

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 2, 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. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the minutes of April 18, 2006, as presented.

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

ADOPTION Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Williams
OF AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were pulled for discussion:

Mrs. Roy

- Item H.8. Design Development/Construction Documents for Project SBAC A0507 –High Springs Community School, Renovate Three Classrooms.

Mrs. Williams

- Item H.2., Attachment C, Page 2, Item D, Drywall, Plastering, and Framing.

Moved to adopt the May 2, 2006, meeting agenda.

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

RECOGNITION -- The 2006 School-Related Employees of the Year were recognized by the
2006-2007 SCHOOL- Board and presented with certificates of appreciation.
RELATED EMPLOYEES
OF THE YEAR

TITLE 1 DISTINGUISHED Norton Elementary School was presented with the State's 2005-06 Title I
SCHOOL AWARD – Distinguished School Award for Sustained Achievement and the NCLB
NORTON ELEMENTARY Region II Technical Assistance Award for Sustained Achievement.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS Mrs. Childs:

- Expressed pleasure at FCAT scores
- Reminded everyone of the Saturday, May 6, World's Greatest Baby Shower at Lincoln Middle School. In addition to the School Board, funding has come from the County Commission, City Commission, Av-Med, The Gainesville Sun, Kiwanis Clubs, and many others.

Mrs. Williams was impressed with accomplishments of Loften students.

Mrs. Roy congratulated students and teachers on FCAT scores, particularly in writing.

Mrs. Pinkoson:

- Gave a reminder of Teacher Appreciation Week, the Alachua County Public Schools Foundation Golf Tournament and O2b a Kid Again fundraiser.
- Expressed thanks to Johnny Brasington for his idea of school bus bumper stickers saying *How's My Driving*, and for providing funding.

At the request of Superintendent Boyd, Chief Financial Officer Scott Ward informed the Board that the following Charter Schools are in financial difficulty: Oasis Academy and Desoto High School. He provided a brief report.

Mr. Eubank:

- Commended the Alachua County Public Schools Foundation on their fundraising, mentioning particularly their recent ice-cream give-away, which raised over \$4,000 in tips.
- Reported that Eastside, Buchholz, and Gainesville High were in the top thousand high schools as cited in Newsweek Magazine, with Eastside ranking number six.
- Reported that Superintendent Boyd has recently finished another Leadership Development Institute, which extends his qualification certification as a Superintendent for another year.

In response to a question from Mrs. Childs, Superintendent stated that the Board does not need to take action at this time on Oasis and Desoto Charter Schools. Staff is seriously concerned and will be working with the schools. A report will be made to the Board at a later date.

CITIZEN INPUT

Ms. Sally Dickinson and Ms. Marilyn Walker addressed the Board as representatives of the Alachua County School Concurrency Project. Ms. Dickinson stressed the importance of raising citizen awareness of the choices involved in the School Concurrency Project. She requested that a Draft Concurrency Plan be placed on the School Board Website and a public workshop be advertised. Ms. Walker also emphasized the importance of citizens understanding the community implications of the decisions that will be made in the Concurrency plan. She encouraged citizens to educate themselves, citing [www. acscp.org](http://www.acscp.org) as a Website source of information. She encouraged the City and the County, in cooperation with the School Board, to create a public awareness video for public access television and publish public information articles in newspapers and magazines, especially in smaller communities.

Mr. Mark Minno, Boy Scout Leader, Troop 164, praised Principal Mike Thorne and the Eastside High School staff on their excellent school and its academic accomplishments.

REPORT –
LOFTEN VISIONING
WORKSHOP

Dr. Chet Sanders, who assumes the principalship of Loften High School beginning in June 2006, reported on the recently held Loften Visioning Workshop. The workshop included about 70 people from diverse populations: business, education, parents, and teachers. All Board members expressed enthusiasm about new direction for Loften.

Ms. Pinkoson believes it is important that the Board work toward community understanding of this new vision. Mrs. Childs concurred. She favors a more succinct mission statement for Loften. Mrs. Williams suggested that a video be made for eighth- and ninth-graders and parents. Mrs. Roy commended the process that was used for the Workshop. She stated that 80% of community jobs do not require a college degree.

Superintendent Boyd expressed appreciation to Dr. Sanders for the fine work and commended Dr. Ellen West, long-time Loften principal, for helping with the school's transition.

Dr. Sanders displayed an artist's rendering of the multipurpose building that is going to be constructed at Loften.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Mrs. Williams questioned the ratio of bids received to the number solicited (Attachment C). Mr. Hackett explained that it is sometimes difficult to obtain services because the number of qualified contractors is limited. Regarding the portables being returned (Attachment E, page 1), Mr. Hackett confirmed that this means fewer portables on campus.

Mrs. Roy inquired about Design Development/Construction documents for the High Springs classroom renovation project (H.8.). It was explained that documents for such a project are generally made available for Board review, and a formal presentation is not conducted.

ADMINISTRATIVE
APPOINTMENT –

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

SCHOOL FOOD
SERVICE DIRECTOR

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the appointment of Mrs. Maria Eunice as director of Food Service, effective May 1, 2006.

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

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. E-0405-11

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board schedule a hearing for June 13, 2006, for Employee Case No. E-0405-11, with a time to be determined.

Mrs. Roy stated that she has read the Finding of Fact and strongly objects to proceeding with the case. She felt other arrangements might be made for the employee. Dr. Gunnar Paulsen, ACEA President, urged the Board to closely study the findings.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1

Yes: Childs
Eubank
Pinkoson
Williams

No: Roy

INFORMATION ITEM –
CHINESE AS A
FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Mrs. Debbie Gallagher, Teacher Specialist, provided a report to the Board on her investigation of Chinese language programs, through a recent grant-funded visit to China. She applied for and was accepted to attend the Chinese Language Association for Secondary Educators (CLAS), which is supported by China's national office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language.

Mrs. Childs expressed great pleasure in seeing this program being advanced and commended Ms. Gallagher for taking the trip. Dr. Boyd also commended Ms. Gallagher and Deputy Superintendent Sandy Hollinger for their initiative.

Mrs. Williams was also excited about the program, even speculating about the eventual possibility of Chinese classes at an elementary level.

Mrs. Roy stated that she enthusiastically endorses the teaching of Chinese. She questioned the Buchholz selection as the first school for the program. Ms. Gallagher explained that a strong parent contingency approached the principal with a desire to establish a class. Lincoln and Eastside are also studying possibilities of a collaborative program. Mrs. Roy expressed concern about not having been informed of the trip earlier, causing embarrassment when she wrongly responded to a citizen email. She questioned why the University was not approached concerning Chinese instruction and why Mrs. Gallagher was selected for the trip.

Mrs. Pinkoson believes that the trip was a good investment for \$1600 in airfare, with the Chinese government paying the other costs. She noted that teachers take study trips, including one to Vancouver last year.

Superintendent Boyd stated that he had directed staff to embark on this search for information. He feels that to be accepted for a grant funded by the People's Republic of China presented a unique opportunity that had to be taken advantage of. It also established a relationship with other American school districts who are interested in the same venture.

Mrs. Child's related her quest to have Chinese added to the Lyceum curriculum at Lincoln Middle School. She is proud of the staff initiative. Superintendent Boyd responded that he will continue to be proactive.

Mrs. Roy hopes that students won't be denied the opportunity for Chinese if their principal does not take the initiative to ask parents. She pointed out that it was IB teachers who went on the Vancouver trip. Since the IB program earns over three quarters of a million dollars for the district each year, the teachers are entitled to go where they need to.

CITIZEN INPUT

There were no citizen requests.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Pinkoson expressed concern about Oasis Charter School, stating that, after numerous chances, she does not believe there will be another.

Mrs. Roy:

- Expressed concern about the Magic School House program at Prairie View and would like to know the reason that funding was not requested from United Way and why the Board was not consulted in the decision.
- Inquired whether an invitation was received to the recent Economic Summit, and who got it. Requested that Board members be informed about such events in the future.
- Announced that there will be an important meeting of the Wellness Advisory Committee at 4 p.m. on May 10, with presentations from Coke and Pepsi.
- Mrs. Williams requested a review of upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Williams Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

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

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:01p.m.