

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF INFORMAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
May 9, 2006

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in informal session duly called at 9 a.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Virginia S. Childs, vice-chairman; Tina Pinkoson, Eileen Roy, and Janie S. Williams, members; and W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., superintendent. Chairman Wes Eubank was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Childs.

APPROVAL OF
WORKSHOP

MINUTES—APRIL 14
AND 20, 2006

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to approve the workshop minutes of April 14 and April 20, 2006, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion Passed 4-0

GENERAL
DISCUSSION

Mrs. Williams presented the following items for discussion:

- VPK Program—Concerned that information is not getting out to the appropriate individuals. Suggested using Magic 101.3 radio station to assist in getting the word out. Also suggested setting up a booth at the Arts Festival during the weekend.
- Oasis Charter School—Requested information on the status of Oasis Charter School. Superintendent Boyd explained that staff would continue to provide technical assistance and monitor the situation and present progress reports to the Board. Mr. Tom Wittmer, staff attorney, will provide the Board with an update.
- Obesity—Referred to a letter from UF Pediatric Residents expressing concern that elementary and middle school students are not receiving enough exercise. Suggested offering one hour of exercise a week to all elementary and middle school students. Superintendent Boyd will work with elementary and middle school principals and the guidance division to encourage them to be more proactive in providing information to parents on the benefits of healthy eating habits, diet and exercise. The Superintendent indicated that the school district can only be responsible for educating students on obesity.

Mrs. Roy presented the following items for discussion:

- Energy Consultant—Requested information on the status of the energy consultant.
- Entrepreneurial Program—County Commissioner requested information on which Board member would serve on the advisory

board for the entrepreneurial program at EHS. It was noted that the Superintendent has not been contacted regarding an entrepreneurial program or charter school.

- Concurrency—Feels there is a need to allow for more community input on the interlocal agreement. Requested copies of all the working documents.
- Invitation—Tour of UF green building facility.
- Math and Science Education—Requested a letter be written to the UF Zoology Professor indicating that the school district is very interested in seeking out assistance with a mentoring program between faculty and students, and being involved and proactive with their grant.
- Wellness Committee—The nutrition subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, May 10, 2006, for a presentation by Coke and Pepsi at 4 p.m. in the Boardroom.
- Lofton High School—Has received concerns from staff regarding the upcoming changes and teacher cuts.
- Obesity—Suggested the EDEP program be encouraged to include more organized physical activity in their after-school programs.

Superintendent Boyd made the following announcements:

- Superintendent's Evaluation--Distributed his evaluation form for Board members to complete prior to June 1, 2006.
- Polish Embassy--Provided the Board with a copy of a letter from the Polish Embassy regarding a collaborative effort with students from Lofton High School to visit Poland.
- Bird Flu--Informed the Board that staff is working with the UF College of Medicine on contingency plans and a proposal to provide a voluntary opportunity for all elementary and middle school students to receive an inoculation and for staff members under 49 years old.

Mrs. Childs made the following

- Citizen Input--Develop a procedure to provide a proper response during citizen input during School Board meetings.
- Horizon Center—Push staff to develop two tracks for students at the Horizon Center (for kids that have made one mistake vs. repeat offenders).
- Legislative Update—Request Keith Birkett provide a legislative update to the Board.
- Employee Hearing—Mrs. Childs noted that she would not be in town for the 6/13 employee hearing and requested a change in date.
- Foundation Scholarship Event—Suggested a van to shuttle for

board members to the event at Savannah Grande on May 16.

Mrs. Pinkoson asked if the rental charge for use of the O'Connell Center also included the rental charge for use of the Performing Arts Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.