

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF INFORMAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
August 8, 2006

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in informal session duly called at 9 a.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Wesley F. Eubank, chairman; Virginia S. Childs, vice-chairman; Tina Pinkoson, Eileen Roy, and Janie S. Williams, members; and W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., superintendent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eubank.

GENERAL
DISCUSSION

Mrs. Childs made the following comments:

- Make sure telephones are covered in the Transportation department during the first days of school.
- Would like an update on the proposed Hospitality/Tourism Magnet, such as requirements to teach, credentials, etc.
- Explore a Cosmetology Unit.
- Due to the high number of key positions in DROP, ensure that people are trained to take over key positions.
- Suggested Mr. Wittmer and Mr. Lang review the legality of Mrs. Roy's suggestion regarding creating a template for principals to complete during job interviews.
- Inform life management skills teachers of offer the district received from the county's Judicial Hearing Officer Program to speak to students about paternity and child support issues.

Mrs. Williams made the following comments:

- Expressed concern regarding the demographics of Kirby-Smith and the lack of African-American representation in the classroom. Also expressed concern with the high number of administrators retiring.
- Status report on creating an all boys class at the kindergarten level (volunteer basis). Require trained males to teach these classes.
- Invite representatives from the League of Women Voters to visit schools and see voter education issues being addressed in the classroom.
- Informed the Board that she has been working to obtain volunteer mentors to assist students one hour/week for Rawlings, Prairie View and Lake Forest Elementary schools. She is also trying to get parents to become mentors and be more involved in their child's school. Currently working with Board of County Commissioners to allow their employees to volunteer one hour week in schools.

Mr. Eubank made the following comments:

- Suggested the Board continue to pursue an electronic school board agenda
- Suggested Board members speak with Tom Wittmer, staff attorney, regarding how to handle anonymous mailings.
- Requested Board input on whether to continue to hold informal board meetings due to the negative comments and criticisms recently directed at staff.

Mrs. Roy made the following comments:

- Some anonymous mailings and emails have validity and she will bring it to the Superintendent's attention.
- Serious rumors (untrue) spreading regarding west Gainesville suggesting that both Ft. Clarke Middle School and Hidden Oak Elementary School are at capacity, and students will be transferred to Newberry schools.
- Shared some energy reduction ideas on how to reduce pollution and conserve energy, i.e., utility billing auditing. Requested superintendent to look into the issue of utility billing auditing. Provided information on an Energy Service Company (ESCOS) based in Newberry, which provides all the upgrades necessary to achieve maximum energy savings, free of charge.
- Shared information on the request from BET TV to provide AIDS awareness in the schools.
- Feels the district is misinforming the public and providing the media with misleading information concerning the 2 mill money and sales tax initiative, and will discuss further with the Superintendent.
- Suggested developing a template for principals to use when conducting job interviews, which can be accessed in case someone charges job discrimination

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.