

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 15, 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 Dr. Leathers

Moved to approve the minutes of February 1, 2000, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of February 15, 2000, as presented.

Delete from Attachment B, Page 5, the third name from the top (Katrina Roberson).

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Leathers noted the Juvenile Justice District III Council as well as the Alachua County Juvenile Justice Program, which emphasizes prevention, will be holding its fifth Annual Youth Recognition Awards and also a Perspectives on Life under Eighteen, an opportunity for young people to voice their opinions and ideas about the process.

Mrs. Brashear pointed out that, as members of the School Board, she, Mrs. Carroll and Mrs. Sharpe have been invited by Art Fusion to participate in Women's History Month by hanging a piece of art they have painted in a museum focusing on Women's History.

She also commended staff on the district's new publication *Making the Grade* and thanked the community for its support and involvement during the ongoing Block Talks.

Mrs. Carroll invited the Board to attend the groundbreaking of the new Teen Center on Thursday at 10:30 a.m., a joint project of the Rotary Club and the Boys/Girls Club. She also reminded Board members of the upcoming Math Counts at Trinity Church.

Chairman Sharpe thanked Mrs. Brashear for chairing the past Board meeting due to her attendance at the Federal Relations Network meeting in Washington, D.C. She shared with the Board five points she discussed with U.S. Representatives Cliff Stearns and Karen Thurman:

- Reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Funding should come to school districts instead of the state)
- Increase funding for Title I and amend Title I, Part A of ESEA, to allow for decentralized budgetary decision-making and eliminate the need for district micromanagement to achieve individual school statistical comparability
- Support school construction initiatives—one initiative is Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) which can only be used for renovations
- Support the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) on obtaining increased funding for IDEA and flexibility for school districts to deal with discipline cases
- Support continuation of the Medicaid reimbursement program for participating districts utilizing the current reimbursement method

RECOGNITION—1999-
2000 OUTSTANDING
SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Mrs. Karen Scarborough, coordinator, Volunteer Services, announced that Governor Bush has proclaimed the week of February 14-18 as Community Involvement Week. She reported that during this past school year 11,600 volunteers shared over 475,700 hours of service in our schools. The Partners in Education Program engaged 358 business partnerships which generated resources valued at over \$811,000.

She introduced representatives from Cox Communications and First Union--the district's two business partners that have been designated to receive the Commissioner's Award for Community Involvement.

The following outstanding volunteers were presented to the Board: Kendra Davis, Outstanding Student Volunteer; Sue Lely, Outstanding Parent Volunteer; and Dorothy Melker, Outstanding Community Volunteer. Mrs. Melker has also been named state volunteer of the year and will be recognized at the state conference in March.

CITIZEN INPUT

Consultant for Save Our Schools expressed concern over the new dual enrollment bill that will reduce the minimum of six semesters for high

school requirements to two semesters and will allow students with the highest abilities to go to college in the tenth grade.

PRESENTATION--
GUIDANCE

Mrs. Joyce Daniels, supervisor, Guidance, on the behalf of all counselors offered support and readiness to help all students and all families in the district. She noted that one of the major goals for the year 2000 is to improve communication. She introduced guidance counselors from the elementary, middle and high school levels to present an overview of the Guidance program that included a profile of a High School Counselor and PowerPoint presentations outlining components of the Educational Plan Team and "Love in Any Language."

Board Members noted that guidance counselors need assistance with paperwork in order to provide more contact time for students.

CHARTER SCHOOL
APPLICATION

Genesis Preparatory School of Gainesville, Inc., has submitted an application for a new charter school to serve 40 kindergarten students in the 2000-2001 school year.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to (1) approve the application in concept; (2) authorize the staff to develop a proposed charter contract; and (3) schedule a public hearing on the proposed charter contract for 7:30 p.m., April 4, 2000.

Mrs. Brashear stated she is happy to support the proposal and is supportive of charter schools providing other options for students. She expressed concern that the concept of assessment and accountability written into the proposal is too vague and preferred to give parents some kind of documentation they can read and analyze to make a good choice. She requested that Mrs. Sue Griffith, director, State Standards Compliance and Charter Schools, have the school provide a detailed proposal with a measure of accountability that is specific and easy to understand, and that renewal of all charter school applications also include this detailed measure of accountability.

Mrs. Griffith noted that the difference in this charter school is it is only for Kindergartners and is very specialized in the early intervention, but the emphasis in skills is similar to the other charters.

Ms. Charmaine Henry, applicant, addressed the Board and stated that the charter is not targeting at-risk children and is open to all students and will be using the looping process.

The Board was informed that this will be the ninth charter school

application for Alachua County and this district has more than any other county at this time.

Mrs. Carroll requested that as part of contract renewal, copies of the minutes of the charter school board meetings be placed in the Board or Superintendent's office.

Chairman Sharpe stated that the concept of the school is a good idea and noted that the vote is in concept only, pending an appropriate contract. She noted that a site has not been identified and pointed out that before the contract is approved, a site will have to be secured and up to building codes, etc.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-05-X

Mr. Tom Wittmer, staff attorney, reported that the student is charged with violence against school personnel. A hearing is scheduled February 16, 2000.

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through March 7, 2000.

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

SCHEDULE WORKSHOP

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to schedule a workshop 9 a.m., March 9, 2000, to receive the Career Service Compensation Study.

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 item 1 with the deletion of the third name from the top (Katrina Roberson) on Attachment B, page 5. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

Superintendent Marazza introduced and welcomed the new coordinator of Communications, Ms. Robin Snyder.

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

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Chairman Sharpe requested that Superintendent Marazza provide dates for scheduling a workshop for an update on Lofton High School.

Responding to Chairman Sharpe, Ms. Faye Cake, assistant superintendent, Human Resources, noted that exit interviews are currently being done when exiting the Induction Program and this process is being reviewed as a pilot program for expansion to other employees.

Chairman Sharpe shared information related to citizen input procedures she obtained from Marion and Clay counties, districts of comparable size. She requested Board members review this information prior to the next Board meeting and provide suggestions for discussion on how the Board can improve the current process and make it more user-friendly.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.