

Approved November 14, 2006

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF INFORMAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
October 10, 2006

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in informal session duly called at 10 a.m. in Conference Room E, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Wesley F. Eubank, Chairman; Virginia S. Childs, Vice-Chairman; Tina Pinkoson, Eileen Roy, and Janie S. Williams, members; and W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eubank.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2006, High School Curriculum Workshop and the September 12, 2006, Informal School Board meeting as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

GENERAL
DISCUSSION

Mrs. Childs made the following comments:

- Asked the Superintendent to share with staff her appreciation of the fine work done on the Chimera Charter School Plan.
- Commented on a recent letter from Buchholz High School students regarding what they referred to as cafeteria 'price-gouging.' She felt it was well written and inquired as to the handling of the complaint. Mr. Eubank reported that Food Service Manager Maria Eunice was to have held a meeting with the students but he did not yet know the outcome. Mrs. Roy commented that the students were handling their complaint in an appropriate manner.

Mrs. Williams made the following comments:

- Expressed to the Superintendent her appreciation for his handling of the Duval problem she had discussed with him. She felt it was a problem that hindered the growth and development of children and was glad it had been resolved.

Mrs. Pinkoson had no comments.

Mrs. Roy made the following comments:

- As a member of the Education Committee of the Poverty Reduction Board, Mrs. Roy stated that the Workforce Development Board (WDB) has requested that the School Board implement an employability skills or interpersonal skills class, to

Approved November 14, 2006

include how to speak appropriately to an employer and the public, how to dress appropriately, the importance of showing up on time every day, and not to steal. Teachers would be provided by the WDB. While Mrs. Childs pointed out that these things are taught in CBE and DCT, Mrs. Roy feels that does not reach a wide enough group of students. She thought schools might make it part of their School Improvement Plans. Another suggestion was to make it a lunch-time or after-school course. Other Board members felt a seminar format might be most appropriate, and the WDB could advertise it through the high schools.

Mrs. Roy reported that she was informed by someone from the WDB that last year the School Board was provided \$100,000 for employees to recruit students to the Lofton Construction Academy. She stated that the School Board did not tell the WDB that it was not using the money, so the money was lost. This year, the School Board requested the money, but it was not in the budget until it was added at the request of the Director. Mrs. Roy stated that she hopes the money will be used this year, but if not, she requested that the WDB be informed.

Superintendent Boyd clarified the matter, stating that the WDB and the North Florida Builders Association came to agree that it would be best to establish the Construction Academy at Santa Fe Community College, rather than Lofton. He then agreed that the WDB money should be used to hire a position at SFCC that would recruit for the Academy. Dr. Boyd felt that it may have been a lack of communication that resulted in the WDB's Executive Director having misinformation.

- A community member emailed Mrs. Roy about a Ft. Clarke parking situation, requesting that the school-crossing signs be relocated. Mr. Eubank stated that this matter falls within the purview of the Sheriff's Office.
- Mrs. Roy received a letter from an EHS teacher, describing an issue felt to be unfair. The consensus was that personnel procedures have to be initiated by the employee.
- Mrs. Roy stated that, after researching the detail in past Charter School applications, she felt the Board is holding Chimera to a different standard. Mrs. Williams pointed out that the Board had reviewed procedures and learned of areas that needed to be strengthened in the Charter application process. Dr. Boyd stated that the Board had asked him to implement the Workshop process for Charter Schools. Mrs. Childs commented that there were many things missing from the Chimera application.

