

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MINUTES OF INFORMAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
May 13, 2008

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Williams.

DES  
CRITERIA

Superintendent Boyd reported that he had met with the Deputy and Assistant Superintendents on the DES issue, since they are part of the recommendation process. He thanked them, as well as the Board for their input. Dr. Boyd then provided a packet of information to the Board, including:

- Proposed Protocol for DES Consideration and Recommendation
- Rubric of Principal Competencies
- Copy of March 12 memo to principals regarding DES procedure
- Status Report of Principals Appointed for Transfer since 2004-05

He noted the number of non-experienced principals that have been appointed since 2004-05. He feels they have great leadership potential. He also stated that next year will be one of the most challenging years in memory from budget, management, and instructional standpoints. He expressed confidence in the leadership staff and all employees to prevail during this difficult time.

Mrs. Childs was surprised to realize that most principals since 2004-05 have moved up from the administrative pool. She was also pleased that part of the proposed protocol for DES appointments is to notify Board members of intended recommendations and invite their individual feedback.

At a question from Mrs. Pinkoson, Dr. Boyd explained the procedure for teachers continuing after DROP. She noted that the principal's recommendation has to be trusted in the case of a teacher and in the same way, she feels that administration appointments are the purview of the Superintendent. Board members are not privy to the information necessary to evaluate a principal.

Mr. Eubank disagreed, saying that DES is not a personnel issue that is the sole prerogative of the Superintendent. He was glad to see specific criteria established, as he had requested, but still has serious concerns with DES and the inequitable implementation between administration and Professional/Technical and ESPs.

Mrs. Roy expressed concern for the salary placement of both administrators and teachers who are brought back from DES and questioned the validity of self-evaluations. She also felt that some teacher complaints about principals are not addressed appropriately.

Mrs. Hollinger explained the evaluation process and the data-driven indicators that are used for evaluation.

Mr. Eubank stated that part of the justification for the longer DROP period for teachers is that they do not accumulate vacation, therefore, do not have opportunity upon retirement for that lump-sum payment, as do administrators, ESPs and Professional/Technicals.

GENERAL DISCUSSION Board members made the following comments/requests:

Mrs. Pinkoson stressed the importance of departments making significant cuts in the budgets they present to the Board.

Mrs. Hollinger reported on the status of teacher allocations.

Mrs. Childs:

- Requested information on status of meeting budget targets.
- Agreed with Mrs. Pinkoson that more progress must be made with department budgets.
- Questioned, with the move to Infinite Campus and the database shift to schools, she questioned whether at least one programmer could become a systems support person for the schools.

Mrs. Williams:

- Agreed that more systems support people are needed in the schools.

Mr. Eubank:

- Agrees with converting technology positions. May have to give some up, money not there.
- Showed slides of landscape improvements that have been made at Talbot, Wiles and Hidden Oak Elementary schools.

At Mrs. Williams' request, Mrs. Hollinger reported that attendance incentive plans are being developed for Horizon. Mrs. Childs stated that in all Final Orders for students being assigned to Horizon, she now includes attendance requirements. She agrees with establishing incentives but believes there must also be consequences. A possible result of attendance accountability might mean increased expulsions. Mrs. Childs believes Horizon is doing a good job and pointed out that their students

have had extremely poor attendance at their home schools, and the low percentages are all accumulated at Horizon when they are transferred.

Mrs. Roy:

- Questioned the timing of the Job Fair, since principals were reluctant to hire, pending enrollment data.
- Requested information on possible school consolidations. Dr. Boyd stated that the Prairie View situation is being studied, while neither Metcalfe nor Rawlings has the facility capacity to consolidate.

Concerning the rezoning issue of late 2007, Dr. Boyd stated that it would not be revisited until there is a situation that will significantly impact Buchholz. A projected decline in high school enrollments for the next several years, combined with limiting zoning exceptions will help control the Buchholz situation. Bus pick-ups will become more centralized.

- Would like to reallocate funds to accomplish some of the goals from the Daggett conference. She favors reallocating some of the almost \$900,000 in AP funds earned by Buchholz students to schools with a lower socioeconomic student population. While Eastside also earned almost \$700,000, she feels Eastside has more needs than Buchholz, so should keep their funding. The AP funds could not be taken directly, because 80% of AP funding is required to go to the school. However, the District could reduce other allocations to Buchholz. It was pointed out that supplemental units have already been taken.

Having received FCAT Writing scores, Mrs. Williams stated that one elementary school is not showing any improvement. She feels this is an ongoing problem and thinks changes should be made. Mrs. Pinkoson pointed out that Math and Reading scores have not yet been received.

Mrs. Childs expressed frustration at not being able, in a budgetary sense, to meet the extra needs of this school.

ADJOURNMENT

The Informal School Board meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.