

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF INFORMAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
June 9, 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; Ginger Childs, Eileen Roy, and Barbara Sharpe, members; and W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pinkoson.

GENERAL DISCUSSION Chairman Pinkoson announced the cancellation of the August 4, 2009, Informal Board meeting, due to the Administrator's Back-to-School meeting.

She also commended the Superintendent and staff on an excellent graduation ceremony at Hawthorne, and noted that student behavior had greatly improved.

Mrs. Childs also commended the Superintendent and staff on the well-run graduation ceremonies.

Mrs. Sharpe attended the A. Quinn Jones and Sidney Lanier graduation ceremonies, which were both very moving. She pointed out that the district strives to improve each year and will continue to do so under the leadership of Dr. Boyd.

Dr. Boyd thanked the Board and stated that it is an honor and pleasure to serve this school district.

Mrs. Roy also agreed that the smaller graduation ceremonies she attended were very well done, and she was especially impressed with the Horizon Center speaker, who attributed her success to several years at Horizon. Mrs. Roy pointed this out, because there are frequent attempts to limit a student's time at Horizon.

Mr. Eubank made the following comments/requests:

- Referred to Senate Bill 1676, which encourages School Boards with appointed Superintendents to mutually agree to negotiate a 5% reduction in salary. He stated that he brings up the issue out of respect for the Legislature, but feels it is the responsibility of School Boards to determine the salary and he does not support the concept.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that since taking office, the Superintendent has only accepted the increase that is due under his contract and she does not support the 5% reduction.

Mrs. Childs does not believe it is the Legislature's responsibility to dictate what School Board's pay their superintendents. She feels Dr. Boyd has never been paid what he is worth, and you cannot put a price tag on institutional or community knowledge, or the support that he brings to the district; therefore, she does not support the reduction.

Chairman Pinkoson stated that she does not support the reduction and believes Dr. Boyd is doing an outstanding job.

Mr. Eubank continued his comments/requests:

- Announced that he will be participating in a ten-mile marathon, on behalf of his son, in Austin, Texas, to raise money for cancer research.

Following Mr. Eubank's suggestion, Board members agreed to reinstate the retiree reception for employees in early June.

Mrs. Roy made the following comments/requests:

- Referred to an article entitled *Ten Steps to World Class Schools*. Felt there were many things the District could do, such as increasing the school day. She noted that the authors of the article are advising the President to replace NCLB with a new *National World Class Schools Act*.
- Board discussion focused on obesity and federal legislation requiring schools to provide one hour of physical education a day, but she noted that there is no additional money provided.
- Citizens have informed her that Haile Plantation, which has sidewalks are receiving preferential treatment by having bus transportation within the two-mile limit.
- Requested a status report on the stormwater fees issue.

Superintendent Boyd distributed a memo from the Board and Staff Attorney regarding the storm water fee issue and informed the Board that the memo is exempt from public records.

Chairman Pinkoson requested that Assistant Superintendent Keith Birkett provide an update on the Super Majority Additional Millage.

Mr. Birkett provided the Board with general information regarding the transfer of .25 Mills from Capital Outlay to Operating.

Mrs. Childs stated that she does not want the district to place projects on hold but to develop a flexible timeline on how the money would be spent.

Mrs. Sharpe agreed that the planning should begin, but suggested waiting to see what is going to happen with enrollment.

Chairman Pinkoson requested an Information Item be placed on the June 16, 2009, agenda.

Mr. Birkett stated that the Board will have a separate vote on this issue during the TRIM process beginning on July 21, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

The Informal School Board meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.