

**Special Called School Board Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.
Central Office – Board Conference Room**

Minutes

1. Call the meeting to order.

Ronnie McCarty, Board Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2. Establish a Quorum.

A quorum was established with the following members present: Sally Spencer, Robert Redditt, Marandy Wilkerson, Ronnie McCarty, Dana Pittman and James Teague, Superintendent.

Absent were: Wendell Wainwright, James Garrett, Evangeline Shaw and David Barnes.

3. Discussion and/or approval of vendor(s) and/or contracts for Internal Connections.

James Teague told the Board Members that Mr. England prepared for the Board Members a document that consist of his comparisons of all of the bids. Mr. Teague stated that he thinks it is in the best interest for us to take the cabling bid from EduTech and the equipment bid from Syndesi and let them be our vendors and our contract.

Richard England explained to the Board Members what was in the packet that was given to them concerning the bids.

Marandy Wilkerson wanted to know if this was standard procedure to take bids apart and break them down.

Tom Minor stated that this is not the way it is normally done. By splitting the bids between EduTech and Syndesi there would be a significant cost savings to the school system. EduTech, Syndesi and Erate were all-okay with this process and put it in writing.

Robert Redditt wanted to know what was the percentage of free and reduced lunches that was needed to qualify for Erate funding.

James Teague stated that anything over 76% qualifies us for the 90% portion.

Robert Redditt wanted to know what qualified us for anything, what is the lowest percentage we could have to receive any of this funding.

Richard England stated what he could tell the Board about Erate was that he was told that anything that hits that 90% is more likely to be funded but the state of Erate from the Federal level from what he has heard from Erate is that they will not fund anything below 90%.

James Teague stated that this is strictly based on free and reduced lunch.

Robert Redditt wants to know why we are not putting the money where we know schools are going to be such as Oakland, which is above 60% free and reduced lunches.

Grants are prioritized. 90% gets funded. Any where from 70%-30% or below the likelihood of getting funded is very low.

Robert Redditt wanted to know if we tried.

James Teague stated not this year.

Robert Redditt stated that you might want to table this because he was not going to support it tonight. He stated that his district has gotten the short end of the stick over and over again and he is not supporting this now, we can move on as far as he was concerned.

After discussion on this item, a recess was called. The Board went into recess at 6:47 P.M. They came back into the meeting at 6:51 P.M.

James Teague told the Board Members that Oakland is 62.21% and West is 64.59%.

Dana Pittman gave a copy of the ERATE rules to the Board Members. She stated that Syndesi has a relationship with FCS. Syndesi has a representative here one day a week and spends a lot of time with Richard England. She feels like Syndesi is too close.

Dana Pittman motioned to eliminate the Syndesi proposal from this whole consideration because they are too closely related to us in their business transactions at this point.

Robert Redditt seconds.

Marandy Wilkerson stated that it is unfair to Syndesi because if those rules applied, they should have been implemented and carried out. The process should be carried out as it was started and make corrections the next time we have an RFP.

Dana Pittman stated that E-rate is federal money that we are getting ready to apply for. She stated that the statement is clear that any vendor involvement in the E-rate process prior to the awarding of bids, which is tonight, is highly suspect. She stated that when one of the bidders has full knowledge of all the bids that is prior knowledge and highly suspect.

James Teague stated that this is his first RFP. He stated that things could have been done more efficiently, but in Richard's defense he was following the same process they followed last year with about the same amount of money, with the same companies and bid process. He stated that on behalf of Syndesi, the work they did last year was excellent, they worked around all the schedules of the schools, and that place is wired appropriately with the right equipment. They did not disturb the educational process. They worked after school was over and on weekends and holidays. He stated that he can vouch for Syndesi's work and their reliability.

Sally Spencer was concerned that no one is suppose to know what is going until the bids are opened up. She stated that now she is hearing Syndesi is basically aware of everything.

James Teague stated that in order to make it a fair playing field, all bids were made available to everyone before we did the rebidding process.

Tom Minor stated that we contacted Kim Friends from E-rate and explained to her that we thought we had a flawed bid and asked what were our options. Ms. Friends instructed us to extend the bid to March 5th. Meeting our statutory requirements by publishing the bid in our local newspaper and then allowing all of the bids that had come in by that point to be shared with those who had already submitted bids. Each of the submitting bidders was allowed to see the competing bids. This would level the playing field. Existing bidders resubmitted amended bids.

Roll call vote:

Ronnie McCarty – Yes; Dana Pittman – Yes; Robert Redditt – Yes; Sally Spencer – No; Marandy Wilkerson – No. David Barnes, James Garrett, Evangeline Shaw and Wendell Wainwright were absent.

3 – Yes 2 – No

Motion fails.

Robert Redditt motioned to accept EduTech as sole supplier.

Dana Pittman seconds.

Roll call vote:

Ronnie McCarty – Yes; Dana Pittman – Yes; Robert Redditt – Yes; Sally Spencer – Yes; Marandy Wilkerson – No. David Barnes, James Garrett, Evangeline Shaw and Wendell Wainwright were absent.

4 – Yes 1 – No

Motion fails.

Dana Pittman motioned to table this item until Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at a Called Board Meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Robert Redditt seconds.

Roll call vote:

Ronnie McCarty – Yes; Dana Pittman – Yes; Robert Redditt – Yes; Sally Spencer – Yes; Marandy Wilkerson – No. David Barnes, James Garrett, Evangeline Shaw and Wendell Wainwright were absent.

4 – Yes 1 – No

Motion fails.

Ronnie McCarty then called a Special Called Board Meeting for Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. to discuss the contract.

4. Discussion and/or approval of Budget Amendment.

Mary Parks, Business Manager, went over the copy of the Budget Amendments that was given to the Board Members.

Dana Pittman motioned to accept the Amendments.

Robert Redditt seconds.

5 – Yes 0 – No

Motion carries.

5. Discussion and/or approval of measures to address shortfall in 2012-13 General Purpose Budget.

James Teague stated that we cut 1.8 million dollars out of the budget that was left to us. He stated that we went to the Board, the Board said that was good and to add a \$150,000 for teacher's salary increases. We took that to the commission and we were asked to leave out the \$150,000 and another \$437,000 for a total of \$587,000 which; we cut out of the budget again. The Board Members were given an information sheet that showed the shortages, expected shortages and a few overages we might have. He stated that the total shortage is \$873,000. May have \$188,000 overages in other line items which; will make our shortage \$684,287 shortfall. He stated that at the bottom of the page are some sources that we are hoping to get some additional funds. There is \$31,000 BEP funding which we know is a sure thing.

Ms. Parks went over the budget shortfall with the Board Members.

Board Members that were present discussed how the budget could be cut and what positions could possibly be cut. They discussed doing the cuts before they would go before the County Commission and asking for more money.

Discussion was held between the Mayor and the Board Members concerning the budget.

Robert Redditt wanted to know what was the plan if the County Commission said no.

James Teague stated that he and Ms. Parks are opened to any suggestions.

Ms. Parks stated that our legal fees are one thing that has really hurt us. She stated that our last statement that we got we had already paid out \$85,000 and \$70,000 is what was budgeted.

Dana Pittman requested a copy of last year's figures and this year's figures.

Robert Redditt requested a copy of the names of all employees employed by Fayette County Schools, the department or school they are assigned to, position they hold and salaries of each one.

Marandy Wilkerson also requested a copy of the same information.

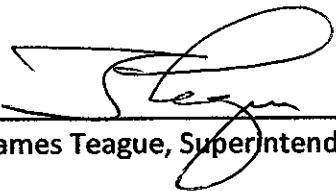
Mayor Taylor stated that if you want to make an argument to the County Commission, the way I would go about it is to ax everything that is not mandated by law, if you have extra money start adding back and if that means sending somebody home then you make the case that this is what we have to do to make it work. If you do your bare bones budget and you are still not there, then bring that.

6. **Adjournment.**
Marandy Wilkerson motioned to adjourn.
Ronnie McCarty seconds.

Approved:



Ronnie McCarty, Board Chairman



James Teague, Superintendent

Submitted by: Toni Pollet