

# MINUTES

**Treasure Coast University School, Inc. Advisory Board Meeting  
Friday, May 8th, 2009  
3:00 PM – 4:45 PM  
Palm Pointe Educational Research School @ Tradition**

- I. Call to Order/ Approval of Agenda** Ms. Deborah Hawley, Chair  
Call to order made by Ms. Deborah Hawley at 3:19 PM.  
**Motion** – Motion made by Ms. Gerri McPherson to approve the May 8<sup>th</sup> agenda  
**Second** – Seconded by Dr. Valerie Bristor  
**Unanimous Approval**
- II. Welcome** Ms. Deborah Hawley, Chair  
Board Members present:  
Ms. Deborah Hawley, St. Lucie Business/Citizen Representative, Chair  
Dr. Eliah Watlington, Florida Atlantic University, Associate Dean, Northern Campuses  
Ms. Gerri McPherson, Florida Atlantic University, Vice President, Northern Campuses  
Mr. Michael Lannon, St. Lucie County School District, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Valerie Bristor, Florida Atlantic University, Interim Dean & Professor, COE  
Ms. Anika Hardman, Palm Pointe/Parent Representative  
Dr. Jack Scott, Florida Atlantic University, Professor, COE  
  
Board Members not present:  
Mr. Joe Smith, St. Lucie County, Clerk of the Court (elected)  
  
Others who were present:  
Ms. Cortina Bell-Gray, Assistant Principal, Palm Pointe Educational Research School @ Tradition  
Ms. Debra Snyder, Principal, Palm Pointe Educational Research School @ Tradition  
Ms. Elizabeth Gray, Recording Secretary  
Mr. Glenn Thomas, Florida Atlantic University, Executive Director, COE/ CEO, TCUS  
Ms. Lydia Martin, Assistant Principal, Palm Pointe  
Ms. Kathleen Melrose, Teacher, Palm Pointe
- III. Introductions** Ms. Deborah Hawley, Chair  
None.
- IV. Approval of Minutes** Ms. Deborah Hawley, Chair  
Ms. Deborah Hawley brought to the Board's attention to the March minutes.  
**Motion** – Motion made by Ms. Gerri McPherson to approve the March 13<sup>th</sup> minutes  
**Second** – Seconded by Dr. Eliah Watlington  
**Unanimous Approval**
- V. Recognitions and Awards** Ms. Deborah Hawley, Chair

Ms. Gerri McPherson recognized Dr. Valerie Bristor for being awarded the new Dean of the College of Education at Florida Atlantic University. Ms. McPherson also congratulated Ms. Debra Snyder for the outstanding 8<sup>th</sup> Grade FCAT test scores, as well as, Mr. Glenn Thomas for enrollment.

Ms. Debra Snyder recognized all the Palm Pointe faculty and staff for wonderful service their first year. To show their appreciation Palm Pointe held a faculty and staff appreciation week that ended in a faculty BBQ.

## **VI. Principal's Report**

Ms. Deborah Snyder, Principal

Ms. Debra Snyder announced that there were 71 seats for enrollment. Once the final enrollment list has been submitted the retention list will be in place. Currently there are no seats for Kindergarten.

Ms. Debra Snyder discussed the Palm Pointe monthly news letter. The letter is available online as well as hard copies. Ms. Snyder mentioned the development of a parent's response survey for the newsletter. Attention was then brought to the FAU Research News section of the newsletter. Currently Palm Pointe has 2 IRBs and 8 action research projects. Palm Pointes' goal is to have published research within the 1<sup>st</sup> year.

Ms. Kathleen Melrose, a teacher at Palm Pointe, discussed future research projects. Talks about new classroom strategies and research have begun. This year Palm Pointe showcased their current and future research project. Ms. Melrose discussed working with Rally research. Rally already conducted pilot tests and is offering 2 new online components to Palm Pointe at no cost, one being Rally Reading Skills Tracker. Palm Pointe expects to see additional materials such as skill books and reading composition workbooks, as well as, grades 1-3 single gender based classrooms in the future as a part of working with Rally. In addition, the implementation of 2 new intervention programs for math and reading.

Ms. Lydia Martin discussed the third quarter benchmark and FCAT writing score with the board. The report was reviewed and tables addressed. The benchmarks were divided by subject and grade; they all met the level 3 threshold. FCAT scores were above or well above the state average. These statistics will be used for next year planning.

Ms. Cortina Bell-Gray reviewed the student recognitions for the past year. She highlighted the top winners in the areas of poetry, storytelling, and writing. Palm Pointe was the winner of the MLK Parade. Winners were announced in band, science fair, and history fair. Special highlights were given to the talent search winners and the published student writings in the Florida State Music magazine. Ms. Bell-Gray expressed appreciation to the community and districts for their involvement at Palm Pointe.

Ms. Debra Snyder distributed board invitations to the kindergarten pinning ceremony, the fifth grade "moving up" ceremony, and the eighth grade "celebration" ceremony.

Dr. Eliah Watlington commented on attending the Autism Awareness Month school assembly. Dr. Watlington expressed her thanks for the inclusion of the board members at Palm Pointe.

- VII. CEO's Report** Mr. Glenn Thomas, Exec. Director  
Mr. Glenn Thomas distributed the assignment report from the DOE. He brought everyone's attention to the new sorting system and entertained questions about the transition from the old to the new system. Mr. Thomas explained the changes in the DOE's race classification.

**Action Items** Ms. Deborah Hawley, Chair  
Drafts approved versions were disseminated.

- VIII. Discussion Items** Ms. Deborah Hawley, Chair  
Ms. Deborah Hawley brought the issue of holding functions after school hours and weekends to the boards attention. Several different entities have shown interest. Issues of lease price were discussed. Concerns of rules consistency between entities, staying within the mission of the school, and quality of the facility being compromised were brought up. Ms. Hawley made the recommendation to address this issue as an action item at the next board meeting and in the interim the discussion can serve as a guild.

- IX. Old Business** Ms. Deborah Hawley, Chair  
None

- X. Public Comment** Ms. Deborah Hawley, Chair  
Dr. Jack Scott addressed the lottery system used for Palm Pointe's enrollment. The explanation for instituting this policy is: (a) it is the state law to use the lottery system method (b) it is an ethically sound method for empirical research to be conducted at research lab schools (c) Palm Pointe is a state research school, not owned by the district therefore not FTE funded by local required efforts, funds come from the state's general revenue (d) the policy is consistent with every lab school in the state. All questions surrounding this policy should be deferred to the board.

- XI. Announcement, Communications, and Board Comments** Ms. Deborah Hawley, Chair  
Ms. Gerri McPherson announced the Treasure Coast Campus conference which will showcase district efforts by teachers and administrators. Guest speakers are invited and positive autism programs will be highlighted. Over 100 people have already reserved seats.

Ms. Gerri McPherson announced that on May 16<sup>th</sup> Ft. Pierce Central will host student presentations and projects with FAU's pre-med. program

Ms. Gerri McPherson stated the FAU College of Education's open house on May 12<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by Dr. Valerie Bristor and Dr. Eliah Watlington.

- XII. Adjournment** Ms. Deborah Hawley, Chair  
Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Deborah Hawley at 4:17 pm.