



Donna J. Beasley Mission Statement

To support students in achieving a high school diploma and prepare them for college and career success through an individually-paced, technology-based, flexibly-scheduled program.

Minutes

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Thursday, February 18th at 4:30 PM:

The meeting was called to order by the board President, Mark Stichter at 4:32 PM.

1. Roll Call: Mark Stichter, Fred Richards (absent), Walter McDonald, Robert Hurst, Mike Welch. Also, in attendance: Dr. Torregrasso, school principal; Ronald Renna, school consultant, and Lorena Peters, school counselor/assistant principal.
2. Review of Public Notice- A notice was posted on the school's web site.
3. Public Comments: None.
4. Approval to add Mike Welch to the board of director. Voted 3-0 in favor of adding Mr. Welch to the board.
5. Approval of the minutes from the October 29th, 2020 meeting. Approved 4-0
6. Reports:
 - a. Enrollment: Dr. Torregrasso reported: August count 150; October count 186; February Count 217.
 - b. Dr. Torregrasso and Mr. Renna talked about not being sure if the District was going to make us go back to Brick and Mortar in August. If so, we will have to go back to two sessions: meaning more expenses for busing, and staff.
 - c. Site report: See attachments.
 - i. Mr. Welsh explained to the board that, DJB was a diamond in the ruff, that just needs to be polished! We talked about a meeting on March 26th (in early afternoon, probably 2:00 PM) with John Talmage, from the Office of Economic Development, possible the superintendent of

Lee Schools, one or two School District board members and other prominent members of the community. He explained that there is going to be a new Technical College school and a STEM elementary school going in at the Mirror Lakes Golf Course site. We might want to look for land in that area. He also spoke of working with Lehigh Community Development with abandoned lots in the area that we might be able to obtain. He explained that most of Lehigh Acres was planned to be $\frac{1}{4}$ acre lots and only about 3% of the community for business. He explained the difficulty of placing any school let alone a small school like ours was contingent to getting as close as possible to utility lines as they exist now. He explained that the Lee County school board believes that our type of school fits in nicely with their educational plans. He said that he was at a meeting with Commissioner Pendergrass and they wanted to know all about DJB. The purpose of the meeting on March 26th should be trying to workshop with them to help get what we need for the school. The reality is that getting something like this done really requires a synergy with the leadership of the community. State Road 82 is where the future is for community development and economic growth. He hosted a conference with the heads of the major utilities, Century Link, TECO Gas, and some others who are thinking about putting in water, sewer, broadband, gas, etc. just North of 82. He also spoke about a new technology that does away with septic tanks and cleans the wastewater and returns it into the aquifer. Maybe Commissioner Ray Sandelli could also help us. He is interested in what we are doing at the school.

- ii. Mr. Welch proposed that the March 26th meeting is much more than coffee and donuts and a tour of the school. We need to make the meeting into a workshop of how everyone and help make this work.

Mr. Hurst said that he knows Commissioner Pendergrass and wants to be at the meeting on the 26th.

- iii. Mr. Hurst spoke about the financing packet that Mr. Renna presented with 40 years at 2.75%. He said the land needed to be on the South side of State Road 82 to get those terms.
- iv. Mr. Renna will put together a power point presentation for the meeting. He will send it to the board one week before the presentation.
- v. Mr. Welsh will send a list the first week of March of who should be invited to this meeting to Dr. Torregrasso so that he can send out official invitations to everyone.
- vi. Mr. Welsh talked about hiring one of our students to work at the Chamber of Commerce. She has been doing a great job. He is impressed with her work ethic and everyone on staff really likes her. She works about 20 hours a week. She has great work ethic and maturity. She is an example of some of the products coming out of DJB we are doing a great job.

- d. Financials: review and approve financials. Mr. Renna presented the financials to the board. There were a few areas of concerns that he is going to check into and report back to the board. Financials approved.
- e. Line of credit approved for \$150,000.00.
- f. Renewal application update: submitted to district. We are waiting their response. Should be a few more weeks.

7. New/Old items:

- a. TCAA loan five remaining payments of \$2,348 total \$11,740.00. Mark spoke with Rick Bidwell from TCAA regarding our request to have the rest of our loan forgiven. Mark reported that their board had a long conversation about this, but the bottom line is that they are not going to be able to do that. Mark explained that these were expenses incurred by TCAA long before the school was even open/approved. Mr. Bidwell said that they understood

that. He pointed out that these items were not new. The DJB board accepted these items back when we first set up the loan agreement. Plus he talked about how TCAA gave bridge loans, allowed the school to skip payments, and restructured the loan to help the school, plus he pointed out that the load was interest free.

b. There was a discussion if the school should just pay off the remaining balance since we are in a financial position to do so. The concern was if the loan was hindering us for getting financing. Mr. Renna said it was not. Mr. McDonald suggested that during this time (COVID) “cash is king.” He said we should just keep paying them as we have.

8. Board Member Matters: Mr. Welsh met with a large developer and they asked if the school had a program on development. They might help with financing the school. Decision: just keep paying as we have.

We might need a new board member. Fred Richards is thinking about resigning. He is willing to stick it out until we get the renewal approved. Mark has a former CPA that he will ask if he is interested in serving on the board.

9. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: None.

10. Set next board meeting: May 20 at 4:00 PM.

11. Adjournment: 6:05 PM



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Minutes from the MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Wednesday, June 23 at 4:00 PM:

1. Roll Call: Mark Stichter, Walter McDonald, Robert Hurst, Mike Welch
 - a. All present.
2. Review of Public Notice- A notice was posted on the school's web site.
3. Public Comments: none.
4. Resignation of Fred Richards. Mr. Richards has moved out of the area and asked to be removed from the board. Approved 4-0. Ron will send him a thank you email for his services over the past few years.
5. Approval of the minutes from the February 18, 2021 meeting. One change to C vi. Had been hired.
6. Reports:
 - a. Enrollment: August count 150; October count 186; February Count 217: Actual report by district/state 187: Dr. Torregrasso explained that we are not being paid for the actual count in February because the state is figuring out how to help those schools whose enrollment fell from the previous FTE count due to COVID19. The state is going to recalculate everyone's funding to help compensate for those schools whose enrollment went down. He explained that he sent an email to the head of the Lee County Finance department asking for an explanation and requested we receive full funding for the actual enrollment we had. He has not heard back from the district.
 - b. Going back to Brick and Mortar: We will be returning to regular classes next school year. That means we will have two sessions. Session 1 starts at 7:30 and ends at 12:30. Session 2 starts at 12:30 and ends at 5:30. What this means is extra bus cost, extra teacher/staff cost, along with everything else (cleaning, water, etc.). The new proposed budget reflects these new costs.
 - c. Site report: A lot of time was spent discussing plans to have our own building. It was decided that we needed to stop looking at so many options and settle on one or two. Set a goal to obtain a new site and focus all efforts on achieving that goal. It was decided to look into the following three sites: 1. Spanish church on Joel Blvd, 2. The current site we are in, and 3. The Methodist Church that Dr. Torregrasso is meeting with the pastor

in July. Once we decide which is our best option, we will set a goal to do what is needed to obtain that facility.

d. Financials:

i. April 2021 financial were presented and approved 4-0 vote.

ii. New budget for 2021-2022 school year was presented and approved 4-0

1. Bus- we will not purchase a new bus. Dr. Torregrasso will work with the school district to see if we can enter into a contract to lease a bus from them on an “as needed basis.”

2. If that isn’t possible, see if Lee Tran has used buses for sale or purchase another used bus before the beginning of the new school year.

3. Mr. Renna to present to the board possible raises to staff.

iii. Mr. Welch discussed economic funding opportunities that are available to the school. He suggested we contact the school district to find out more about what is available. He mentioned CHIP funding: we will look into it. He also talked about the American Recovery Act as possible funding. Look for funding that is specific to our student population (at-risk high school students).

e. Renewal application update: submitted to district. Approved at the School Board meeting. We now have a 15 year contract with the school board. In our original renewal, we requested to continue using the online hybrid system that we used during the past year. We were told that we could not include that in our application and had to remove it before the Lee County School Board would approve it.

f. The board voted 4-0 to approve School Financial Services contract.

7. New/Old items: done

8. Board Member Matters: none

9. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: none

10. Set next board meeting: September 9th at 4:00 PM at Mr. McDonald’s office Ameriprise Financial Services, 12800 University Drive, Suite 105, Fort Myers, FL 33907

11. Adjournment:



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Minutes

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 4:00 PM:

The meeting was called to order by board chairman, Mark Stichter at 4:10 PM.

1. Roll Call: Present: Mark Stichter, Walter McDonald, Robert Hurst
Absent: Mike Welch (work related conflict).
Also present at the meeting were Dr. Joseph Torregrasso (school principal), Ronald Renna, and Toni Renna (educational consultants to the board).
2. Review of Public Notice- A notice was posted on the school's web site.
3. Public Comments: None
4. Approval of the minutes from the June 23, 2021 meeting. Minutes approved (with minor corrections) 3-0
5. Reports:
 - a. Enrollment: our official 10 day count is 180 students. Dr. Torregrasso spoke of the heroic efforts on the part of Pat, Heidy, and Lorena to get the students to the school. He mentioned that his goal is to get to 200 students by the next official count in October.
 - b. Mask requirement: all students and staff are required to wear masks for the next 30 days. The 30-day mask mandate was implemented due to the edict put forth by the Lee County School District.
 - c. Site report:
 - i. Dr. Torregrasso reached out once again to the Spanish church on Joel Blvd. They are involved in litigation at this time and can't sell the building.
 - ii. We have a meeting on September 16th at 2:00 PM with the board of the church where we are currently renting. Our five year lease is up, and we need to discuss the terms of renewal. We also plan on talking with them once again on A. selling the entire property to us, and B. selling us the piece of land next to Faith Hall.
 - iii. Mr. Renna mentioned that he is working with a real estate agent who has a church for sale in North Ft. Myers. The price is perfect, and the building is in great shape. His only question/concern was if it was too far from our current location. He will send the address to the board for their review and comments.

d. Financials:

- i. Mr. Renna went over the FY22 Charter Projections for funding for DJB. He pointed out that we are not being paid for the correct number of ESOL students or the correct number of Vocational students. The school board is aware of this and we hope to have this corrected after the official count in October.
- ii. Mr. Renna went over the month and year to date budget for the month of July. He pointed out three areas that we are off in the budget:
 1. The career education teacher.
 2. The guidance teacher
 3. The bus driver

It was decided that he would speak with School Financial Services and amend our original budget amounts in each of these areas to reflect the actual expenses for this year and going forward.

The board voted to approve the financials 3-0.

- e. Award/incentives for Lorena Peters and Secretaries: The board agreed to give a financial award to Ms. Peters (\$500), two secretaries (\$250 each). 3-0
- f. Security (SRO) issues: Dr. Torregrasso addressed the issue of safety at the school. Due to COVID19 the SRO officer is not present in the school building. She sits in her car all day. He was told (by the SRO officer) those were the instructions she received from her boss. Dr. Torregrasso asked the board to consider hiring a security guard for the morning session only. He said it should cost us about \$25,000 a year. Mr. Renna pointed out that the actual contract with Lee County says that the SRO needs to be present in the school and interacting with the students. The board directed Mr. Renna to contact the Lee County Sheriff Department and discuss this issue. The board felt that now that the school board required all students and teachers to wear masks for the next month, the SRO should be safe and allowed to enter the building and fulfill their actual contract. We will hold off on hiring a security guard until we get the results of his meeting.
- g. Update on employees/bus driver:
 - i. Dr. Torregrasso reported that we should be entering into an agreement with the Lee County School District to provide us with a bus if ours is in the shop under repair. This means we will not have to purchase a second (back up bus). All efforts to find a second (part time bus driver) have failed. The county is short 100 school bus drivers. Mr. Renna and Dr. Torregrasso decided to offer our current bus driver the combined approved bus salary so that he would drive both sessions. He agreed to the amount of \$60,000 a year.

- ii. We have four new teachers this year: English, math, social studies, and a part time reading/math coach. Dr. Torregrasso reported that the overall atmosphere at the school was better than it has ever been. He said that the new teachers are very calm and that the students feed off of that energy.
- iii. IT: Our IT director has COVID! We realized that we didn't have anyone to serve as backup for our computer system. We reached out to GOODWILL and asked them to provide us with a service contract as needed.
- iv. The board was presented with this year's teacher allocation funding budget. They approved the budget 3-0.

6. New/Old items: None

7. Board Member Matters: Fingerprinting. It was discussed that all board members must be fingerprinted when they first become board members and every 5 years. Dr. Torregrasso will have his staff get the information to all board members so that we can comply with this law.

8. Set next board meeting: Tuesday, October 26th at 4:00 PM

9. Adjournment: 5:35 PM