

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 19, 2007

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: Virginia S. Childs, Chairman; Janie S. Williams, Vice-Chairman; F. Wesley Eubank, Tina Pinkoson, and Eileen F. Roy, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent; and James F. Lang, Attorney for the Board.

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

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Mrs. Roy requested correction of an inaccurate vote on a section of the Policy Manual.

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of June 5, 2007, as corrected.

The question was called on the minutes as corrected.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION
OF AGENDA

Chairman Childs stated that Consent Agenda , University of Florida Transportation Agreement, will be deleted, and Action Item H.4.a., Letter Purchase Orders for contractual services through DES of Florida, LLC, will be added.

Consent Item G.11., OPPAGA School Safety and Security Best Practices Report for 2006-07, was pulled for separate discussion.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to adopt the June 19, 2007, meeting agenda as amended.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

RECOGNITION

Campus Credit Union was recognized for their Everyday Hero Loan Program, a home loan program established exclusively to assist teachers and other School Board employees in becoming homeowners.

Mrs. Childs expressed appreciation to Campus Credit Union and hoped other community agencies would offer benefits that would assist the Board in recruiting excellent teachers.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Boyd expressed condolences to the family of Coach James F. Niblack, who recently passed away. He was described as a great contributor to public education in Alachua County, who set a very high standard for others to follow and will be long remembered.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as described in Items 1-16, with the deletion of G.6.a., bus transportation for the UF 2007 Baseball Camp, and with separate discussion on G.11., OPPAGA School Safety and security Best Practices Report for 2006-07.

At a question from Mrs. Williams, Security Chief Alex Branaman reported that the annual Sheriff's Department simulated emergency drill will be held on August 3 at Prairie View Academy.

Mrs. Pinkoson pointed out that over \$800,000 in technical equipment is being approved on this agenda, verifying that the face of education is changing, and at an alarmingly costly rate.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Budget Amendment No. 16 – General Fund, Budget Amendment No. 17 – Special Revenues, and Budget Amendment No. 18 – Capital Projects, include changes for the period of April 1, 2007, through April 30, 2007.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Budget Amendment Nos. 16, 17, and 18, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

FIRST AMENDMENT TO
THE LOVE TO LEARN
EDUCATIONAL CENTER,
INC., CONTRACT

The School Board approved a renewal charter contract with the Love to Learn Educational Center, Inc., on March 19, 2002. The charter school's Governing Board has requested that the school be designated a public employer, instead of a private employer.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the First Amendment to the Charter School Contract with Love to Learn Educational Center, Inc, as presented.

Mrs. Roy spoke in favor of this change, as teachers will be able to participate in the Florida Retirement System.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

RENEWAL OF PROPERTY
AND CASUALTY
INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Dave Hotary, Director, Benefits and Risk Management, reported a \$125,822 decrease in the cost of Property and Casualty Insurance for 2007-08.

FOR THE 2007-2008
FISCAL YEAR

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Property and Casualty Insurance Program with the Florida School Boards Insurance Trust (FSBIT) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year at a cost of \$5,941,384.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONTRACT WITH
DES OF FLORIDA, LLC

The motion to "approve the contract with DES of Florida, LLC, to employ SBAC administrators and professional/technical employees who are pre-approved by the Superintendent to be subcontracted by the SBAC," was tabled at the June 5, 2007, School Board meeting.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to remove the motion from the table for action.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The Superintendent pointed out that he will be making several recommendations for DES contracts, for one year only. Contract changes directed by the Board have been made.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

EMERGENCY ADD-ON
ITEM

The good cause for this change to the agenda is to avoid interruptions of service to the schools and departments [§120.525(2), F.S.].

LETTER PURCHASE
ORDERS FOR
CONTRACTUAL
SERVICES THROUGH
DES OF FLORIDA, LLC.

The Board's General Agreement for Temporary Services with DES of Florida, LLC, provides for the Board to obtain services of contracted persons on a temporary basis. Through such contractual arrangements, the Board is able to have the benefit of experienced and capable school and district administrators.

The terms of the contracts for three current supplier contractors will end June 30, 2007. It is recommended that the Board approve renewal letter purchase orders (LPOs) for these contractors, but only to provide for the balance of a 12-month term for each: Full-time Director – Special Instructional Programs (7/1/07 - 9/30/07); Full-time Assistant to Superintendent (7/1/07 – 8/31-07); and Interim Supervisor ESE (7/1/07 – 1/31/08).

It is also recommended that the Board approve LPOs for four (4) new supplier contractors for twelve-month terms, ending June 30, 2008: Interim Principals for Alachua Elementary School, Gainesville High School, Duval Elementary School, and Idylwild Elementary School.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the letter purchase orders for seven contractors, as presented.

Mr. Eubank expressed concern that previous discussion concerning holidays was not incorporated into the contract. He also requested that criteria be developed for future decisions on offering contracts. Mrs. Roy concurred.

Mrs. Childs feels that making requested changes to the contract would cause administrators to receive lesser benefits than those provided to teachers. Mrs. Roy felt the requested changes to be appropriate for administrators.

It was agreed that current and new contractors will earn one sick day per month, as with instructional staff, but with no payout for unused days. It was also agreed that the three renewal contracts will remain as originally set forth, and the four new contracts will include vacation pay only for days required to be taken off, such as at winter break.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to amend the motion by specifying that one sick day per month will be earned, with four provided in the beginning, as with instructional staff, but with no payout for unused days, and that the three renewal contracts will remain as originally set forth, and the four new contracts will include vacation pay only for days required to be taken off, such as winter break.

Mrs. Childs asked the Superintendent if this action will discourage people from accepting a DES contract to work for the School Board. Dr. Boyd felt if the parameters are known to contractors, they would be acceptable. His concern was more with sick days than with vacation days.

Mrs. Childs would prefer that contracted employees be provided the same terms they worked under as SBAC employees. However, she will vote yes so as not to imply she opposes their return.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-2
Yes: Eubank
Roy
Williams
No: Childs
Pinkoson

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

▪ CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

An ACEA representative requested a meeting with staff to provide input into the 2007-08 Code of Student Conduct.

At a question from Mrs. Roy, Mr. Jerry Douglas, Student Services Supervisor, stated that the Discipline Committee had not been convened, as the changes were editorial in nature. With the Policy manual revisions in progress, it was determined that no major changes would be made at this time.

With no further input, the Public Hearing on the Code of Student Conduct was closed.

▪ SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ZONE LINE CHANGE

Mr. Terry Tougaw, Director, Community Planning/Zoning, explained that the attendance zone line change will move approximately eleven families in from Metcalfe Elementary to Williams Elementary.

A citizen requested that a special-needs student be allowed to remain at Metcalfe. She was referred to the Zoning staff.

With no further input, the Public Hearing on the School Attendance Zone Line Change was closed.

▪ REPEAL OF EXISTING BOARD POLICIES AND ADOPTION OF NEW BOARD POLICIES

Various questions from a teacher were responded to. An objection was made to a section on Restriction of Outside Activities, stating that it does not include administration and, further, is contrary to statute. The Chairman says all groups should be included.

Another objection was made regarding Freedom of Speech in Non-instructional Settings, which also places no restriction on administrators.

The teacher asked that permission to show PG movies to age-appropriate groups be included in the policy, along with guidelines for 'progressive discipline.'

ACEA President Dr. Gunnar Paulson objected to Policies being approved prior to the development of official Procedures. He disagreed strongly with Section 0142.4, Compliance With Board Procedures, as being inappropriate and unnecessary. He hopes the Board will reconsider its inclusion.

A citizen opposed Policy 149.3(d), Request for Information by Board members. Another citizen agreed that this should be stricken and suggested a less complicated manual.

Mrs. Roy spoke against Policy 149.3(d), Request for Information by Board members. She believes it may be unconstitutional and that it defies the

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), despite the disclaimer. Since the information can ultimately be requested under FOIA, she requested that the Board reconsider inclusion of this policy.

Mr. Eubank spoke in favor of Policy 149.3(d), explaining that it is not aimed at a particular Board member, and provides a simple procedure for dealing with exceptional requests.

Mrs. Childs explained that Policy 149.3(d) is more intended to address requests for new information to be compiled, rather than existing information that merely needs to be printed. Because significant staff time may be diverted from other important projects to compile such information, she agrees that a majority of the Board should agree that the request is warranted.

With no further input, the Public Hearing on the Repeal of Existing Board Policies and Adoption of New Board Policies was closed.

As information, Dr. Diana Lagotic, Director of Elementary Curriculum, reported that in order for Food Service to receive its state funding, the Wellness Policy must be Board-approved by the end of July. To meet that requirement, the policy is being included in this Public Hearing. New state requirements concerning physical education have been included.

WELLNESS POLICY

Mrs. Roy commended Food Service Director Maria Eunice on anticipating the new snack requirements and ordering accordingly. Vendors were thereby compelled to produce products that met the more stringent requirements. This would indicate that desired changes can be induced through strict policy guidelines.

Mr. Eubank believes that further policy review by the Wellness Committee may result in even stricter guidelines.

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

PROPOSED 2008-2009
SCHOOL CALENDAR --
FIRST READING

Dr. Sandi Anusavice, Director of Secondary Curriculum, reviewed the 2008-09 School Calendar.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2008-09 School Calendar for advertisement, as presented, and schedule a public hearing for 6:30 p.m. on July 17, 2007.

Mrs. Roy expressed that she was pleased with the calendar.

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

HOWARD BISHOP
MIDDLE SCHOOL
WAIVER REQUEST

Howard Bishop Middle School is requesting a waiver to Article IX, Section 12(c), Contact Time, of the Collective Bargaining Agreement to allow teachers in the major program to teach three (3) extended blocks instead of five (5) 50-minute periods. This block scheduling model does not increase instructional minutes per day for teachers. The waiver has been approved by the faculty, School Advisory Council and ACEA.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Howard Bishop Middle School's waiver request as presented.

Dr. Paulson commented on the concerns that had to be addressed on this waiver and the collaborative process between the school and the ACEA to reach agreement. He recognized Dr. Anusavice for her assistance.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

A teacher requested information on the cost for NEOLA consultants to revise the Policy Manual. Mr. Eubank noted that the Policy update was required by the state. Regarding the same question about DES, Inc., Mr. Eubank stated that the cost is roughly equivalent to what the District would pay for the employee's retirement, social security, Workers' Compensation, and health insurance.

A citizen reported that he attended a District Workshop on teaching African American History, and stated that he believes the curriculum was superior prior to desegregation.

BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank thanked the people who spoke during the Public Hearing and displayed courtesy in staying to hear Board comments.

Mrs. Roy requested that the Board schedule a workshop on safety and security in the schools.

Mrs. Childs requested that the Board consider requiring Horizon Center students to wear a uniform consisting of pants fitted at the waist and a golf-type shirt, worn tucked-in.

Mrs. Childs thanked Campus Federal Credit Union for their mortgage program and expressed hope that it would be just the first of many 'perks' for SBAC teachers and employees.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.