

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
September 19, 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, and Chester Leathers, members; Mary Chambers, acting 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 Board Meeting of September 5, 2000, and Special Board Meeting of August 25, 2000, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of September 19, 2000, as presented.

Delete the following items: Action item B.2.f., Public School Choice Open Enrollment Implementation Grant; Consent Agenda items C. 18., Dental Services Contracts; C. 19., Agreement with Creative Counseling of Gainesville, Inc., and Early Head Start Family Progress Center; and C. 20, Contract with Daniels Lumber, Inc., for Agriculture Harvest at Loften High School.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS/  
DISCUSSION

Chairman Sharpe made the following announcements:

- Received a letter from former Superintendent Doug Magann offering his services through the firm Harold Webb Associates in providing expert assistance to school boards in superintendent searches.
- Attended a Department of Fire Rescue Services meeting to discuss Fire Prevention Week (October 8-14), themed "The Great Escape." Every family is encouraged to practice their escape plan

on October 11 at 7 p.m. Alarms will sound across Alachua County and the nation signaling families to begin this drill.

The Board extended their condolences to the family and friends of former Buchholz and Eastside High school teacher M. Dianne Davis, and former teacher Marie Elizabeth Daniels Adams.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES—ACEA

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, Alachua County Education Association (ACEA), presented two issues for Board consideration:

- Supplements have not been paid to employees as promised.
- Decision on how to spend school recognition money should involve all staff and can only legally be used for:
  - (1) Non-recurring bonuses,
  - (2) Equipment and materials for the school or,
  - (3) To hire temporary personnel to assist students.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR AND SCHOOL BUS ATTENDANT OF THE YEAR

Mr. Terry Tougaw, assistant superintendent, Facilities/Transportation, read proclamations recognizing the outstanding contributions of Mr. James Mobley, 1999-00 School Bus Attendant of the Year; and Ms. Georgia Merriex, 1999-00 School Bus Driver of the Year.

SCHOOL RECOGNITION

Ms. Grace White, Public Information Officer, recognized 40 schools in the district that either improved one letter grade or more, retained a letter grade of "A" and/or achieved district school improvement goals for 1999-00. All of these schools will receive a monetary recognition award based on their achievements.

\*\*\*\*\*  
CONSIDER RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE SBAC TO REGISTER WITH FDLE AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PURSUANT TO F.S. 230.23175

The regular Board meeting was recessed and a Public Hearing convened.

Mr. Tom Wittmer staff attorney, reported that the District Security Chief job description, which was created last year, was amended to include the requirement that the Security Chief is a law enforcement officer. Florida Statute provides that if the Board employs such a person, the Board is the employing agency and must comply with FDLE statute, which requires an annual reporting requirement.

He informed the Board that there is no need for a Board resolution because all that is being reported is the personnel data of the District Security Chief, and confirming that this person is in compliance with Florida Statutes, Chapter 243.

Ms. Barbara Gallant, citizen, stated that the Board is an educational organization and the district currently has school resources officers in every school. She was not supportive of having an additional person

on school premises carrying a gun, with the ability to arrest students and encouraged the Board to develop a districtwide prevention policy.

Mr. Dwayne Mundy, parent, expressed his opposition to the Board becoming a law enforcement agency and the increased liability. He did not feel that the School Board should become a law enforcement agency, but should focus on educating students and identify the district's at-risk students.

Ms. Beverly Jones, parent/teacher, felt the Board should take a positive approach and be proactive and not treat students as criminals.

Mr. Darnell Rhea, citizen, expressed his support with certifying the district's Security Chief and pointed out the advantages of having information from the FDLE. He noted that there are no costs involved and would be necessary in order to avoid situations which have occurred elsewhere.

Mr. Roger Brower, citizen, urged the Board to be proactive and look at prevention as the first line of defense.

Responding to a question from Mrs. Brashear, District Security Chief Bear Bryan stated that the district is not requesting a computer line from the FDLE because it is too controversial—it would provide computerized arrest information on an individual from another county.

Mrs. Brashear recommended the Board obtain the FDLE computer line if there are no costs involved since the statute requires the Security Chief to be a certified law enforcement officer with arrest powers.

Chief Bryan stated that he will research the cost factor involved with the FDLE computer line. He also noted that based on Florida Statutes, Chapter 243, he is required to attend a 40-hour police academy training on public safety.

Dr. Leathers stated that the statute is clear and urged the Security Chief to become involved with extracurricular activities, i.e., football games due to recent incidents. He suggested the Security Chief become the coordinator and work with principals in dealing with extracurricular activities.

Mrs. Carroll made it clear that the district is not discussing becoming a law enforcement agency and the issue is limited to one position—the District Security Chief. She also agreed that the district should have access to the FDLE computer line if there is only a nominal fee involved. She noted that many teachers approach her and ask why the

district cannot find out about prior student arrests in other counties. She felt that prevention means good communication with law enforcement and knowledge of past history of students is helpful.

Mrs. Carroll suggested that Chief Bryan become a liaison between schools to provide solutions to secure school campuses and also share his ideas with master planning committees. She pointed out that the district is proactive and highlighted a few inservice training activities that the district is currently providing, i.e., Gainesville High school's video on teenage drinking and driving.

She stated that School Resource Officers (SROs) have arrest powers and can carry weapons, and the Security Chief will be a back-up to the SROs.

Mr. Cake stated that the Board approved the District Security Chief job description last year to pursue and apprehend violators and feels that without approving the resolution the Security Chief cannot carry out his duties.

He stated that FDLE will monitor the Board's compliance with certifying this position and the annual training that is required. He pointed out that Chief Bryan is a certified law enforcement officer and many schools do not have SROs. He hoped that if there is any type of violence at an elementary school that Chief Bryan would be called upon and possess arrest powers in those types of cases because principals do not have powers of arrest.

Chairman Sharpe stated she has some serious concerns over this issue and it has nothing to do with Mr. Bryan as an individual. She feels that there were layers to this issue she was not aware of. She is in support of the Security Chief and the safety of students, but she is currently confronted with the possibility of the district becoming a law enforcement agency.

She referred to the September 5 Board meeting minutes in which Mr. Bryan responded to her concerns and explained the rationale for registering as a police agency. He noted that after registering as a law enforcement agency, an ORI number would be assigned recognizing the district as a police agency. She did not understand why the district cannot have the position without becoming a law enforcement agency. The Board is now required to sign a letter or a resolution for this position to be recognized.

Her concern is that if the district already has a District Security Chief, which the Board has already hired and he is currently a law

enforcement officer, why does the Board need to do anything further, and why were all the layers not presented to the Board prior to this. Florida Statutes state that if the Board proceeds, an additional police officer can be hired. She pointed out that taxpayers are already paying for police protection and the district already has access to public records related to student arrest history. She does not understand how the Board has gotten to this point.

She stated that Alachua County is not “The State of Miami” and does not need to become a police agency. She does not understand how the Board was against mandatory school uniforms, but is supportive of becoming a law enforcement agency. She stated that she would vote against it if the Board were to vote this evening. She stated that there is conflicting information being given, even this evening. According to Florida Statutes, the Board would have to write a resolution or a letter to the Department of Education before the district can become a police agency by obtaining an ORI number. She suggested the Board take a second look at this issue and suggested a workshop to discuss this issue further. She expressed serious concerns with the direction this issue is taking.

Responding to Mrs. Carroll’s question, Dr. Chambers stated her understanding is that the Board is discussing the issue of recognizing the position of District Security Chief through the FDLE.

Mr. Wittmer stated that the Board is not becoming a separate police or law enforcement agency—the School Board of Alachua County is the employing agency and this issue affects only one person in the district.

Dr. Chambers stated that Mr. Bryan has been on staff and the district is not requesting an additional position—he is the only individual involved.

Chairman Sharpe stated that money is not the issue, it is not a fiscal or financial point of view, but has to do with the students and employees of the school system. The ORI number will allow this district access to information about students and employees and she does not feel that the district should be in that position.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Public Hearing was adjourned and the regular board meeting reconvened.

CITIZEN INPUT

The following suggestions/recommendations were presented to the Board for consideration:

- Mr. Ralph Hess, citizen, formally requested, based on recent

events, that the School Board proceed in compliance with Florida Statute 230.241 and make the office of School Superintendent an elected position by the voters of Alachua County.

- Ms. Lynda Knight, March of Dimes Executive Director, urged the Board to schedule workshops later in the evening when citizens have the opportunity to attend, and also make them easily accessible to the public.

Ms. Knight recognized Chairman Barbara Sharpe for her leadership as past March of Dimes Chapter Chairman, and past Alachua County March of Dimes Volunteer of the Year. She announced that Ms. Sharpe received national recognition at the recent March of Dimes Conference this past week in Kansas City and was presented with the 2000 Distinguished Service Award.

The Board congratulated Mrs. Sharpe on her distinguished award.

- Mr. Darnell Rhea, citizen, urged the Board to comply with the law and legally notice all School Advisory Council meetings in the newspaper.
- Mr. Roger Brower, citizen, briefly reviewed his past request for additional information related to the Education Business Alliance (EBA) and noted the lack of a response from the Board or the district. He requested the Board review the intent of this group, review if it was legally organized and research if funds or staff time have been spent. He suggested the Board authorize the Alachua County Public Schools Foundation to oversee the EBA and create a scholarship for needy students.

Chairman Sharpe requested Board Attorney Jim Lang and Mr. Wittmer research the EBA to determine if the money was legally raised and how it can be spent. She assured the community that the money that was raised is in a separate account, is safe and has been frozen and is being overseen by the Foundation. She noted that Attorney Steve Demontmollin has written a letter to the Attorney General for a legal opinion.

Mrs. Carroll stated that the money raised by the Superintendent's Ball was for a good cause—mini-grants, but serious mistakes were made. She attended an EBA meeting as a Board member, which was open to the public. She hoped the district would continue to come together for an annual celebration at the beginning of the school year, but agreed that a legal opinion is needed in order to move forward.

Mr. Brower informed the Board that he emailed each individual Board member several months ago requesting a response on the EBA. He also requested that if a meeting of the EBA was held, he be provided a copy of the published advertisement notice.

REPORT—TEACHER  
INTERN PROGRAM

Mrs. Ann Mullally, principal, Chiles Elementary School, presented a brief overview of Project SITE, a site-based implementation of teacher education and a collaborative effort between the School of Teaching and Learning (UF), Chiles and Williams Elementary Schools. She stated that the purpose is to attract and train qualified college graduates to teach in an elementary school setting.

An intern and an elementary teacher addressed the Board on their experiences with Project Site.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR  
DROPOUT  
PREVENTION  
SPECIALIST (Omission  
correction)

Ms. Faye Cake, assistant superintendent, Human Resources, reported that the job description for Dropout Prevention Specialist was inadvertently omitted when the entire job description manual was revised and presented to the Board for adoption on February 7, 1995. The employee who previously occupied this position recently retired. In order to advertise the vacant position, a job description must exist.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the proposed new job description as presented for advertising.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BID AWARDS—BID  
AWARD FOR PROJECT  
SBAC CB910—  
NEWBERRY  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL HVAC  
EQUIPMENT AND  
DUCT REPLACEMENT

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that bids for the construction of this project were received on August 30, 2000.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$788,837 and award a contract for construction totaling \$788,837 to W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Gainesville, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within three hundred forty (340) 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  
CB842—NEWBERRY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
SCIENCE CLASSROOM  
BUILDING

Mr. Gable reported that bids for the construction of this project were received on August 31, 2000.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$1,594,000 and award a contract for construction totaling

bid of \$1,594,000 and award a contract for construction totaling \$1,594,000 to R. Hyden Construction, Inc., Gainesville, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within two hundred seventy (270) 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 CA713  
--LOFTEN HIGH  
SCHOOL ACADEMY  
OF BUILDING  
CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Gable reported that bids for the construction of this project were received August 13, 2000.

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved the administration's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$1,397,000 and award a contract for construction totaling \$1,397,000 to R. O. Camp Construction, Inc., Gainesville, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within three hundred (300) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

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

PROJECT SBAC CC630—  
SIDNEY LANIER  
CENTER NEW  
CLASSROOM  
BUILDING AND MULTI-  
PURPOSE FACILITY—  
SCHEMATIC DESIGN  
DOCUMENTS (DOE  
PHASE I)

Mr. Gable presented a brief overview on the status of the project.

Mr. Cake stated he is encouraged by the award to local bidders.

Dr. Leathers thanked the Lanier school advisory council and staff for allowing him to be a part of the process. He expressed his appreciation to staff on the progress of the bathroom renovations.

Mr. Gable provided a report on the interim measures that have been accomplished over the summer.

Mrs. Cathy Costello, principal, Sidney Lanier Center, expressed her appreciation on behalf of the Lanier students and staff for the recent renovations and introduced and recognized the facility planning team.

The Rickman Partnership, Inc., Gainesville, Florida, presented a review of the master site plan.

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the Schematic Design Documents (DOE Phase I) for the construction of this project as presented.

Responding to a question from Mrs. Carroll, Mr. Gable stated that this

project will be part of a five-year work program to be presented to the Board in the near future.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to approve a negotiated fee of 6.2% of the construction cost for professional services on this project.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mrs. Carroll reported that she visited the new restrooms at Lanier and commended staff for a job well done.

AMENDMENT TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Chambers briefly provided a review of the process and noted that the process began in October 1998 and the last Public Hearing was held on August 29, 2000.

She noted that after researching and gathering input from the Board for this agenda item, she felt the plan could be used to help set the direction and provide cohesion during the transition. Any remaining concerns can be addressed through the upcoming five-year implementation plan, as well as through the quarterly updates and annual reviews, which will determine the school system's future direction.

She continued that in recognition of the dedication and efforts of hundreds of people from the community and school system, and acknowledgement of a need to build trust throughout the district, the administration recommends approval of the amendment to the Strategic Plan, which includes specific Result Statements for each of the nine strategies with the understanding that the five-year implementation schedule will be brought back for Board approval prior to beginning new initiatives.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the amendment to the Strategic Plan, which includes specific Result Statements for each of the nine strategies with the understanding that the five-year implementation schedule will be brought back for Board approval prior to beginning new initiatives.

Responding to a question from Mr. Cake, Dr. Chambers stated that the recommendation includes items that do not have any costs associated with them.

Mr. Cake stated that when a new superintendent comes on board, that superintendent will have the opportunity to come back to the Board with any necessary changes.

Dr. Chambers stated that quarterly reports and annual updates will be provided to the Board.

Dr. Leathers noted that at the June 14 workshop, the Board prioritized the specific result statements, which provided ultimate approval and allows the Board to use as a reference.

Dr. Chambers stated that the priorities would become the basis for the five-year implementation plan. The plan will need to be updated based on priorities and staff will work on them and bring them back at a future date.

Mrs. Brashear felt it important to maintain good communication with the many people that were involved in the process and requested they be kept informed of the process.

Mr. Cake noted a problem for him has been wondering when or if further training was going to take place by the consultant.

Dr. Chambers stated that upon Board approval, site training will take place throughout the schools.

Mr. Cake asked if the district was committed to additional expenditures for the training. Dr. Chambers clarified that there is no Board authorization to expend additional funds at this point.

Chairman Sharpe stated that she was glad that Dr. Chambers explained the process because she did not want the community to think that she was against the plan. She stated that the district will have a new superintendent and she is concerned that the hands of the new superintendent not be tied and be able to provide input into the process, along with the new Board member. She wanted to be certain that this motion will provide for quarterly reports and no additional expenditures for any strategies, unless it receives Board approval.

Dr. Chambers stated that within the specific result statements there are several items that are currently being done, such as strategy 1, specific result statement #3, to ensure a safe and orderly environment for all students. New initiatives would be brought back to the Board.

Chairman Sharpe stated that timing is important and parts have been picked out of the strategic plan for the current year's budget. She does not see the need to rush into anything since this has already been done

for this budget and knowing the next part will be in the next budget cycle.

She informed the Board that she received a packet from Strategic Planning Consultant Bill Cook requesting payment of approximately \$30,000 for an oral commitment, which he says was made with Superintendent Marazza. He indicates that he gave the district ample opportunity to cancel the commitment, but she is not sure what occurred. She is not sure if it was taken for granted that the Board was going to expedite the Strategic Planning process, and the Superintendent did not go back and cancel. Dr. Cook indicates that if the Board makes payment, he would be happy to provide his services for Phase II.

Chairman Sharpe is not certain if the Board is obligated to pay this money since there was no written contract—it was an oral contract, “and sometimes oral contracts are just as binding as written ones.” She requested Board attorney Lang to research this issue and provide information to the Board.

Dr. Chambers assured the Board that the expenditure would be brought back to the Board for approval before payment is made.

Mrs. Carroll stated that this plan is a community effort and the Board can expect annual updates and schedule priority meetings. She hoped that in the future expenditures are brought forward and noted a trip that is scheduled next week through the Vocational department dealing with Baldrige. She asked if this trip would require Board approval.

Dr. Chambers responded that education and training will be vital and staff will gather information before any recommendations are made to proceed. She noted the need to continue with those kinds of activities.

Mrs. Carroll expressed the need to continue the ongoing relationship with the planning team and requested they be kept updated as the process continues.

Chairman Sharpe stated that she would never give anyone sitting on this Board the impression that she would make any commitment right now for anything in the future because things change and she may change her mind at any given time, and reserves the right as a Board member to do that.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

1999-2000 ANNUAL  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
AND RELATED COST  
REPORT

Mr. Richard Trainor, director, Financial Services, provided a brief summary of the 1999-2000 Financial Report and related Cost Report.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the 1999-2000 Annual Financial Report and Related Cost Report for submission to the Department of Education.

The Board extended their thanks to the Business Services division for their outstanding efforts.

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

SCHEDULE A  
WORKSHOP

Dr. Chambers recommended the Board schedule a workshop to discuss Certificates of Participation and critical needs.

Chairman Sharpe stated that during reorganization the Board needs to address the scheduling of workshops and make them convenient for citizens to attend.

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to schedule a workshop 9 a.m., October 24, 2000, on Capital Outlay Priorities.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE  
APPOINTMENT(S)

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to appoint Mr. Jim Utley as director of payroll and benefits.

Mr. Cake was pleased that someone was appointed from within the system.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-17, with the deletion of items 18 and 19. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

BOARD MEMBERS/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

Mr. Cake requested the Board schedule a workshop to discuss the School Choice grant application.

Chairman Sharpe requested staff address the problems with the fire alarm system at Glen Springs Elementary School and provide the Board with follow-up information on the project.

Responding to Chairman Sharpe's question, Mr. Tougaw reported that staff is currently working to correct the deficiencies and problems with the Glen Springs fire alarm and intercom systems.

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that both systems are original to the school and are in need of replacement and the project has been budgeted this year. Service technicians are currently working to make those systems operational to ensure the safety of the students and staff. It is hoped that a new system will be in place by the beginning of the second semester.

Responding to Chairman Sharpe's question, Ms. Ginger Childs, assistant superintendent, Instruction, informed the Board that the 2000-2001 School Improvement Guide will be presented to the Board at the next meeting, and she will inform Mr. Dwayne Mundy as requested.

Chairman Sharpe requested staff scrutinize the list that the district has, to be sure that the district is in compliance with Florida Statutes and get rid of anything on the list that we do not use or need.

Mrs. Carroll requested the following:

- Cyclical calendar list of upcoming annual renewals, agreements, etc.
- Urged K-1 teachers to attend the September 27 School Readiness Coalition Committee meeting to provide input.
- Requested the Board provide their input for the Economic Development Summit she will be attending on September 25.

Responding to Dr. Leathers question, Mr. Tougaw reported on the progress of the Buchholz High School stadium.

Responding to Dr. Leathers question related to Mr. Perry McGriff's donation, Board attorney Lang stated that Mr. McGriff was urged to work with the Gainesville High School Booster organization.

Mrs. Carroll requested staff make plans toward the testing of all fire alarm systems during the summer prior to preplanning. Since fire prevention week is in October, she feels October 17 possibly would be a good time to bring this back to the Board and have discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.