

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MINUTES OF SAFETY/SECURITY WORKSHOP  
September 11, 2007

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in workshop session duly called at 8:30 a.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Virginia S. Childs, chairman; Janie S. Williams, vice-chairman; F. Wesley Eubank, Tina Pinkoson, and Eileen Roy, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., superintendent; and staff members.

The workshop was called to order by Chairman Childs.

The purpose of this workshop was to review district safety and security issues.

**INTRODUCTIONS** Superintendent Dan Boyd introduced members of the staff in attendance.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY PRESENTATION** Presentations were made in the following areas:

- *Character Education Program:* Sharon Spreen provided a general overview of the district's Character Ed. Program and noted that an upcoming Cyber-Bullying Workshop is scheduled October 18, 2007.
- *Current Budgeted School Safety and Security Dollars:* Keith Birkett provided an overview of Safe School Allocations.
- *Juvenile Justice System:* Dr. Charles Hall provided an extensive overview on truancy issues.
- *Fingerprinting and Background Checks—Employees and Vendors:* Will Calsam provided the Board with an update on the current status of fingerprinting employees/vendors and the numerous security issues involved with the process.
- *Parent Link System:* Jackie Johnson, PIO, provided the Board with updated information on the new parent/employee emergency notification system and pointed out the improvement in notification time.
- *Security Issues:* Alex Branaman, Security Chief, provided the Board with information regarding the following security issues:
  - [1] Crisis Plans
  - [2] School Resource Officers
  - [3] Cameras
  - [4] Sex Offenders

[5] Security assessment

[6] Future Goals

Mr. Eubank suggested a districtwide self-assessment by schools on their facilities.

Mrs. Roy questioned the different procedures (bomb threats) provided by schools in the crisis plan. Mr. Phil Wright, Assistant to the Superintendent, responded that every school is left to design their own crisis plans to meet their specific needs.

Ms. Branaman noted that there is concern with Horizon having two officers assigned to their campus. Mrs. Childs noted that a need for two officers at Horizon, which has a lower student population, indicates that there is a failure in the system.

Mrs. Childs expressed concern with the security department and noted many teachers are concerned that not enough is being done. She made the following suggestions:

- District Security Chief should be in uniform
- Investigations are part of the District Security Chief's job description
- Believes that the operational aspect of the security department should fall under Risk Management and the facilities department.

Mrs. Roy suggested the district implement "Talk About It" and Mrs. Branaman responded that the district does not have a hotline, but has partnered with ASO and GPD to use their communication system.

Mr. Eubank stated for the record that he believes Mrs. Branaman is performing her job description and has done an excellent job.

Mrs. Williams noted that cyber-bullying is prevalent among middle and high school girls.

Dr. Boyd thanked staff for the excellent presentations and also noted that principals take safety and security very seriously and will continue to do so.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.