

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 2, 2000

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in regular session duly called at 7 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Barbara Sharpe, chairman; Judy Brashear, vice-chairman; Bill Cake, Bev Carroll, Chester Leathers, members; Lawrence L. Marazza, superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board.

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

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the minutes of April 4, 2000, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Add as Report B.1., Update on State Science and Engineering Fair April 12-14, 2000.

Delete Student Cases B.2.f., (4) No. 00-18-SB, and (6) No. 00-21-X.

Delete Action Item g., Funding of Retirement for Former Board Members.

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of May 2, 2000, as amended.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board extended condolences to Chairman Sharpe and her family on the loss of her mother during Spring Break.

Mrs. Brashear attended a presentation at the Veterans Hospital dealing with a new program on brain research and a partnership with the University of Florida.

Mr. Cake attended the 40th anniversary celebration at Littlewood Elementary School.

Dr. Leathers attended the Santa Fe High School Leadership presentation.

Mrs. Carroll announced that the Buchholz High School band has been invited to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.

Dr. Leathers also attended the presentation of cell phones at Chiles Elementary and Westwood Middle Schools.

Superintendent Marazza thanked BellSouth and Congresswoman Karen Thurman for the generous donation of cell phones to the district's middle schools, and US Cellular for donation of cell phones to Chiles Elementary School. The cell phones will be used to maintain good communication with parents on student progress.

RECOGNITION—
NATIONAL BOARD
CERTIFICATION FOR
TEACHERS

Mrs. Carroll recognized and congratulated Monica Coker, Rochelle McTureous and Cyanne Williams, who recently earned their National Board Certification. They are the first teachers in Alachua County to achieve national certification and will now earn a stipend from the state of up to \$7,000 per year. She encouraged the Board to consider, during the budget cycle, reimbursing teachers that pass the test the \$200 fee for the test.

COMMISSIONER OF
EDUCATION'S
BUSINESS
RECOGNITION
AWARDS

Ms. Kelley Kostamo, business partnership specialist, recognized Cox Communications and First Union Bank as the recipients of the Commissioner of Education's Business Recognition Awards.

FIRST UNION
NATIONAL BANK
"KIDS COUNT"
AWARDS

Ms. Karen Scarborough, coordinator, Volunteer Program, introduced Mr. Sam Goforth, president, First Union Bank, to present the "Kids Count" service awards. This annual award, sponsored by First Union, is designed to recognize, promote, and increase parental involvement in schools. This year's recipients were Sue Lelli, Chiles Elementary School; Nancy Kesl, Lincoln Middle School; and Mary Ann Williams, Gainesville High School. Each parent volunteer received a check for \$200 to offset personal expenses related to volunteering at the school and each school received \$1400.

EASTSIDE HIGH
SCHOOL, THIRD TOP
SCHOOL IN NATION—
NEWSWEEK MAGA-
ZINE

Mr. Bill Herschleb, principal, Eastside High School, announced that Eastside High School has been named third top high school in the nation in *Newsweek* magazine out of more than 9,000 high schools in the nation.

Chairman Sharpe requested Superintendent Marazza order a plaque recognizing Eastside High school's accomplishment.

SPRING HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE AWARDS

The Board recognized the following Spring Hill Middle School students on their accomplishments as state award winners:

- Junior Beta Club students Morgan Condo, State Chaplain (elected); Mitch Thomas, 2nd place, Wreath Making; Matt Hubner, 3rd place, Pastel Sketching; Megan Rosenboom, 3rd place, Wood Working; and 1st place in Group Talent.
- Students Crystal Norton, Jason Parker, Vanessa Swarthout and Jason Novotny placed first in the state in Vegetable Judging.
- Callie Jett placed first in Bio-Chemistry at the State Science and Engineering Fair.

SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL FFA AWARDS AND SFHS MARCHING BAND—CLASS AA STATE CHAMPION

The Board recognized and commended Santa Fe High School students for their National FFA awards and also recognized the Santa Fe High School Marching Band on its Class AA state championship.

The Regular Business Meeting was recessed and a Public Hearing convened.

PUBLIC HEARING— PROPOSED CHARTER CONTRACT—GENESIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL OF GAINESVILLE, INC.

The application for the Genesis Preparatory School was approved by the Board in concept on February 15, 2000. The proposed charter contract is presented for community input, pursuant to s.228.056(9), F.S.

There was no public input.

OPTION TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY ADJACENT TO ARCHER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The School Board has received an option from Ben W. Graham and Clara M. Graham to purchase real property adjacent to the Archer Community School. The property is at 14427 SW 170 Street, Archer, Florida, and is described as Lot 10, less the West 15, and Lots 11 and 12 of the Williams Sams Subdivision in Alachua County, Florida, tax parcel #05164 000 000. The purchase price is \$38,000.

There was no public input.

The Public Hearing was adjourned and the Regular Business Meeting reconvened.

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen expressed concern that a sexual battery, which occurred 26 months ago has not been made public and access to records has been

prohibited due to possible litigation and urged the School Board to conduct a proper investigation of the offense and allow for legal and public disclosure.

A Santa Fe High School band booster and parent urged the Board to make improvements to the performing arts facility and requested the Board pursue the purchase of property adjacent to the school for possible expansion. The parent also voiced opposition to mandatory school uniforms.

The City Manager of Alachua expressed appreciation to the School Board and Alachua Elementary School principal Jim Brandenburg for cooperation in allowing the health department and Family and Children Services to move into the school. It was noted that a \$100,000 grant has been obtained to develop a recreational facility in conjunction with the Boy Scouts and the Lions Club for the Alachua area, which will serve over 8,000 citizens.

Mr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, voiced concern over adding new positions that take away from the classroom.

REPORT—UPDATE ON
STATE SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING FAIR

Superintendent Marazza reported that the State Science and Engineering Fair was held April 12-14 at the O'Connell Center. The district was a co-sponsor along with the University of Florida and the Florida Foundation of Future Scientists. Over 1000 students from around the state participated in the fair. Science Supervisor Elaine Taylor and Santa Fe High School science teacher Bob Howland were the coordinators of the fair spending many hours in providing an outstanding opportunity for students from throughout the state.

The Board commended district staff and expressed appreciation for their efforts in producing an outstanding State Science and Engineering Fair.

Chairman Sharpe requested Superintendent Marazza draft a commendation letter for the Board to Mr. Howland and Ms. Taylor.

AMENDMENT TO JOB
DESCRIPTION—FIRST
READING

An amendment to the job description for the Director of Safety, Risk Management and Employee Benefits is requested. It is requested that this job description be divided to reflect a job description for Director of Payroll and Benefits and a job description for Director of Risk Management.

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to approve the revised/new job descriptions for advertising.

Responding to Mrs. Brashear, Dr. Mary Chambers, assistant superintendent, Business Services, stated that there still remains a tremendous amount of Bi-Tech accounting software conversion, implementation and training to be completed. She noted that it is imperative the Board hire an individual that can assist the district in continuing these projects and protecting the district's assets.

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

OPTION TO PURCHASE
REAL PROPERTY

The School Board has received an option from Ben W. Graham and Clara M. Graham to purchase real property adjacent to the Archer Community School. The property is at 14427 SW 170 Street, Archer, Florida, and is described as Lot 10, less the West 15, and Lots 11 and 12 of the Williams Sams Subdivision in Alachua County, Florida, tax parcel #05164 000 000. The purchase price is \$38,000.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to exercise the Option and approve the purchase of the property.

Mrs. Carroll noted that the district has had concerns over this area being landlocked and the parking area is always getting flooded and this option addresses those issues.

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

CHANGE ORDER
NUMBER TWO FOR
PROJECT CB709—
SANTA FE HIGH
SCHOOL ROOF REPAIR
AND REPLACEMENT

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that this change order adds \$40,000 to the construction contract, revising the contract to \$445,863.05 and represents additional costs for Bid Alternate No. 2 (Roof of Building #10) which was not included in the original contract. This change order adds 30 consecutive calendar days to the contract time.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to authorize execution of the change order as presented.

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

CAREER SERVICE
SALARY COMPENSA-
TION STUDY BY
ARTHUR ANDERSEN

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to accept the final report of the Career Salary Compensation Study.

Dr. Bill Cliett, director, Human Resources, reported that Compensation Study is subject to the collective bargaining process.

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

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. E-00-12

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to suspend the employee without pay effective May 3, 2000, pending termination proceedings.

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

STUDENT CASE NO.
NO.00-05-X

Staff Attorney Tom Wittmer reported that the parent had requested to address the Board, and he suggested the Board hold a closed session at the end of the meeting.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-14-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was charged with fighting while at school. A hearing was held on April 11, 2000.

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through May 16, 2000.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-17-SB

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was charged with persistent misconduct while riding the school bus.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to suspend the student's bus riding privileges through the 2000 extended school year.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-20-HC

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was reassigned to the alternative program as a result of a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct. A hearing was held on March 29, 2000.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to confirm the reassignment of the student to the alternative program.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-22-SB

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student is charged with persistent misconduct while riding the school bus. The parent has not requested a hearing.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to suspend the student's bus riding privileges through June 4, 2000.

Mrs. Brashear noted that she must again abstain from voting on this case as she was involved in discussions related to this issue prior to knowledge that it would become an action item on a Board agenda. She will submit a memorandum disclosing the nature of her interest to be filed as a part of the minutes in accordance with Section 112.3143(3)(a), F.S.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0
Abstain: Mrs. Brashear

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-23-HC

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was reassigned to the alternative program as a result of a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct and a history of disruptive behavior. A hearing was held on April 5, 2000.

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to confirm the student's reassignment to the alternative program.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHOOL UNIFORM
POLICY
CONSIDERATION

Superintendent Marazza presented to the Board for consideration a school uniform policy recommendation, which requires a 2/3 majority of the total number of parents/guardians of a school to be in agreement that all students will be required to wear an agreed upon uniform in order to implement a mandatory uniform policy. It further allows for any student wishing to transfer to a school with no uniform policy may apply for a zoning exception on a space-available basis. It allows for the Board to seek and find the names and grade levels of students whose parent/guardian would choose to have them enrolled in a school requiring uniforms. It also requires a high standard of enforcement of the current dress code.

Mr. Cake asked if the intent was to grant zoning exceptions or waivers to students wishing to attend a school with a mandatory uniform policy.

Superintendent Marazza responded that any student wishing to transfer to a school with uniforms may also apply for a zoning exception.

Mrs. Brashear expressed concern that there is no mention of teachers or school advisory councils buying into the 2/3 majority, but only parents and guardians. She felt this would cause chaos and suggested a super majority of the school be required to have a successful program, patterned after the Success for All program, which requires 80%. She proposed amending the 2/3 majority to a super majority that would require an 80% buy-in.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to amend the first paragraph of the superintendent's recommendation to require an 80% super majority.

Dr. Leathers preferred 80% vs. 75% in order to have a stronger majority adopting a uniform policy.

Mr. Cake made the following suggestions:

- preferred the term "parent" to "parents" due to single parents and also preferred using the term "household."
- School advisory councils and faculty members should be included.
- Faculty should also be allowed the option of transferring to another school without a mandatory uniform policy.

The Mover and Secunder agreed to change the motion to read:

"In any Alachua County School where 80% majority of the total number of households, faculty, and SAC membership of that school are in agreement that the mandatory requirement that all students will be required to wear an agreed upon uniform, it is the policy of this Board that all students will be so required. Further, any students wishing to transfer to a school with no uniform policy or any students wishing to transfer to a school with a uniform policy may apply for a zoning exception on a space-available basis, in terms of classroom and transportation."

Chairman Sharpe felt that the policy recommendation is divisive and if this district is going to implement uniforms, it does not need to be complicated and should not set up any schools for failure. She felt this recommendation would cause chaos with parents applying for zoning exceptions and preferred a mandatory uniform policy. She suggested that the ten low achieving schools would be a good place to start. She

stated that she does not understand why any teacher would not want to have a mandatory uniform policy.

She referred to the dress code and stated that it is not working and the district continues to do the same old things and continually gets the same results. She feels that parents have the most rights about their children and school advisory members are not in a position to instruct parents on what to buy for their children—parents need to make those decisions. She stated that the policy is crippled and watered down and is a slap in the face to every school in the district that may want to consider a mandatory uniform policy. She respects everyone’s feelings and appreciates it if the Board also respects her feelings.

Mrs. Carroll stated that some schools are interested and the Board should allow those schools an opportunity to have a uniform policy and see if it works and she is happy to include SACs in this initiative.

Mrs. Brashear stated that she never wanted a uniform policy, but she is willing to compromise and open the door for a school and parents that want uniforms.

Board Attorney Jim Lang stated that this policy will need to go through the Administrative Procedures Act process and requested Board members provide their input to the superintendent in order to develop the wording for a proposed policy.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1
Yes: Mrs. Brashear
Mr. Cake
Mrs. Carroll
Dr. Leathers
No: Mrs. Sharpe

CONTRACT APPROVAL
FOR PROJECT SBAC
CA830—WALDO
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
CLASSROOM
ADDITIONS

Mr. Gable reported an agreement has been prepared between the School Board and construction manager Perry-Parrish, Inc. (PPI), of Gainesville, Florida, for the construction of this facility.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to accept the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$1,202,836 for construction of this project and enter into a construction management contract with PPI Construction Management, Inc., Gainesville, Florida, with completion to be within 120 consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in

the "Notice to Proceed."

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

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC CC744—
GAINESVILLE HIGH
SCHOOL FOOD COURT

Mr. Gable reported that bids for the construction of this project were received April 24, 2000.

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to accept the low base bid of \$330,000 and additive alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$2,200 and award a contract for construction totaling \$332,200 to David Nixon, Inc., Gainesville, Florida, with completion of this project to be within ninety-eight (98) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

Mrs. Brashear stated that this project will make a big difference and there is an option to construct a cover over this area at a future date, but at this time there is not enough money. She noted that the school will begin a fundraiser for the cover.

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

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC
CA836—PRAIRIE VIEW
ELEMENTARY HVAC
REPLACEMENT

Mr. Gable reported that bids for the construction of this project were received on April 25, 2000.

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to accept the low base bid of \$787,000 and additive alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$4,900 and award a contract for construction totaling \$791,900 to R. Hyden Construction, Gainesville, Florida, with completion of this project to be within sixty-eight (68) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-25. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

Mrs. Brashear pointed out the large number of donations usually made by district employees and former employees.

Responding to Dr. Leathers, Ms. Chambers stated that the inventory droppage report usually is consistent from quarter to quarter.

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

DISCUSSION ITEM—
BOARD MEMBER
REQUESTS

Mrs. Carroll requested the Board begin scheduling executive sessions.

The Regular Business Meeting was recessed for the parent to address the Board in closed session regarding Student Case No. 00-05-X.

The Board reconvened its regular Business Meeting to take action on Student Case No. 00-05-X.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-05-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was charged with violence against school personnel and possession of an electronic telephone pager while on campus. A hearing was held on March 21, 2000.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved that audio tapes of the hearing on March 21, 2000, be provided to the parent to provide an official transcript for the Board.

Board Attorney Lang suggested a timeline of three weeks from tonight be allowed for the preparation of the transcript for the Board and that a recommendation on the student case be brought back before the Board for consideration June 6, 2000.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.