

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 18, 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; Lawrence 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. Brashear

Moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 1999, 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 January 18, 2000, as presented.

Delete Action Items B.1.i., Student Case No. 99-55-HC, and B1.j. Employee Case No. E-99-20. Delete Consent Agenda Item C6., Request for Waiver of Policy 5.35, and Item 1 of Attachment C for Change Order No. 2, Project SBAC CC315.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Brashear congratulated Superintendent Marazza on being named *The Gainesville Sun* 1999 Person of the Year in Education. She also congratulated the Gainesville High School video production class on being named one of ten statewide semifinalists for its video production. She reported that Chairman Sharpe would represent the Board at the Federal Relations Network conference in Washington.

Board members noted meetings and activities attended.

Dr. Leathers reported that the Black on Black Crime Task Force unanimously voted to adopt Duval Elementary School and offered its full support.

Superintendent Marazza commended district staff on meeting the Y2K challenge. He noted a report on the strategic planning process will be presented in March, and that Gainesville High School has moved into the new 9th grade addition and Buchholz will follow.

Chairman Sharpe announced that Rawlings Elementary School will hold the first School Block Talk Saturday, January 22, 2000, and that the school community is invited to participate. She noted that this initiative is geared to involve school communities in helping schools achieve academic success. She also announced that mentors are needed for the Take Stock In Children program.

RECOGNITION—"A"
SCHOOLS

The Board recognized and presented plaques of appreciation to Norton and Talbot Elementary Schools and Spring Hill Middle School for outstanding achievement in receiving a grade of "A" under Governor Bush's A+ Plan.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES

Representatives from the Alachua County Veterans Memorial presented the Board with a framed picture of the Alachua County Veterans Memorial in appreciation of the support of students, staff, and faculties in making the annual Veterans Day celebration a meaningful event.

The Board thanked the veterans for their generous contributions to the community and the school system.

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- A citizen expressed concern with recent Board discussion on limiting citizen input at school board meetings and urged the Board to allow citizens the right to submit comments at any time during school board meetings, as long as they pertain to agenda issues. The Board was urged to specifically rule on this issue at the next school board meeting.
- The president of the Alachua County Education Association (ACEA) urged the Board, as part of its legislative priorities, to specifically include performance-based pay under full funding of all state mandated programs. The Board was also urged to obtain teacher input prior to mandating four years of science and math in high schools.

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE 1999-2000 SPECIAL
PROGRAMS AND
PROCEDURES FOR EX-
CEPTIONAL STUDENTS
DOCUMENT (SP&P) AND
REVISIONS TO THE GIFTED
SCREENING, PREFERRAL,
AND REFERRAL
PROCEDURES

There was no public input.

Mrs. Brashear thanked staff for their efforts.

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

CITIZEN INPUT (cont.)

- A parent expressed concern with advertising in the schools and urged the Board to create a policy for schools to work together to keep ads out of schools and put public money back in.
- A citizen suggested the Board might want to consider charging companies for advertising in schools.

AMENDMENT TO JOB
DESCRIPTIONS—
SECOND READING

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to approve the District Security Chief job description as amended.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

REVISIONS TO THE
1999-2000 PUPIL
PROGRESSION PLAN—
SECOND READING

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to approve revisions to the 1999-2000 Pupil Progression Plan as submitted.

It was clarified that revisions to the plan include adding a 4th year of math and science.

Mrs. Brashear noted that the curriculum division provided a list of classes that will serve to meet the additional year of these requirements.

Mrs. Ginger Childs, assistant superintendent, Instruction, reported that the district is prepared to provide the necessary textbooks.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to amend the motion to include “Certified participation in one full season of Marching Band, Competitive Dance, or Cheerleading may be used to waive Fitness Lifestyle Design.”

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to amend the motion to require 8th graders demonstrate proficiency in typing a paper and 12th graders demonstrate proficiency in technology research.

Mr. Cake preferred to delay voting on this amendment until such time as staff is ready to make a recommendation.

Mrs. Carroll suggested Superintendent Marazza and staff bring back a recommendation in the summer with the possibility of implementing the two competency requirements sooner than four years.

Mrs. Brashear suggested giving a four-year notice in order for entering freshmen to have four years to plan and schedule.

Following Board discussion, Mrs. Brashear withdrew her motion and requested Superintendent Marazza and staff research the percentage of 8th-graders lacking typing skills and the number of high schoolers who cannot find information through technology.

Mrs. Childs noted that staff is working on a K-12 technology curriculum that will take care of this. She noted that the curriculum piece is about ready for dissemination, the difficulty is making sure the hardware and infrastructure are in place to allow for competency within a four-year period from now at all schools.

Mrs. Brashear requested this issue be brought back for discussion during strategic planning.

Mrs. Carroll agreed to rescind her second to the motion.

Mr. Cake voiced his opposition to an additional year of math and science and expressed concern that some alternative courses are only offered at certain schools. He stated he wanted to be kept up to date on those students already having trouble with three years of math and science and requested an in-depth study and breakdown on the effect the additional requirements will have on the number of dropouts.

Dr. Leathers noted his concern before with students already having difficulty with three years of science and math. He felt the list of alternative courses would be one way of providing an opportunity for those students.

Chairman Sharpe stated that the state and the nation are raising the bar and Alachua County has always been on the cutting edge. It is incumbent upon the Board to provide opportunities for students to be prepared for higher education, vocational education, or a two-year degree.

Responding to Mrs. Sharpe, Mrs. Childs stated that to keep weaker students from becoming discouraged and dropping out, the 4th math credit does not have to be a level 2 course or higher. It can be a consumer math, applied math or a substitute course provided in the technical, industrial and vocational fields. For students to stay involved in a mathematical direction is better than to lay out for a year; additionally, if they go into a math that is different from what is thought of as computational skills, we are developing their ability for the life long type of learning skill.

She noted curriculum modifications are being made for these classes.

As to how this affects a student's ability to take electives, Mrs. Childs pointed out that currently there is a requirement for students to have 24 credits to graduate with the district mandating 15 of those credits. On the seven-period day the student could have 28 credits without going to summer school. We are mandating what 17 of those credits must be, however, two are already incorporated into other aspects of those 15, depending on what the student chooses. Also, we are making sure there are sufficient numbers of alternative courses available at each school site.

The rationale for requiring an additional year of math and science—some students will not have additional education beyond the 12th grade. Looking at what students need to be prepared, the district feels responsible for providing students the tools with which they can be successful. Without science and math in the senior year, the student will graduate without having had any formal training since 16 or 17 year's old. When looking at the FCAT scores, the district is not proud of student performance in the math area. Our teachers are having to retool K-12 on how they are incorporating the FCAT type of teaching in their methodology on a daily basis.

Dr. Leathers stated he is inclined to lean toward the challenge and recommended mentoring and tutoring. He is encouraged by what he has seen with the strategic planning action teams and what may be forthcoming.

Responding to Mr. Cake, Mrs. Childs stated that to determine the number of math and science teachers needed to meet adding the 4th

math and science credit will depend on the number of students taking substitute courses rather than hard core math and science. It will be a gradual progression as students move through the system

As to what subjects or teachers and how many electives will be impacted the most, Mrs. Childs noted that many students that take study hall now are not taking advantage of the time and teachers are having discipline problems. Teaching will change in order to meet the needs of the students. Electives will be impacted across the board, but she is not sure as to what degree.

The extra science will impact facilities some—upgrade of facilities, additional lab equipment.

Superintendent Marazza stated if the need is to add opportunities for the students to know more about math and science and concepts found in these fields far more in their lifetime than past generations, then it is incumbent upon the administration to deliver. There may be some course currently being taught that will need to be deleted because it is no longer viable, no longer offers the potential to enrich and enhance and improve the lives of the adults we graduate.

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

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

AMENDMENT TO
POLICY 2.42, SCHOOL
ADVISORY
COUNCILS—SECOND
READING

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to adopt Policy 2.42, School Advisory Councils, as amended.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

APPOINTMENT OF
DISTRICT SECURITY
CHIEF

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to appoint William H. “Bear” Bryan as the District Security Chief, effective February 7, 2000.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONTRACT FOR
PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES WITH JOY
FRANK & ASSOCIATES,
P.A.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to approve the Contract for Professional Services between the Board and Joy Frank & Associates, P.A., for the period January 19, 2000 to January 18, 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

NEW/REVISED JOB
DESCRIPTIONS—FIRST
READING

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed new job descriptions as presented for advertising.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHOOL READINESS
COALITION APPOINTEE

A Florida Partnership for School Readiness and Local School Readiness Coalitions was established by the 1999 School Readiness Legislation. The Alachua County School Readiness Coalition has been established as a single county entity with 18 to 25 members, from the private and public sectors of the community, appointed for 2-4 year terms. The Superintendent and the Head Start Director as mandated positions and one additional member appointed by the Board represent the school district on the Coalition.

Mrs. Brashear suggested the Board may want to appoint a Board member to serve on this coalition because it is a legal situation and will deal with funding, curriculum issues and allocation of readiness money.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to appoint Mrs. Bev Carroll to serve on the school readiness coalition.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOTPION OF 2000
LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2000 Legislative Priorities as presented.

Mr. Cake noted that the item under Finance related to adequacy of funding for full funding of all state mandated programs would address the Alachua County Education Association's concern related to performance-based pay, and requested that Ms. Joy Frank be appraised of this.

Mrs. Carroll referred to the ESE issue getting lost when linked with ESOL. She had discussed this with the superintendent and he had indicated that the district is talking with Tallahassee. She is interested in joining all other districts in the state to say to the Legislature that this is not a funding issue but a children's issue and how it impacts the classroom.

Board members suggested hosting a meeting with the legislators to discuss issues of concern and invite Mrs. Frank.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-64-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student is charged with fighting and battery. A hearing was held on January 6, 2000.

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension to February 1, 2000.

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

SCHEDULE WORKSHOP

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to schedule a workshop 9 a.m., February 3, 2000, to consider school uniforms.

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

TECH AUDIT

Mr. Jim Moffett, director, Instructional Technology, provided a brief overview of the district's technology audit, focusing on hardware, software, connectivity and phone system findings.

Mrs. Brashear suggested using the audit as the district goes forward with strategic planning.

Responding to Chairman Sharpe's question regarding the number of schools that do not have computers, Mr. Moffett stated that all schools have computers based on the ratio of students to computers and the tech money is based on that ratio.

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to accept the technical audit report as presented.

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 item C.6. and item 1 of Attachment C. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

INFORMATION
ITEMS—COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS
UPDATE

Board members made the following changes to their list of committee assignments:

Mr. Cake:

Add the following:

- Board Census Contact
- Florida High School Activities Association Section 2 Appeals Board (chair)
- Florida High School Activities Association Delegate Assembly
- University/Community Task Force

Dr. Leathers:

Add the following:

- Alachua County Juvenile Justice, District III

Mrs. Brashear:

Delete the following:

- Statewide Tech and Change Committee
- Chairman of Internal Oversight for Florida Schools Boards Association

Add the following:

- Take Stock in Children Mentor

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Brashear requested Superintendent Marazza and staff review the district's advertising policy to insure that it addresses concerns.

Chairman Sharpe made the following requests:

- Board members bring their calendars to the uniform workshop in order to schedule dates to complete the remaining 12 hours required for master board training, which needs to be completed by May 22. The workshop topics selected are Performance Evaluation; Making Changes Meaningful; and Effective Board Meetings.
- Provide a list of out-of-field teachers to Senator Richard Mitchell from Jefferson County and other members of the legislative delegation.

Mrs. Carroll made the following requests:

- Reminded Board members that free computer training is available to the Board.
- Include a link on the district's web site which includes the status of capital outlay projects by school.

Mrs. Brashear requested the Board discuss summer school options.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.