

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 20, 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. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to approve the minutes of June 6, 2006, as presented.

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

ADOPTION
OF AGENDA

Chairman Eubank announced the following changes to the agenda:

- Revised Attachment B, page 4
- Revised Attachment D, page 1, Item C, - Food Service Fund, instead of General Fund.
- Add Action Item H.7., Schedule Workshops

Mrs. Williams requested discussion on Consent items 15, 8 and 2.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to adopt the June 20, 2006, meeting agenda, as amended.

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

RECOGNITION –
RETIREES

Retirees –

No retirees were present but recognition was given for the years of dedicated service.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams:

- requested that Jackie Johnson, Public Information Officer, explain the recently released school grades. She commended teachers, faculty members, and all involved in school-grade achievement.

Mrs. Johnson reviewed the school grades and briefly explained the complex formulas involved. She stated that she has done numerous media interviews on the subject.

Mrs. Childs:

- expressed appreciation for the information that was provided on the Transportation Department complaints registered at a previous meeting. She hoped for accurate information to be made available to the public. Mrs. Williams also appreciated the response.

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, ACEA president, disagreed with information on one of the responses.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-26, with discussion on several items being requested.

Staff responded to Mrs. Williams' questions on the Early Learning Coalition contract and the Florida Learn and Serve Grants.

Mrs. Williams requested that Charles Hall, Director, Special Instructional Programs, make a presentation in the near future on the district's many initiatives and partnerships.

Mrs. Roy commended Dave Edwards, Director, Adult, Career and Technical Education, on his diligence in bringing many grants into the district.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE
APPOINTMENTS –

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve principal reassignments and an appointment as follows:

- Robert Craig - Glen Springs Elementary to Archer Community
- Leon Henderson - Archer Community to Glen Springs Elementary
- Mike Thorne - Eastside High to Howard Bishop Middle
- Jeff Charbonnet - Howard Bishop Middle to Eastside High
- Beth LeClear appointed to principalship of Terwilliger Elementary.

All reassignments and the appointment are effective June 21, 2006.

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

PARTNERSHIP WITH
MEDIMMUNE
VACCINES, INC.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board support the Alachua County Department of Health's partnership with MedImmune Vaccines, Inc., to supply FluMist vaccinations to identified Alachua County students during the 2006-07 school year.

At Mrs. Roy's request, Tom Belcuore, Alachua County Health Department, commented on the vaccine initiative, reporting that there were no adverse effects in last year's Palm Beach County program. He stated that various methods of parent notification are being considered. Mr. Belcuore also pointed out that one of the results of an effective

children’s immunization program is a reduction in cases of influenza in adults. He affirmed that this is not a clinical trial, stating that MedImmune is an FDA licensed product.

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

RENEWAL OF CHARTER
FOR OASIS
ENRICHMENT
ACADEMY

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to renew the charter with Oasis Enrichment Academy for a one-year term, through June 30, 2007.

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

PUBLIC HEARING –

The regular Board meeting was recessed and a Public Hearing convened.

CONSIDER REVISIONS
TO THE 2006-07 CODE OF
STUDENT CONDUCT
AND POLICY 5.21,
STUDENT ATTENDANCE

This Public Hearing was scheduled to consider revisions to the 2006-07 Code of Student Conduct and Policy 5.21, Student Attendance.

Jerry Douglas, Supervisor, Student Services, reviewed the proposed revisions and Mr. Eubank invited public input.

Comments included:

- Teacher: Concerned about suspended students being allowed to make up work; believes not being able to make up work is a deterrent to behavior that would result in suspension.
- Parent: Believes it sends a positive message to be able to make up work while suspended, particularly if it is a student without habitual disciplinary problems.
- Teacher: Cell-phone confiscation is an effective deterrent to prohibited use of cell phones. She believes the penalty should be continued.
- Parent: No need for the distraction of cell-phone use at school. Even in emergencies, the school phone could be used.
- The Discipline Committee based its proposed cell phone revision on principal input.
- Parent: Favors make-up work during suspension as a means to rehabilitation.
- Student Services staff who are also members of the Discipline Committee reviewed the rationale behind the Committee’s recommendation to (1) allow a reduction in consequences for students charged with drug/alcohol possession or use, if they participate and complete a district-approved counseling program, and (2) allow make-up work during a suspension. They are based on the Committee’s

belief that it is in the best interest of students and parents to provide incentives and opportunities to take corrective action. It sends a message that their education is valued. Punitive action alone is believed to be ineffective for changing behavior.

Mrs. Pinkoson suggested cell-phone confiscation be specified as a possible consequence.

Mrs. Childs expressed her belief that full credit should not be given for suspensions, since it is impossible for students to make up what takes place in actual classroom interaction. She also pointed out the inequity of allowing make-up work for suspensions but not for unexcused absences.

Mrs. Roy stipulated that she does not favor any out-of-school suspensions and has suggested a workshop to consider alternatives. However, she agrees that a student cannot get full credit during a suspension, since her experience shows that the quality of a student's make-up work cannot meet that of students who are in the classroom. In addition, allowing make-up work often requires excessive work for the teacher.

Mrs. Pinkoson agreed that it is inequitable to allow make-up work for suspensions but not for unexcused absences. Mrs. Williams concurred.

A citizen noted that all students who get suspended are not troubled, that 'good kids' sometimes make a bad decision.

A teacher stressed that the wording needs to be changed so that it does not indicate that there are no academic consequences from suspension. Regarding unexcused absences, she also noted that students sometimes miss school through circumstances that are not within their control.

Regarding the drug and alcohol language, Mrs. Pinkoson suggested deleting the "most recent three-semester" timeframe. Mrs. Childs concurred. It was clarified that other language changes should give the principal discretion. Importance was placed on maintaining consistency throughout the document. Mrs. Pinkoson also placed importance on the discretion of the teacher. Mrs. Childs suggested that it be clearly stated that students should be at their bus stop five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.

The Public Hearing was adjourned and the regular Board meeting was reconvened.

RENEWAL OF PROPERTY
& CASUALTY
INSURANCE PROGRAM
FOR THE 2006-07 FISCAL
YEAR

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to renew the Property and Casualty Insurance Program with the Florida School Boards Insurance Trust for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Dave Hotary, Director, Risk Management and Benefits, reviewed program renewal issues, stating that the significant increase is due to last year's hurricanes.

Mr. Eubank noted that the original wording has been slightly changed, omitting "and the deposit of the surplus distribution to the district's Contingency Fund."

Mr. Hotary responded to Mrs. Roy's questions concerning the surplus premiums, which is a one-time distribution.

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

INTERNAL FUND
ACCOUNTING
PROGRAM,
BID NUMBER ITN #05-52

Assistant Superintendent Keith Birkett explained that this internal fund accounting program is the one pulled from a February agenda, in anticipation of a major Head Start shortfall. With that need addressed and a reserve in place for a lesser shortfall, the Board is now requested to approve the internal fund accounting software program. System support is no longer available for the present outdated system.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to award the bid to American Fundware, Inc., for purchase of an internal fund accounting software program for use by district schools to operate internal accounts.

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

BUDGET AMENDMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD OF
APRIL 1, 2006, THROUGH
APRIL 30, 2006

Mr. Birkett reviewed each Budget Amendment.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Budget Amendments No. 19, General Fund; No. 20, Capital Projects Funds; and No. 21, Special Revenue Funds, including changes for the period of April 1, 2006, through April 30, 2006.

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

SCHEDULE WORKSHOPS

The Superintendent stated that the staff suggests the Board schedule two workshops: Budget and School Concurrency. After discussion, the dates decided upon were: Budget Work Group - June 27 at 8:30 a.m.; School Concurrency - August 1 at 3 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Pinkoson:

- requested an workshop on what is being done to identify high school students in the lower quartile.

Mrs. Childs:

- referred to an agreement during the last rezoning, whereby schools with large populations of lower socioeconomic level students be provided the resources needed to achieve. She believes the Board may now need to consider differentiated staffing at the high school level.
- expressed her serious interest in establishing a Hospitality and Tourism Magnet Program. She requested an update.
- requested that a reminder be given to elementary principals that last year, the Board requested that recess be included in schedules.
- requested a revisit of the subject of a paperless agenda and back-up material.

Mrs. Roy:

- requested that exclusivity over charter schools be applied for, as recommended at the FSBA Workshop.
- inquired as to what is being done toward student remediation in high schools.
- requested to serve on the interviewing committee for the energy expert, which has been advertised for.

Mr. Eubank stated that he believes Staff Attorney Tom Wittmer has been looking into the Charter School law.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.