

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP MINUTES
RFP for Board Attorney – Legislative Priorities - Long-Range Planning
October 16, 2008

The Board met in workshop session duly called at 3 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Janie Williams, Chairman; Tina Pinkoson, Vice-Chairman; Ginger Childs, F. Wesley Eubank, and Eileen F. Roy, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent. The workshop was called to order by Mrs. Williams.

**RFP FOR
BOARD
ATTORNEY**

Staff Attorney Tom Wittmer has been working with Purchasing Director Wayne Hackett concerning the methods by which information can be gathered to assist the Board in the hiring of a Board attorney. He reviewed the process of advertising through a Request for Proposal (RFP) and explained the procedure of Board review and assessment requirements. An RFP is not required for this position, and could result in protests of the Board decision. The other method would be to advertise by a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), which would include a cover letter, a statement of duties and expectations, and a draft contract. The Board would decide upon candidates to interview and make their selection.

After discussion, the consensus of the Board was to pursue the RFQ option, which is simpler, less formal, and not subject to protest. They provided input concerning their preferences for advertising. The Board would like the process to be final by April 1.

**LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES**

Mrs. Jackie Johnson, Public Information Officer, had previously distributed a list of proposed legislative priorities to Board members. Mrs. Johnson reported plans to mobilize parents to take part in the legislative hearing, once the date is scheduled. A separate, less detailed document could be developed for that hearing.

Discussion was held on the possibility of holding a meeting with the local delegation but there was no confidence that legislators would come or respond to questions—particularly if parents were invited.

When asked what can be done, the Superintendent responded that we can let legislators know in a straightforward manner what this community's expectations are in regard to public education. He pointed out that in the last election, local legislators did not sound the alarm so the community would understand the consequences of passing the ballot amendments. Dr. Boyd advocates finding community members to attend the legislative hearing who will speak up and take action. If legislators do the right thing, they will be supported; if not, citizens will be found to run against them.

The Board provided input concerning additions and deletions to the proposed list, which Mrs. Johnson will develop into the formal 2009 Legislative Priorities document for distribution to Alachua County's legislative delegation.

LONG-RANGE
PLANNING

Deputy Superintendent Sandra Hollinger conducted a PowerPoint presentation of a three-year planning document that sets goals based on input from the Board at previous workshops. The goals are to (1) increase student achievement and ensure the success of all students, (2) provide a safe, orderly learning environment, conducive to teaching and learning, (3) provide administrators, teachers and staff a professional environment that optimizes student achievement, and (4) provide efficient, effective, and economical operations for all employees.

Mrs. Roy felt the increase in graduation rates is not sufficiently aggressive. Mrs. Hollinger suggested grants and the Alachua County Public Schools Foundation as possible funding resources for needed programs to address the issue. Other issues that affect graduation rates and corresponding action being taken were noted.

Mrs. Williams requested information on whether there is increased fighting in middle school as compared to high school.

Mrs. Hollinger expressed a commitment to meeting these measurable targets.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.