

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF INFORMAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
July 10, 2007

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in informal session duly called at 9 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.

GENERAL
DISCUSSION

Mrs. Williams made the following comments:

- Requested a copy of AYP information provided by Mr. Eubank
- Invited Board members to attend a reading event
- Expressed concern with low performing schools—felt that the school system has a commitment to ensure that those children are taught the value of education
- Expressed concern with Metcalfe and Rawlings Elementary Schools
- Horizon Center—felt a need to teach behavior modification techniques on a daily basis, along with academics and suggested mandatory uniforms.

Mr. Eubank made the following comments:

- Potential holdback—felt the district should be proactive:
 - (1) Request all departments (as opposed to schools) come up with a 10% expenditure reduction plan
 - (2) Vacant positions—suggested that they not be filled without Superintendent approval, other than bus drivers, food service and teacher positions
 - (3) Freeze all hiring—only with Superintendent approval
 - (4) Suggested the additional personnel that were needed for fingerprinting be utilized elsewhere now that the workload for fingerprinting has subsided
- Low Performing Schools—confident that the Superintendent is addressing this situation with the Board's full support
- Suggested the School Board implement a program similar to the Board of County Commissioners, which invites community leaders and citizens to visit schools and learn about the school system
- Concern with the application process—potential employees are being lost due to lack of response and lack of information being provided to candidates regarding openings
- Four-day Summer Work Week—Need employees to be available to answer phones in Personnel and at the schools
- “Curb Appeal”—Remind principals to begin immediately to

improve the appearance of their school campus (lawns)

Mrs. Roy made the following comments:

- Clean School Bus USA Program
- Recycling in the schools—concern with the use of Styrofoam trays being used in the cafeterias
- Concern with the City of Alachua newspaper publishing incorrect information
- Requested that a safety/security workshop be scheduled

Pinkoson:

- NCLB Resolution—suggested placing the resolution on the next agenda for Board approval
- Board needs to be supportive of low performing schools and let them know the Board supports them and appreciates their efforts and requested the Superintendent direct funds to these low performing schools.

Superintendent Boyd noted that Mrs. Hollinger would report back to the Board with an analysis of the five (5) low performing schools and provide the Board with a plan to work with principals in making improvements where necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

The Informal School Board meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.