

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF INFORMAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
October 16, 2008

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in informal session duly called at 4:30 p.m. (following the 3:00 p.m. Board workshop) in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Janie S. Williams, Chairman; Tina Pinkoson, Vice-Chairman; Ginger Childs, F. Wesley Eubank, and Eileen Roy, members; and W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Williams.

JOINT MEETING WITH
THE CITY
COMMISSION

Superintendent Boyd informed the Board that the City Commission declined the date the Board had offered to meet (11/25 – 9 a.m.), and requested the Board reschedule to meet on **December 9, 2008, 3 p.m.** The City also indicated that they wished to invite the mayor of St. Petersburg, Rick Baker, to discuss how to build a successful working relationship between the Board and City Commission.

Following Board discussion regarding the request, Board members indicated they would be agreeable to meet with the City Commission on December 9, 2008, 3 p.m. Mrs. Roy strongly felt that the request to invite the mayor should also be accommodated, but the majority preferred to have more information. Therefore, the meeting with Mr. Baker was not included.

Superintendent Boyd indicated he will continue to work with the City to finalize the details and the agenda of the December 9 joint meeting, and will also convey that the Board wishes to delay a meeting with the Mayor of St. Petersburg at this time.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Eubank:

- *Budget work sessions*--Based on the Governor's recent announcement regarding the additional 10% hold-back, suggested the Board begin scheduling budget work sessions.
- *Uniforms*—Supportive of implementing a districtwide student uniform policy similar to the successful program in Osceola County.
- *Imagine Charter School*—Additional information from other districts indicates that the Imagine Charter School's incorporation does not meet the state statutes and they are not eligible to be a charter school. Noted that other districts are approving the applications pending contract negotiations.
- *Capacity Issues*—Expressed concern with Hawthorne's low capacity.

Mrs. Roy:

- *Imagine Charter School*—Supports approving the application with conditions, and noted that Imagine Charter School still has not corrected the problems staff encountered with their application related

to ESE and middle and high school math. She noted that a Haile resident recently informed her that the community is awaiting the opening of the Imagine Charter School because they feel the Board has not accommodated them.

- *Mr. Drake's suggestions*—Supportive of Mr. Drake's suggestions for charter schools and suggested implementing these suggestions with any school coming up for charter approval or renewal.
- *Bus Stop Concern*—Referred to the parent that addressed the Board at the previous School Board meeting (Mrs. Clarke) who is still concerned with the dangerous conditions of the bus stop and requested the Board re-evaluate.
- *Citizen Input*—Based on recent input from a citizen related to the amount of time allotted to citizens during citizen input, suggested the Board may wish to extend the time for citizens to address the Board at the end of the meeting (during the second portion of citizen input).
- *Five-Year Work Plan (Capacity Issues)*—Feels the Board should schedule a workshop to further discuss capacity issues. Expressed concern with the Hawthorne area and believes students are not getting the benefit of AP and IB classes, nor do they have the benefit of the career-tech offerings. Also noted a high truancy rate in the Hawthorne community.
- *Stand-up desks*—Very interesting concept, but it was noted that they are quite expensive.

Mrs. Pinkoson:

- *Bus Stop Concern*—Does not support the Board overturning staff recommendations because she does not believe that staff would make a recommendation that is not in the best interests of students.
- *Citizen Input*—Feels the Board needs to be cautious in extending the time of citizen input, but she would not be opposed if it is at the end of the meeting and everyone has had a chance to speak.

Mrs. Childs:

- *Bus Stop Concern*—Does not believe it is the Board's role to be managers, the Board sets policy, and she supports the recommendation of the Superintendent and staff.
- *Capacity Issues*—Believes the Hawthorne community needs to be educated due to the extensive costs involved in keeping those schools open. Suggested that the November 18 agenda include scheduling budget work sessions.
- *FTE Report*—Requested a copy of the FTE report.
- *Love to Learn Charter School*—Would like to pursue through the state attorney's office filing charges against the charter school for misappropriation of funds.
- *Transportation and Food Service*—Would like to evaluate the costs that are charged to charter schools. Should be a profit-making venture, include costs for running the bus, but also include a user fee or

surcharge for replacement of equipment.

Dr. Boyd:

- *Bus Stop Concern*—Superintendent Boyd informed the Board that he and Assistant Superintendent Keith Birkett personally followed the bus to the bus stop in question and they do not believe that there is any difference in this particular bus stop than any other two-lane road.

ADJOURNMENT

The Informal School Board meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.