

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 18, 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 Shell Elementary School Dance Team performed a Ballroom Latin Routine prior to the Board meeting, in recognition of *National Hispanic Heritage Month*. Upon the meeting being called to order by Chairman Childs, the Dance Team led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of September 4, 2007.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION
OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Mrs. Childs stated that the following item will be deleted:

- H.1., Amendments to ESE Policies and Procedures – Second Reading

Moved to adopt the September 18, 2007, meeting agenda as amended.

The question was called on approval of the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Eubank stated that Mr. Keith Birkett, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, drove the bus that brought the Shell Elementary students to the Board meeting, and he had to leave the meeting to drive the return route. He commented that the students did a very good job.

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen from outside the District addressed the Board concerning Challenge Day, questioning the process and the outcomes, and urging the Board to consider the matter as an action item.

The Williams Elementary PTA president presented proposed architectural drawings for the Williams Media Center renovation.

A citizen addressed the Board concerning African American History curriculum.

PRESENTATION

FIVE STAR
SCHOOL AWARDS

Mrs. Liz Stark, Volunteer Coordinator, reviewed the Five-Star School Award criteria and announced the award winners: Chiles, Hidden Oak and Wiles Elementary; and a. Quinn Jones Center.

THE REVEREND
GEORGE B. DIX, JR.,

The Superintendent introduced the Reverend George B. Dix, Jr., Passage Family Church, stating that the church's adoption of two northeast schools is an initiative of great importance to the District.

PASSAGE FAMILY
CHURCH –
MENTORING
PROGRAM AT
RAWLINGS AND
METCALFE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS

Reverend Dix addressed the Board, explaining the church’s mission and their plan to donate their time to provide mentoring, and a sum of \$100,000 over the next ten years, to make a long-term impact on community schools. For the record, Reverend Dix stated that it is the congregation’s plan to ultimately raise this donation to \$1 million. He expressed that, just as importantly, they plan to encourage parent involvement. He stressed that the members are very serious about this effort, and that it is a top priority in their church.

The Chairman expressed great appreciation.

Mrs. Williams challenged the church to provide a mentor for each first grader at Rawlings and Metcalfe Elementary. She expressed her gratefulness for the donation.

PUBLIC HEARING --

CONSIDER REVISIONS
TO THE 2007-08 PUPIL
PROGRESSION PLAN

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

Revisions to the 2007-2008 Pupil Progression Plan are proposed to reflect changes in current law and additions, in the form of information that was previously published only in the Course Code Directory.

There was no public input.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as described in Items 1-10.

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

2008 LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES

The Superintendent reviewed the priorities.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the 2008 Legislative Priorities as presented.

Mrs. Pinkoson referred to the Board hosting a breakfast for the Legislative Delegation on October 25.

Flexibility of two-mill funds was discussed. One priority will be reworded to provide only for retrofit of schools, not building schools.

Motion by Mrs. Williams Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to amend the last item in the Facilities section, by deleting the words ‘to build new schools.’

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

ACEA President Gunnar Paulson requested the Board add as a priority the provision of supplemental funding to support additional compensation for teachers with advanced degrees.

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to add as a priority the provision of supplemental funding to support additional compensation for teachers with advanced degrees.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

2008-2009 MERIT AWARD
PERFORMANCE PLAN

Deputy Superintendent Hollinger reported that only recently, the DOE informed districts that if they want to participate in the 2008-09 Merit Award Performance (MAP) plan, they are required to submit the plan by October 1, 2007, along with the 2007-08 plan.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve, per negotiations, the 2008-09 Merit Award Performance plan, as presented.

Dr. Steven Stark, Director of Research and Evaluation, explained the process by which the distribution of merit pay was developed. He then responded to Board member questions on issues that included ramifications of socioeconomics and historical gains of the school, eleventh and twelfth grade pre- and post-testing, and principal evaluations.

Mrs. Hollinger advised the Board that this plan will likely have modifications, upon dialogue with the ACEA. She further noted that the DOE has been adamant that subject area tests become part of the District protocol, which would be a huge initiative.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

INFINITE CAMPUS
STUDENT SYSTEM

Mr. Jim Utley, director, Information Resources, reviewed the need for a new computer system to replace the current in-house mainframe computer student administration system. He then conducted a presentation on the selected replacement program from Infinite Campus. An annual contract has been prepared with Infinite Campus.

The twenty-member committee involved in the one-year process to select this student system was chaired by Principal Beth LeClear. The remainder of the committee was comprised of other principals, assistant principals, database personnel, Curriculum, Research, Student Services, ESE,

Information Resources and Instructional Technology staff.

Mrs. Hollinger spoke about the need for a more integrated system, stating that Infinite Campus has the desired capabilities.

The system is Web-based and the integration includes administration, teachers and parents. It is felt to be functional, user friendly, and information provided is in 'real time.'

Six vendors were in the original group under consideration, with half-day presentations conducted by each. The two 'finalists' conducted three- to four-day, in-depth presentations for a broad cross-section of involved staff. A site visit, phone calls, and Internet research were conducted as part of the committee analysis. DOE compatible software was a requirement.

Costs, training, and implementation schedules were reviewed.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to enter into an annual contract with Infinite Campus to provide Application Services Provider (ASP) services to implement and use the Infinite Campus Student System, subject to the administration negotiating satisfactory contract revisions to clarify the obligations of the parties. The cost for the first year will be \$490,863. This includes the first year of ASP service, plus estimated costs to convert our existing student system, implement Infinite Campus and train our staff. The second through fifth years will cost approximately \$247,863 per year. This annual cost includes all software licenses, hardware, maintenance, support and training. We plan to take the first year funding from accrued E-Rate money.

Mr. Eubank addressed Mr. Sills, Infinite Campus representative, requesting his personal assurance of a five-year commitment to the District. Mr. Sills stated that he feels personally assured of the partnership, stating that the only product of Infinite Campus is K-12 Education systems and the company has a 99% customer retention rate.

Mr. Eubank expressed his concern that Infinite Campus might decide to end the contract because of the expense of the DOE's frequent changes to reporting requirements. This expense might seem prohibitive to Infinite Campus, if the company does not retain other clients in Florida. Mr. Sills responded that he is confident that the company will demonstrate growth in the state over the next year.

Discussion was held on data retention, scheduling, back-up systems, data privacy, cost comparisons to an updated IBM system, and e-rate funds. Board members commended having an evaluation committee with such broad expertise. Mr. Eubank asked for occasional email updates regarding implementation progress.

Mrs. Pat Lucas, Teacher Specialist, reported that over 200 people from all areas of the District attended the meeting for evaluation of the Infinite Campus software. She stated that great enthusiasm was indicated in the post-meeting surveys.

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

RENEWAL OF
CONTRACTS FOR
HEALTH AND 125 PLAN
AND APPROVAL OF
DEPOSITORY FOR 125
FUNDS FOR THE 2008
PLAN YEAR

Mr. Dave Hotary, director, Risk Management and Benefits, reported that there is a 9% increase in this Health contract renewal, significantly lower than anticipated earlier. There are no changes to the 125 Plan programs.

Life insurance is still being negotiated and Mr. Hotary plans to bring this contract to the Board prior to the Open Enrollment period.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve renewal of contracts for Health/Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, and 125 Plan/Fringe Benefits Management Company and approval of depository for the 125 Plan funds with Wachovia, N.A.

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

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Williams commended Dr. Joan Longstreth, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, and her staff for their efforts in the bargaining process.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.