

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 15, 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 Board meeting of August 1, 2006, and the Special Meeting of July 24, 2006, as presented.

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

ADOPTION
OF AGENDA

The Chairman announced the following changes to the agenda:

- Consent Agenda item H.13., Safe and Drug Free Schools, was deleted. Items H.2., Bids and Requisitions; and H.5., Multidistrict Cooperative Agreement for Programs for Deaf/Hard of Hearing for Columbia, Gilchrist, and Levy Counties, were pulled for separate discussion.
- The staff person's name was changed on Consent Agenda Items H.6. and H.7. from Black to Hall.
- Item L, was changed from Adjournment to a Discussion Item: Consideration of Purchase of a Future School Site.
- Item M. was added as Adjournment.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to adopt the August 15, 2006, meeting agenda as amended.

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

RECOGNITION --
HEAD START FAMILY
LITERACY AWARD

Mrs. Ann Crowell, Principal, Fearnside Family Services Center, announced that the Head Start School Readiness Program, Marvelous Explorations through Science and Stories, was named the winner of the National Head Start Association's 2006 Family Literacy Award. The honor included \$2,500 from the National Head Start Association, which was presented to program supporters.

RETIREEES

Superintendent Boyd and the Board recognized Mr. Jim Moffett for 26 years of dedicated service.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams:

- Thanked the Board of County Commissioners for no longer preempting the television broadcast of School Board meetings.

Mr. Eubank dispelled any rumor that loss of vending machine revenue was a consideration in development or adoption of this policy.

Dr. Diana Lagotic, Wellness Committee chairman, commented on nutritional standards for elementary students. She stated that a wellness newsletter will eventually be available on the School Board Website.

Mrs. Roy reported that the policy of students not being able to purchase sodas during school hours is not being followed districtwide, since she was aware that students were able to purchase them at GHS.

No other citizens wished to speak so Public Input was closed.

Mrs. Childs announced that recess is being reinstated in the schools this year. She also expressed concern that students are sometimes served several starchy foods in the same meal.

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

CONSENT AGENDA
(continued)

Staff responded to Mrs. Williams' questions on H.5., Multidistrict Cooperative Agreement for Programs for Deaf/Hard of Hearing for Columbia, Gilchrist and Levy Counties, H.6., Agreement with the Success for All Foundation, Inc.; and a question from Mrs. Roy regarding the Annual Master Task Order Contract for General Contractor Services and the McGraw Hill book purchase.

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

PUPIL PROGRESSION
PLAN, 2006-2007 –

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

FIRST READING

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to schedule a Public Hearing for September 19, 2006, regarding the proposed revisions to the 2006-2007 Pupil Progression Plan as presented.

Dr. Sandi Anusavice reviewed the proposed changes to the Pupil Progression Plan and responded to Board member questions and concerns.

Mrs. Roy pointed out a typographical error.

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

PRESENTATION

TITLE I AND DROPOUT
PREVENTION,
COLLABORATIONS
AND PARTNERSHIPS

Dr. Charles Hall, Director, Special Instructional Programs, presented information on contracts and collaborations that assist students who are academically at-risk or at risk of dropping out of school. He responded to Mrs. Williams' questions regarding methods of parent communication.

Mrs. Roy commended the establishment of juvenile justice participation in student attendance efforts.

Mr. Childs stated that, as Hearing Officer, she would like the option of adjudicating a student to the Gainesville Wilderness Institute program.

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

Budget Amendment No. 25 – General Fund and Budget Amendment No. 26 – Special Revenue Funds include changes for the period of June 1, 2006, through June 30, 2006.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve Budget Amendment Nos. 25 and 26 as presented.

Mr. Birkett responded to Board member questions.

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

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL FACILITY PLANNING

Mr. Terry Tougaw, Director, Community Planning/Zoning, presented information on the Interlocal Agreement for School Facility Planning (school concurrency) and responded to Board member questions. He noted that several municipalities have already approved the Agreement.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to adopt the Interlocal Agreement for Public School Planning as presented.

Mrs. Roy’s comments:

- Districtwide concurrency service areas should be established earlier than 2013, following the example of the state’s six pilot communities.
- There is inadequate protection for high-growth areas.
- If a development should overcrowd a school, the responsibility for providing solutions lies with the School Board alone.
- It will be a difficult process to coordinate changes with all nine municipalities in the county.
- Responsibility for school-site selection should be shared with the municipalities and the county.
- Advisory Committee members should be prohibited from benefiting personally or financially from conclusions reached by the Committee.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1
Yes: Mrs. Childs
Mr. Eubank
Mrs. Pinkoson
Mrs. Williams
No: Mrs. Roy

SCHEDULE WORKSHOP AND JOINT MEETING

The Board scheduled a Health Insurance Workshop for Tuesday, September 19, 2006, at 3 p.m. in the boardroom, and a joint meeting with the City of Gainesville on October 2 at 5 p.m.

The City has requested that the Board provide information on subjects including testing and graduation rates. Mr. Eubank pointed out that the requested information can be found on the School Board Website and suggested that address be provided to the City. A summary only will then be required at the meeting.

Mr. Eubank also would like to include the following items on the meeting agenda:

- Discussion of the City Commission’s plans related to their majority wanting to end the current GRU Business Partner program, which will cost the School Board hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- Disposition of the funds that Cox Cable believed the City was distributing to the School Board.

CITIZEN INPUT

There were no citizen requests.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Childs:

- requested that Board members be kept apprised of student enrollment by school.
- expressed concern for buses being in place, particularly for the problem at Lincoln Estates.

Mrs. Roy:

- relayed Talbot parents’ concerns about class overcrowding and parking.

Mr. Ed Gable, Executive Director, Facilities, reported daily improvement in the parking lot situation, but along-term need for a larger parking lot.

Mrs. Pinkoson:

- Expressed appreciation to Mr. Gable on his solutions at Talbot.

Mr. Eubank:

- Gave a reminder of the upcoming UF Luncheon and postponement of the Administrative Salary Workshop.

CONSIDERATION OF THE
PURCHASE OF A
FUTURE SCHOOL SITE

As a discussion item, the Superintendent presented the possibility of the County and the School Board entering into discussion on possible purchase of Diamond Sports Park. The county could manage it as a recreation site for several years, prior to the School Board’s need to utilize the property as a school site. Since the County Commission met earlier in the day, the Superintendent asked Mr. Randy Reid, Alachua County Manager, to address the Board.

Mr. Reid reviewed that the County Commission Chairman had asked him to contact Dr. Boyd regarding possible collaboration on purchase of Diamond sports Park, a private facility which is closing to the public and

is not for sale. Since his original discussion with Dr. Boyd, however, he related that the Commission has determined that the park is not suitable for a school site and it is outside the urban services boundary. The County is interested in maintaining the recreation facility but a funding source has not been identified.

Mr. Eubank stated that the fact that the property is outside the urban services boundary is precisely why the price is 2.5 million and not much more. He further stated that he thought it would be a win-win situation for the two agencies: A joint cooperative effort wherein the County could operate the recreation area for the community forever, except for the portion the district would need for the school site.

Mrs. Childs pointed out that Kanapaha, Wiles and Chiles didn't seem as likely for sites when purchased as they did after the Haile development. At a question from Mrs. Childs, Mr. Reid stated that he had been instructed by the County Commission to pursue the possibility of the County purchasing the site on its own.

Mrs. Pinkoson expressed frustration that being outside the urban services line is seen as an obstacle. To acquire appropriate property within the urban services area would be too costly. She feels that a precedent setting cooperative opportunity is being bypassed.

Mrs. Roy stated that she does not feel adequately informed. She questioned the need for a high school in the foreseeable future. She feels that to purchase land that would adjoin a new high school does not seem like the right thing to do with district funds. She stated this is not in compliance with the District's interlocal agreement. She is not opposed to land banking but only if the District does not have to pay for the land.

The Superintendent expressed his belief that it is beneficial to the public for government agencies to enter into cooperative efforts for the use of public property. He looks forward to advancing a proposal if the Board so directs.

Mr. Eubank pointed out that while high school enrollments have been declining, elementary enrollments are up. This will create a future need for a high school, although it may be a decade away. He stated that he had also been disappointed with the Jonesville project did not become a joint-agency venture.

Mr. Jack Hughes, Executive Director of the Gainesville Sports Organizing Committee, asked the Board to please take a second look at this purchase:

- The Diamond Sports Park, a partially developed property, is offered at \$42,000 per acre. Even undeveloped property is being sold for \$56,000 per acre and higher.
- Plenty of space for a school in the future.

- If the County is not interested, some cities would be interested in entering into an interlocal agreement.
- Agreement could provide for rental funds to be put back into the middle school athletics program.

Mr. Kevin Griffin, citizen, noted that the price is actually \$38,000 per acre. He concurred with the idea that successful interlocal agreements can be made. He believes that hosting state-level high school events would also be a desired use of the property.

Mr. Richard Blalock, City of Newberry Parks Director, realizes the Board is interested in land acquisition for a school. However, he knows the importance of Diamond as a public sports property and hopes the Board will consider the purchase. It is already established that the City of Newberry would be interested in discussing an interlocal agreement. He offered any assistance they might provide.

It was the consensus of the Board for the Superintendent to gather further information on the possible acquisition of Diamond Sports Park as a land bank for a future school site.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.