

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF INFORMAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
January 13, 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: Virginia S. Childs, Board member.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pinkoson.

RFQ BOARD  
ATTORNEY

Staff Attorney Tom Wittmer provided the Board with a copy of the draft RFQ for the Board Attorney position. He reviewed the timeline involved, and Board members provided input. The Board requested the advertisement be limited to Alachua County, and if necessary, may advertise outside of Alachua County.

Mr. Wayne Hackett, Purchasing Director, will screen candidate submissions to ensure they meet minimum qualifications.

Chairman Pinkoson indicated she will meet with Mr. Wittmer and rank the RFQ's received, which will then be provided to the Board to begin the interviewing process. It was anticipated that the vacancy would be filled by the April 21, 2008, Board meeting.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Mr. Wittmer informed the Board that a revision to School Board Policy 5511.01, School Uniforms, would be required if the Board chooses to adopt a mandatory uniform policy. He noted that the policy currently requires the establishment of at least 80% of the voting households, faculty members, and SAC members must support the policy.

Mrs. Sharpe provided background information related to mandatory uniforms when she previously served on the Board. At that time she voiced her opposition to the 80/20 rule, and she is still opposed to it. Believes a mandatory policy is the only thing that will be successful. Poor examples would be Prairie View and Kanapaha, which did not require mandatory uniforms and they both failed. She noted that the Duval Elementary Magnet program is a prime example of a successful mandatory uniform program.

Mrs. Roy feels the policy can easily be altered, but feels it is a very high threshold in order to mandate uniforms.

Mr. Wittmer stated that the Board can amend the Code of Student and can conduct a survey similar to both Osceola and Polk counties. He also explained the procedure for the required rule development workshop to receive public input on the issue.

Chairman Pinkoson suggested a pilot program, but fellow Board members expressed the need for the policy to be a K-12 mandatory program in order to be successful.

Board members suggested Mr. Wittmer develop a survey similar to the 5-question parent/teacher survey used by Osceola County.

Chairman Pinkoson requested Mr. Wittmer begin the process to advertise the rule development workshop, and inform the public that the School Board will be taking input on a K-12 mandatory uniform policy. She suggested a larger venue for the public hearing, such as the GHS auditorium.

It was agreed that a survey would be distributed in February and a rule development workshop would be scheduled in March.

Mrs. Sharpe suggested also gathering input from Polk county from the opposing view.

## SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT

Mr. Ed Gable, Executive Director of Facilities, presented an Invitation to Negotiate future solar energy projects. This document gives the District many options and allows vendors to propose a wide variety of projects and project formats that they have been successful with.

Mr. Eubank cautioned that any contract must protect the District against changes to IRS tax incentives.

Mrs. Roy commended Mr. Gable on exploring this project.

The matter of how to receive rebates was discussed. Mr. Gable also cautioned that each site must be individually assessed, rather than entering into an agreement of broad-based installation.

Mrs. Sharpe requested the Superintendent contact FADSS and FSBA on whether there are any energy initiatives being developed in these groups.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mrs. Roy provided the following information:

- Reviewed a list of budgeting and financial tips. (See Supplementary Minutes).

- KIPP charter schools (Knowledge is Power Program). Noted that these charter schools have been very successful with low income students. Suggested the possibility of implementing a pilot program in Alachua County.

- A sample of promotional material, sent with the utility bill, from the Seminole County School Board (“Super Students”).

Superintendent Boyd expressed concern, along with the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, with what the Legislature is doing related to the high school grading formula—will use half of the FCAT data in determining school grades.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Informal School Board meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.