacity, is someone willing to make a motion. **Trustee Tonya Stewart:** I will make the motion. Trustee Marcus Kirby: I second the motion. Motion approved unanimously. **Chair Gill** appointed a Board Committee for Andy's seat. The committee: Marcus Kirby – Chair, Chief Chris Velasquez and Mellissa Ard. They will be bringing forth a name for Andy's seat.

IX. TRUSTEES REPORT - None

X. OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER - None

XI. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:39am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Cherrington-Gray, Corporate Secretary

Board Approved: _____