

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 17, 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

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of June 19, 2007, as presented.

The question was called on the minutes as presented.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION
OF AGENDA

Chairman Childs stated:

- The amount of the grant in Consent Agenda Item G.21, Title X – Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grant Funds, has been changed to \$48,975.
- An item has been added to the Consent Agenda: G.23., Contract Renewal—Medicaid Administrative Claiming Services.

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to adopt the July 17, 2007, meeting agenda as amended.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

RECOGNITION

There were no recognition items.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Roy reported that Capital City Bank provided \$750 to the Action for Healthy Kids Organization, to help provide Tool Kits for the Health and Wellness Committees at each school. She expressed appreciation for the gift. She also thanked Mrs. Sandy Hollinger and Mr. Charley Wise for providing a first-class graduation ceremony for GED graduates.

Dr. Boyd reported that the State of Florida recognized Alachua County Public Schools as an “A” District for the second year in a row. He commended all teachers, administrators, parents and students. The Chairman concurred.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as described in Items 1-23.

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

Regarding a recent letter from the Horizon Center to the parents of a student being recommended for expulsion, Mrs. Roy commented that she was pleased to see that it fully explained the Student Hearing process, as she had requested.

ADMINISTRATIVE
APPOINTMENTS

Three reassignments were recommended by the Superintendent, effective July 18, 2007:

- Dr. Susan Arnold will move from the Principalship at Hawthorne Middle/High School to the District's Research and Evaluation Department.
- Dr. Robert Craig, Archer Elementary School Principal, will be moved to the Principalship at Hawthorne Middle/High School.
- Mr. Jerry Douglas, Student Services Supervisor, will become the Principal at Archer Community School.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation for reassignments as presented.

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

PROPOSED 2007-08 CODE
OF STUDENT CONDUCT--
SECOND READING

A Public Hearing was held on June 19, 2007, to consider the proposed 2007-08 Code of Student Conduct.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the 2007-08 Code of Student Conduct as presented.

Mrs. Roy commented that she thought the improvements were excellent, with the document being simpler and more direct.

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

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
ZONE LINE CHANGE

A Public Hearing was held on June 19, 2007, to consider a proposed School Attendance Zone Line Change.

The area is bordered on the north by East University Avenue, on the west by South Main St., on the east by the removed railroad tracks, and on the south by SE 7th Ave. It includes, but is not limited to, Arlington Square Apartments and Wisteria Apartments.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the School Attendance Zone Line Change as presented.

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

REPEAL OF EXISTING
BOARD POLICIES AND
ADDITION OF NEW
BOARD POLICIES –
SECOND READING

A Public Hearing was held on June 19, 2007, to consider the repeal of existing Board Policies and the adoption of new Board Policies.

Mr. Tom Wittmer, Staff Attorney, reviewed changes that were made in response to comments/requests at the Public Hearing and to state law. (See Supplementary Minutes, July 17, 2007, Book 1).

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved approval of the Superintendent's recommendation to repeal existing Board Policies and adopt new Board Policies as presented.

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Motion by Mrs. Roy

Moved to amend the motion by striking Policy 0142.4, Compliance With Board Procedures, on the grounds that it is petty, divisive, unnecessary and sets a bad precedent.

The motion died for lack of a second.
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Motion by Mrs. Roy Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to amend the motion by striking Policy 0149.3, Board-Staff Communications, on the grounds that it defies the Constitutional right to be given public records, if requested.

Mrs. Pinkoson stated that policies of this nature are found in manuals of all types of Boards nationwide. It is intended to keep staff from being inundated with Board member requests; it is not meant to deny a person's right to information.

Mrs. Roy inquired whether Board requests had been a problem in the past. Mrs. Pinkoson replied that there had not been a problem with this Board.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

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

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Moved to amend the motion by revising Policy 2240, Controversial Issues, changing the final sentence of the third paragraph, as follows:

Present language:

“In presenting controversial materials on an issue, the teacher shall present all sides of the question without bias or prejudice and shall permit each student to arrive at his/her own opinion.”

Mrs. Roy opposes this language as being that which ‘non-scientific’ forces in this country want: to teach the controversy. She believes it muddies the issue and puts teachers in a bad position, without direction, and it confuses the students as to what is scientifically accepted.

Mrs. Roy’s proposed language:

“In presenting controversial materials on an issue, the teacher may refer to various sides of the issue but shall teach the version of the controversial issue endorsed by the preponderance of scientific opinion.”

The motion died for lack of a second.

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Mrs. Roy **requested separate votes** on Policy 0142.4, Compliance With Board Procedures; Policy 0149.3, Board-Staff Communications; and Policy 2240, Controversial Issues.

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The question was called on the original motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to repeal existing Board Policies and adopt new Board Policies as presented, **with separate votes to be held** on Policy 0142.4, Compliance With Board Procedures; Policy 0149.3, Board-Staff Communications; and Policy 2240 Controversial Issues.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

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The question was called (**separate vote**) on the Superintendent’s recommendation to repeal existing **Board Policy 0142.4, Compliance With Board Procedures**, and adopt the new Policy as presented.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1

Yes: Childs
Eubank
Pinkoson
Williams

No: Roy

The question was called (**separate vote**) on the Superintendent's recommendation to repeal existing **Board Policy 0149.3, Board-Staff Communications**, and adopt the new Policy as presented.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1
Yes: Childs
Eubank
Pinkoson
Williams
No: Roy

.....
The question was called (**separate vote**) on the Superintendent's recommendation to repeal existing **Board Policy 2240, Controversial Issues**, and adopt the new Policy as presented.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

CONSIDER THE
PROPOSED 2008-09
SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

The proposed 2008-09 School Calendar was reviewed by Deputy Superintendent Sandy Hollinger.

There was no public input.

Mrs. Pinkoson and Mrs. Roy expressed that they were pleased with the calendar.

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

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Budget Amendment No. 19 – General Fund, Budget Amendment No. 20 – Special Revenues, and Budget Amendment No. 21 – Capital Projects include changes for the period of May 1, 2007, through May 30, 2007.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Budget Amendment Nos. 19, 20, and 21, as presented.

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

CONTINUATION OF THE
2006-2007 SALARY
SCHEDULES

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve continuation of the existing 2006-2007 salary schedules for teachers, education support professionals (bargaining unit members), professional/technical personnel (non-bargaining unit members), administrative personnel, and other compensation be readopted, effective July 1, 2007, without provision for future amendments due to negotiations and/or salary schedule developments.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

DECEMBER SCHOOL
BOARD MEETINGS

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to cancel the December 4, 2007, School Board meeting, and hold the regularly scheduled December 18, 2007, meeting.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

RESOLUTION NO. 07-01 –
NCLB ACT OF 2001

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt Resolution No. 07-01 urging Representatives Cliff Stearns and Corrine Brown to become co-sponsors of H.R. 648, which addresses concerns of local school boards regarding implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

DISCUSSION ITEM –
SCHEDULE A
SAFETY/SECURITY
WORKSHOP

A Safety /Security Workshop was scheduled for September 11 at 8:30 a.m., prior to the regularly scheduled Informal Board Meeting.

In addition to summaries of each school's Safety/Security Plan, the meeting will involve the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, and the Gainesville Police Department, if GPD continues to fund Resource Officers in City schools. Mrs. Roy provided information from a recent Safety Training conference to Security Officer Alex Branaman, in preparation for this workshop.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Pinkoson commented on a wonderful article that recently appeared in the Gainesville Sun about employee Geo Baldry's son Derek, a former Army Ranger and now a member of the UF football team.

Mrs. Childs reminded the Board of upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.