

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 17, 2009

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in regular session duly called at 6 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Tina Pinkoson, Chairman; Wes Eubank, Vice-Chairman; Ginger Childs, Barbara Sharpe, and Eileen F. Roy, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pinkoson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the minutes of March 3, 2009, as presented.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA The Chairman announced that Consent Agenda Item F.11., Student Case(s) is being added and Action Items G.1., Jazz Proclamation, and G.3., Employee Case(s), are being deleted.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to adopt the March 17, 2009, meeting agenda as amended.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Childs commended staff on the success of the first district Health Fair, recently held at Lincoln Middle School. She thanked Blue Cross/Blue Shield for its sponsorship.

Mrs. Roy:

- Was impressed with the efficiency of the Health Fair.
- Congratulated teacher Michelle Brothers, BHS Finance program, on three winners in the Charles Schwab National Finance Literacy Challenge. One of the three 7th-graders placed among only 22 in the nation with perfect test scores.
- Complimented the Corner Drugstore on its annual *Spotlight on Youth* production at the Phillips Center, which highlights musicians, dancers and artists in our schools.
- Commended all involved in the Council for Exceptional Children's event, *Under the Tuscan Moon* and expressed hope that it was a very successful fundraiser.

Mrs. Sharpe:

- Congratulated GHS on its state basketball championship
- Congratulated BHS senior Jonathon Mei on an impressive list of honors and awards, including recent recognition as a National Merit Scholar. She

noted that the District set a record of 40 National Merit Scholars this year.

Mrs. Pinkoson noted that a strong advocate for education was lost in the recent passing of Mr. Ralph Hess. Mrs. Roy commented on his forward thinking, particularly in the area of Career Tech and Vocational Education.

Mrs. Pinkoson gave a reminder of the Education Rally in Tallahassee, to advocate appropriate funding for education.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1–11.

Mrs. Roy commented on the multitude of items encompassed in Item G.7., School-Based Challenge Grant. Mr. Everett Caudle, Director, Project Development, noted some of the highlights of the project.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENTS TO
POLICIES 1600,3600, AND
4600, *JOB DESCRIPTIONS*,
AND TO POLICY 8405,
*SCHOOL SAFETY AND
SECURITY* –
SECOND READING

The proposed amendments to Policies 1600, 3600, and 4600, *Job Descriptions*, delete redundant language and provide for the Superintendent to revise the person to whom the position reports.

The proposed amendment to Policy 8405, *School Safety and Security*, provides as an option that the School Board may employ a District Security Chief and that that person may be a law enforcement officer.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Sharp

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to adopt the proposed amendments to Policies 1600, 3600, and 4600, *Job Descriptions*, and to Policy 8405, *School Safety and Security*, as presented.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHEDULE A SPECIAL
BOARD MEETING

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to schedule a special meeting to review proposals for Board Attorney on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 1:30 p.m., in the Boardroom.

The Board accepted Mrs. Childs’ request to change the time to 1:45 p.m.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

2009 EXTENDED SCHOOL
YEAR PROGRAMS

Extended School Year Programs were submitted with a description and guidelines for educational opportunities that will be offered during the summer of 2009.

Dr. Sandi Anusavice, Director, Secondary Curriculum, noted that a typo was corrected in the online version and the corrected page was also made available in the Boardroom.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2009 Extended School Year Programs, as presented.

Mrs. Pinkoson invited citizen input, which included the following:

- Table the motion and reinstate the summer program as in the past.
- Let the program remain the same for another year.
- An academic curriculum is not appropriate.
- Disagreed with financial information.

A graduating senior of the Lofton Professional Academies Magnet and state president of the Future Educators of America, requested time at a future meeting to address the Board further about FEA.

Mr. Eubank commended staff on development of the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) package and commented on a Gainesville Sun editorial related to EDEP. He stated that there are many questions to be answered prior to making a decision on the summer program, including information on the fund balance. He believes the new fees will be prohibitive and equated the fees to summer school tuition. Mr. Eubank stated that he will vote for the motion because the alternative is no program at all. He favors only a slight cost increase this summer and a review of the whole EDEP program before a decision is made for next year.

Mrs. Roy acknowledged staff efforts to make the proposed program stimulating and fair, and believes the changes to be well thought out. However, her preference is to delay implementation, due to the difficult economic conditions.

Mrs. Childs wants parents to be aware that much misinformation is going around. She is pleased with the quality program that has been designed, particularly that the education component will be delivered by teachers. She looks forward to a report on the program at the end of the summer.

Mrs. Sharpe believes an academic component prepared by talented certified teachers is a great addition to the Summer Enrichment Program. She feels the lessons will be highly engaging and exciting for the children.

At a request from Mrs. Roy, Deputy Superintendent Sandy Hollinger, provided some brief clarification of program finances and the enrichment that

teachers will provide.

Mrs. Pinkoson noted that at a Board Budget Workshop, there was consensus that the Summer EDEP program be discontinued. After hearing requests for continuation, the new program was developed. She stated that EDEP Coordinators are doing a fantastic job, with some programs being conducted according to Sunshine State Standards. She feels that highly effective teachers will only add to the children's experience, with a wealth of creative ideas that can't always be implemented during the school year. The academic component will also ensure that the Board is not in competition with community summer care programs.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

A number of citizens expressed disagreement with the Board decision on the Summer Enrichment Program. At a citizen question concerning procedure, Mrs. Pinkoson explained that no amendment to the original motion had been made. She also referred parents to EDEP Coordinators for information on the afternoon portion of the program.

BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT REQUESTS

Mrs. Childs requested that staff review a variety of suggestions received in a recent email.

Mr. Eubank urged getting all possible capital outlay projects on a fast track, due to favorable costs that are available at this time.

Mr. Eubank also commented on a national trend of student beatings being video recorded and posted on the Web. He reported that such an incident has allegedly taken place in this District and involved an employee. He requested the harshest possible action, should this be proven true.

Mrs. Roy stated that she has spoken with Mr. Keith Birkett, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Budget, concerning advancing all possible capital outlay projects while rates are favorable.

Mrs. Sharpe expressed concern about possible loss of federal stimulus funds because of inadequate state funding. An update will be presented at an FSBA meeting after the Rally in Tally. Mrs. Sharpe also referred to a published comment from Senator Steve Oelrich, that 'no programs can be held harmless and education is no different.'

Mrs. Pinkoson announced the upcoming March of Dimes Walk on March 28 and the upcoming Board Budget Workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.