

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 17, 2006

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in regular session duly called at 6 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: F. Wesley Eubank, chairman; Virginia S. Childs, vice-chairman; Tina Pinkoson, Eileen F. Roy, and Janie S. Williams, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eubank, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion by Mrs. Williams Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the minutes of December 6, 2005, as presented.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION
OF AGENDA

Chairman Eubank announced the addition of Consent Agenda item H.21., Inventory Droppage Report. Also, separate discussion will be held on Consent Agenda items H.7., Interagency Criminal History Record Check User Agreement With Local Districts; H.9., Child Care Training Agreement; and H.19., Florida Learn & Serve – Homeland Security.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to adopt the January 17, 2006, meeting agenda as amended.

The question was called on approval of the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams announced details of the Saturday, March 25, 2006, March of Dimes Walk America. She extended an invitation to other Board members and the public.

Mrs. Roy reported that she has heard many public expressions of support for negotiating better utility rates with GRU. She requested such negotiation, in addition to hiring a consultant to review consumption. Chairman Eubank stated that the request would be taken under consideration.

Chairman Eubank congratulated the finalists in the 2006 Alachua County Teacher Recognition Program: Betsy Seymour, Chiles Elementary School; Catherine Baum, Lincoln Middle School; and Marie Herring, Eastside High School. The Teacher Recognition Program will be held on February 9.

The Chairman also reported that the City of Gainesville has requested a joint meeting with the School Board. It is tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 27, at 3 p.m.

The next Policy Workshop will be held on Tuesday, January 24, at 9 a.m., when Finance policies will be reviewed.

RETIREES
RECOGNITION

Retirees were greeted by Board members and Superintendent Boyd and presented with certificates and lapel pins. They were commended for their service and wished well in their retirement.

CITIZEN INPUT

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, Alachua County Education Association, commented on the Board’s policy/statutory responsibilities, including the budget. He stated that it is a Board member’s duty to be investigative.

ADMINISTRATIVE
APPOINTMENT(S)

Superintendent Boyd recommended the appointment of Mrs. Joyce Daniels to Director of the state-mandated Voluntary PreKindergarten Program, effective January 18, 2006. This is a promotion from the Principalship of Rawlings Elementary School. Her credentials were reviewed.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Mrs. Joyce Daniels to Director of the state-mandated Voluntary PreKindergarten Program, effective January 18, 2006.

Mr. Tom Coward, Alachua County Educational Coalition; Mr. Charles Chestnut, citizen; and Ms. Evelyn Fox, first vice-president, Alachua County Branch of the NAACP, addressed the Board with complaints concerning the timing and procedure of moving Mrs. Daniels to this new position.

Mrs. Childs expressed appreciation for the citizen comments and encouraged improvement of the transfer process. Mrs. Williams also expressed that she had been disturbed about the timing of the move.

Superintendent Boyd responded, stating that he made this recommendation because it is very important to get the state-mandated VPK program off the ground, and there is no one more qualified than Mrs. Daniels. In addition, she had expressed an interest in being considered for another assignment. He believes no child will be handicapped by the change, since the teachers have worked on the FCAT plan all year.

Chairman Eubank stated that, since policies are presently under review, changes can certainly be considered, as suggested by Mr. Chestnut.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Superintendent Boyd recommended the appointment of Mr. Emery Bishop to the Principalship of Rawlings Elementary School, effective January 18, 2006. His credentials were reviewed and the Superintendent noted that Mr. Bishop is intimately familiar with the needs of East Gainesville.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Emery Bishop to the Principalship of Rawlings Elementary School, effective January 18, 2006.

Mr. Cowart questioned whether Mrs. Daniels would be able to work with Mr. Bishop until after the FCAT. Superintendent Boyd responded, stating that Mr. Bishop will begin his responsibility for administrative decisions on January 18, but that Mrs. Daniels would be available to provide input on programs that are in place.

Ms. Fox stated that she does not believe Mr. Bishop can identify with Rawlings students, who are 95% African American, because ‘he does not look like them.’

Mrs. Pinkoson responded to Mrs. Fox, stating that on this day after Martin Luther King day, she believes a disservice is done to him by stating that Mr. Bishop cannot relate to the Rawlings students because he is not Black. Having had the privilege of working with Mr. Bishop, she described his dedication and compassion. She expressed the hope that members of the school community will offer their support in the Rawlings transition.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

**GUARANTEED
MAXIMUM PRICE FOR
PROJECT SBAC A0330—
HORIZON CENTER NEW
CLASSROOM BUILDING
AND SUPPORT FACILITY**

Subcontractor bid prices were received and a proposal was prepared for the School Board by the Construction Manager, PPI Construction Management, Inc., Gainesville, Florida, for the construction of the Horizon Center’s new classroom building and support facility.

Motion by Mrs. Roy Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to accept the guaranteed maximum price proposal of \$2,997,836 from PPI Construction Management, Inc., for construction of the Horizon Center new classroom building and support facility, with completion to be within 25 consecutive days of Notice to Proceed.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONTRACT WITH DES OF FLORIDA, LLC, TO PROVIDE POST-DROP EMPLOYMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL/ TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

Assistant Superintendent Joan Longstreth addressed the Board, explaining the post-DROP employment program. Since the less the employee makes, the larger the percent that SBAC pays, only professional/technical and administration are presently being recommended to be contracted under this provision.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation that the School Board approve a one-year contract with DES of Florida, LLC, to employ administrative and professional/technical personnel who are pre-approved by the Superintendent to be sub-contracted by the School Board.

Discussion was held on how salaries would be determined, who is eligible, DES costs, and SBAC costs. Chairman Eubank made suggestions for changes that he believes should be made to the contract.

Mrs. Williams requested that the Board take more time to study the issue.

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to table the issue until the next Board meeting (February 7, 2006).

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mrs. Child’s asked that a comparison of DES costs versus SBAC costs be provided for the February 7 meeting.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 1, 2005, THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2005

Assistant Superintendent Birkett presented Budget Amendments and responded to Board member questions.

Budget Amendment No. 7 – General Fund; Budget Amendment No. 8 – Capital Projects Funds; and Budget Amendment No. 9 – Special Revenue Funds, include changes for the period November 1, 2005, through November 30, 2005.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve Budget Amendment Nos. 7, 8, and 9 as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the

Consent Agenda as described in items H.1-21.

Board member questions were responded to. Mrs. Childs drew the public's attention to Item H.9., which is an agreement for Santa Fe Community College to provide child care training courses at Newberry High School in the Academy of Early Childhood Education. As a Board representative to the Early Learning Coalition, Mrs. Williams commented that transportation issues are being examined.

In response to Mr. Eubank's question regarding Item H.7, Dr. Longstreth stated that a staff member will soon be attending what is reported to be a very good conference dealing with criminal history records checks. Regarding item H.19., Mrs. Childs noted the possibility that Homeland Security Grants may not be continued. If that turns out to be the case, she stated that there is no obligation on the part of the Board to continue the associated projects.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Chestnut addressed the Board, suggesting examination of the Policy on Board member requests.

BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT REQUESTS

Mrs. Roy reiterated that she has heard a lot of public support for negotiating with GRU for better utility rates. She made a formal request that a discussion be held on: (1) a comprehensive look at energy consumption, (2) pursuing a better rate from GRU, and (3) hiring a consultant to help. She wants the discussion to be held at a General Business Meeting, where the public can attend.

Mrs. Roy also requested that the Board consider changing School Board meeting times to 7 p.m., which she believes would be more conducive to public attendance or television viewing. She feels that so much is dealt with at Informal Board meetings and workshops that the public does not have the opportunity to participate. She also requested that public input time be extended from 3 to 5 minutes, and that as many people as want to speak be allowed to do so.

Superintendent Boyd stated that all Board members and staff are interested in cost savings, citing a number of past initiatives related to utility savings. He commended the foresight of a past Board and Superintendent who entered into a ten-year contract with GRU, which enabled the District to save \$300,000 per year. An early termination of the present contract would forfeit the discount savings and require reimbursement of nearly a million dollars. He cautioned against the Board moving to break this contract. Although rates are the issue, he briefly mentioned GRU's significant contributions to this community. He believes the Board's focus should be on reducing consumption and again emphasized that all Board members are interested in savings.

Mrs. Roy noted that there are new energy saving ideas and she is requesting review of the contract, research of consumption reduction, and a review of the multiple meter system. She stated that the contract will end in 2007 and negotiations should begin. She feels taxpayers need to be represented aggressively. Investigation should be done to get the best rate, rather than depending on what the utility company says is the best rate. She believes the school system 'pays the price' for GRU's tax exempt status, which saves them 6.3 million dollars per year. She believes this should be factored into the rate issue.

Chairman Eubank noted that the contract does not expire until 2012, having been renewed in 2002 when GRU offered a larger discount than in the original.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Upon a motion by Mrs. Williams, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.