

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF INFORMAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
October 9, 2007

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in informal session duly called at 10 a.m. in the Boardroom, 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 Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the minutes of the following meetings/workshops:

- September 11, 2007, Safety/Security Workshop
- September 11, 2007, Informal Board Meeting

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

GENERAL
DISCUSSION

Mr. Eubank made the following comments:

- Expressed concern with the new google email system and feels that there is a lack of communication. Poor communication with employees regarding the new google email system—believes more information should be communicated to employees prior to making such a drastic change. Also concerned with the advertisements that are being displayed.
- PE vs. recess—time to socialize has been decreased, but there are also safety issues involved with students on playgrounds and not enough supervision.
- Time we look at what is the next step in terms of capacity—facing serious issues at Wiles, Chiles, Talbot, Hidden Oak, Norton and High Springs. Need to begin looking at growth areas and schedule the rezoning workshop (10/30 @ 9 a.m.)
- Begin looking at a longer day or longer year at one or two pilot schools and hope to get this going this year. Suggested looking at the three Flex Days currently available on the calendar that are not used and schedule elementary teachers for three paid flex days, which equals five months of early Wednesdays, which would add up to 40-50 additional minutes to the elementary day.
- Insurance—concerned that the Board is being driven by the insurance committee's recommendation and feels the Board should have more active involvement in the process for selected health and life insurance. Also suggested providing more default insurance. Requested FSBIT and Santa Rosa County make a presentation to the Board on how they have reduced their worker's

compensation claims and discuss their employee incentive program.

- Suggested the district's leadership team also attend the December conference in Tampa (Keith/Joan/Jackie/Ed/Sandy).

Chairman Childs made the following comments:

- The Legislative Breakfast scheduled 10/25, 8:30 a.m., has been cancelled due to legislative session. Legislative hearing is scheduled December 4 (Board members are in Tampa for annual meeting) and suggested Jackie Johnson present the Board's priorities (along with Lofton student).
- Set up individual one-on-one training for Board members on the google email system.
- An executive session will be held on October 16, 2007, 4:30 p.m.
- Board's priority should be to address a longer school day for elementary school students and do what is best for the kids. Begin looking at cutting down on field trips and whatever it takes to improve the achievement gap.
- Direct the insurance committee to report to the Board on a certain date.
- Event renaming Hurricane Lane will be held on Wednesday, October 10.
- Noted that the Board will be rehearing a student case at the upcoming Board meeting.

Mrs. Williams made the following comments:

- She has received several requests that the Board begin addressing the need for "domestic partner" insurance before it becomes a problem. It was noted that the insurance committee has been reluctant to pursue this avenue and Board members suggested the Board provide them with a directive to address this issue.
- Concerns with ten (10) day out-of-school suspensions and requested research data on how often it is happening.
- Concern with the administration at Rawlings Elementary and their lack of cooperation in dealing with the volunteers from SFCC.
- Will be attending the Democratic Dinner on 10/16.

Mrs. Roy made the following comments:

- Will not be able to attend the Take Stock in Children event.
- FCAT data report—request previous year's data to make a judgment to see if the district has improved and if we are closing the gap between White and African-American students. Also wanted to make a comparison with other counties such as Brevard.
- VPK Program—accountability for the HIPPPY program funded by the United Way. Would like to know if these children are doing well

and how are they prepared even if there is a difference in the socio-economic factor. Would like to know how we are doing year-to-year and compare those results to see if we are making progress.

- Concerned with the distribution of the Young Marines flyer.
- Status report on the “Be There” campaign.
- Recycling in schools—status report on the use of Styrofoam lunch trays.
- Update on the elementary magnet transportation program

Mrs. Pinkoson made the following comments:

- Attended the FSBA Board of Directors meeting and noted that early Wednesdays may likely be a thing of the past.
- Will call upon a fellow Board member in Brevard to get information on how they have managed to increase their school day.
- Transportation—thanked the Superintendent for the tremendous improvement in the department.
- Commended Jackie Johnson for the Budget Snapshot information sheet and suggested sharing and distributing that information to other county agencies such as GRU, Board of County Commissioners, etc.

Superintendent Boyd made the following comments:

- Suggested Board members take a “walk through” of the Loftan construction project. Noted that the atmosphere at Loftan has improved tremendously with the implementation of uniforms and staff is working hard to improve the image of the county’s career-technical school.
- School Concurrency/Zoning/Capital Outlay workshop is scheduled to address future needs will be held on October 30, 9 a.m.
- Job descriptions—are being addressed and will be presented to the Board in same manner as policies.

ADJOURNMENT The Informal School Board meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.