

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF INFORMAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
April 14, 2009

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: Tina Pinkoson, Chairman; F. Wesley Eubank, Vice-Chairman; Eileen Roy, and Barbara Sharpe, members; and W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent. Absent: Ginger Childs.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pinkoson.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
CONTRACT

Mrs. Sharpe provided the Board with copies of the Superintendent's evaluation form and contract, which requires the School Board to complete an evaluation prior to June 1. She requested an overview and direction on how the Board should proceed with the process.

Board members informed Mrs. Sharpe that a Long-Range Planning workshop was held on October 16, 2008. At that time, Board members set goals, which were to be included as the last section in the Superintendent's evaluation document.

Chairman Pinkoson advised Mrs. Sharpe to complete the current evaluation form, without evaluating the Superintendent on the Board goals that were set prior to her taking office.

Mrs. Sharpe indicated she will complete her evaluation prior to June 1, to comply with the contract, and the evaluation period will cover only five months to coincide when she was elected.

Staff will provide the data related to the goals in order to allow Board members to complete the Superintendent's evaluation.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Eubank made the following comments/requests:

- An update/status report on the selection of a Virtual School provider.
- Repayment of Stormwater Fees update – suggested the Board pursue with the county/city on repayment. Suggested contacting Pinellas County to discern their approach.
- New teachers—education degree or not
- Starting Salaries—DROP returnees
- Reviewed the School Accountability Report—costs by school
- Middle School Magnet – common application
- Final FTE count
- Class size by school
- Magnet school classes – not enough students
- Where did the students go?
- Exit Interview
- Zoning/AYP report

Mrs. Roy made the following comments/requests:

- Concerned with eastside schools losing bright students to magnet programs. Mrs. Sharpe suggested the District take a look at what needs to be done to better provide for those students who are leaving to go to a magnet program.
- Status of closing Hawthorne Middle/High School and Shell Elementary. Suggested providing the community with ways in which they can support the schools and get the students to come to school.
- Due to magnet busing, Eastside High School has high transportation costs.
- Attended a food conference related to organic local foods. Suggested the Board encourage local produce to be used in the cafeterias. Feels it would be both beneficial to the students and the community.
- Attended Children's Alliance meeting and she raised \$14,000 to send an additional 72 low income students to the Sheriff's Youth Ranch.

Mrs. Pinkoson made the following comments:

- Update on limiting bids and proposals to local vendors. Mrs. Sharpe referred to Mr. Gable's memo on the bidding process/vendor and suggested referring the issue to Mr. Wittmer for his interpretation.
- Provided an overview on the process for selecting a Board attorney. The Board will interview the four (4) firms on Friday, April 24, 2009, 8:15 a.m. Each firm will make a presentation to the Board and each Board member will be allotted ten (10) minutes for specific questions. At the end of the day, Board members will rank their top three firms and submit to the Chairman. The top firm will be selected and the Chairman will proceed with contract negotiations.

Mrs. Sharpe and Mrs. Childs stated that they prefer to meet with the attorneys as a group rather than Board members meeting with them individually.

ADJOURNMENT

The Informal School Board meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.