

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF INFORMAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
May 8, 2007

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in informal session duly called at 8:30 a.m. in Conference Room E, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Virginia S. Childs, Chairman; Janie S. Williams, Vice-Chairman; F. Wesley Eubank, Tina Pinkoson and Eileen Roy, members; and W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Childs.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2007, Informal School Board meeting as presented.

The question was called on the minutes as presented.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

GENERAL
DISCUSSION

Chairman Childs reminded Board members that an Executive Session will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2007, 1:30 p.m., and a workshop to discuss the Horizon Center has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2007, 3 p.m.

Mrs. Pinkoson made the following points:

- Noted that there are ten comprehensive plan amendments
- Expressed concern with the 5% decline in FCAT reading scores statewide and the FCAT test in general
- Update on Success by Six

Mrs. Roy made the following points:

- Unfunded Mandates: Steroid Testing—strongly urged to lobby against testing
- Concerned with FCAT writing scores decreasing, especially with Metcalfe dropping 30 points
- The African-American community is concerned that the district is not teaching African-American history to their satisfaction. They want a greater commitment from the School Board on this issue. She believes the district should be more open and recommended a policy that directs teachers to teach African-American history and principals should instruct their faculties.

Dr. Boyd pointed out that he has met with the African-American community several times and discussed this issue at length. He noted that the district is working very hard on hiring the most professional and diverse staff. He noted that African-American history is being taught in

the classroom and teachers do what they feel is important and what works for their students.

Board members discussed at length the perceptions in the community related to African-American history.

Mr. Eubank suggested inviting the African-American community to become involved in their school communities.

Dr. Boyd stated that he would be proactive and try and clear up any misunderstandings with this issue. He will work within the school system and detail exactly what the district is currently doing and present this information to the African-American community and would welcome their suggestions.

Chairman Childs was a guest at the recent African-American Alliance meeting and she believes the group's entire focus was on African-American history and their perception with the lack of teaching on this subject.

Mr. Eubank made the following points:

- Concern with the high rates from Florida School Boards Insurance Trust (FSBIT). He believes there is a problem with a lack of cooperation and he does not want to see this trend continue. He believes the district should take immediate action to solve this problem. He suggested educating employees and providing them with incentives to reduce claims in order to reduce costs. He suggested the Superintendent speak with Santa Rosa County and find out what they and other counties are doing in terms of incentives.

Superintendent Boyd provided the Board with an update on the wildfires.

ADJOURNMENT

The Informal School Board meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.