

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF OASIS CHARTER SCHOOL WORKSHOP
June 5, 2006

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in workshop session duly called at 2 p.m. in Conference Room E, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: F. Wesley Eubank, chairman; Tina Pinkoson, Eileen Roy, and Janie S. Williams, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., superintendent; and staff members. Vice-Chairman Ginger Childs was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Boyd.

OVERVIEW

Dr. Boyd welcomed Mrs. Sharla Head-Jones, Director, Oasis Enrichment Academy. He then introduced Dr. Sandi Anusavice, Director, ACPS Secondary Curriculum, who stated that the purpose of this workshop is for the Board to gather information in preparation for the June 20 Board meeting. At that time, a decision is expected to be made regarding the future of the Oasis Charter School.

FINANCE
UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Keith Birkett presented a financial overview of Oasis, which confirmed a deficit balance.

Mrs. Jones responded to Board Member questions, informing them that the deficit was, in part, the result of 1) decreased student enrollment, due to family relocations and students moving to high school; 2) a lack of parent involvement in fundraising last year.

She presented a proposed budget, which includes an aggressive fundraising program and reported that some athletes and community philanthropists have signed on as school partners. She further reported that a sixth-grade-only school is planned and multi-certified teachers will be hired. Twenty-two students have enrolled at this time.

PRESENTATION

Mrs. Jones presented information about Oasis, including the fact that an at-risk population is served, the students participate in community activities and mentoring-counseling programs and have shown significant academic gains. The school's financial plan for next year includes a reduction in personnel, as well as in the professional services budget.

Board members expressed concern about the Oasis' target of mid-July for reaching a recruitment goal of 40-45 sixth-graders. This would result in an unacceptably late notification to last year's sixth- and seventh-grade students that they will no longer be able to attend Oasis. If an entirely sixth-grade school is decided upon, the Board favors a more gradual phase-in, so as to accommodate seventh- and eighth-grade students who wish to complete middle school at Oasis. Deputy Superintendent Sandra Hollinger will work with Mrs. Jones on contract wording concerning grades to be served, as well as wording on teacher certification.

The matter of the Oasis Charter School contract renewal will be on the June 20 Board meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.