

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 7, 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. Carroll

Moved to approve the minutes of February 15, 2000, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board members announced events and activities attended.

Mrs. Brashear congratulated Alachua Elementary School on winning the Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl. She also commended schools on their increases in AP tests and noted Eastside High School for being named number three school in the nation based on the number of AP tests taken.

Mrs. Carroll updated the Board on the Early Childhood Coalition and reported that a sliding fee charge may be necessary. She requested the Board provide her with input on how to handle this issue.

Chairman Sharpe made the following announcements:

- Congratulated Alachua Elementary School on the first place win in the Florida Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl and noted that the Board will officially recognize the team at an upcoming meeting.
- Acknowledged receipt of a Certificate of Appreciation from Alachua County Fire Rescue Services for support and service during the 1999 hurricane season.
- Congratulated Lincoln Middle School for being named a beacon site or pilot by the Department of Education, which is based on improved student results and a higher number of students achieving higher success rates.
- Provided information to staff on a \$1,000 art scholarship for seniors.
- Requested copies of the letter of commendation from the Director

Add to Action Item B.2.d. items (4) and (5), Student Cases 00-14-X and 00-15-X.

On Attachment D, Page 3, item 5, under Funds, change the word “Local” to “Food Service” Capital Improvement Fund.

Delete the first item from Attachment E (duplication).

Add Action Item B.2.g., Engagement of Investigator for Complaint against Employee.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CHARTER SCHOOL
APPLICATION—SANTA
FE COMMUNITY
COLLEGE CHARTER
HIGH SCHOOL

An application for a new charter school to serve 375 eleventh and twelfth grade students in the 2000-2001 school year has been submitted.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to approve the application in concept and authorize the staff to develop a proposed charter contract which delineates the implementation of the items in question in the charter application. A public hearing on the proposed charter contract will be scheduled prior to adoption by the Board.

Dr. Leathers noted that he has worked for many years as a joint staff member with both institutions, but stated that he could not support this application because it is an imperfect solution due to the state’s failure to appropriately fund education.

He pointed out that the state has not done what it should do in terms of funding the dual enrollment program. He felt that the application is not based on creativity but on dollars, and he is objecting to the concept, not the details, because this is not a new program, it has been around for 25 years.

He felt that the coming legislative session would allow both institutions to work out a viable option and find a short-term solution.

Mrs. Brashear commended Superintendent Marazza and his staff for their efforts. She stated that the dual enrollment program has been a successful program and she will support the concept, but she has several reservations and great concerns for what is best for students.

Mr. Cake stated that if the application meets the law, the Board should

approve it in concept, but if the Board votes the application down, it would go to the appeal procedure and the Department of Education would become involved. He noted that on page 31 the Education Commissioner and Mr. Bailey, charter school director, are in favor of this particular charter.

Mrs. Carroll agrees with Dr. Leathers that the application is based on dollars. Both institutions have worked well together, and she does not feel that this charter would fill a different niche. She suggested that both institutions work together to fund the program through the Legislature and make this program stronger and better. She prefers solving the money issue rather than it becoming a charter school issue.

Dr. Marazza noted that this is the first proposal that will attempt to become a comprehensive high school, but the mission is for the Board to decide if it is a productive one. A workshop has been scheduled for March 16 to discuss technical and career related programs. He pointed out that although economics drives the consideration of this application, the Board should not lose site of specific needs and address those needs through the strategic plan.

Mrs. Brashear pointed out the Department of Education fully supports this application as a statewide strategy for colleges to increase student access to higher education through dual enrollment programs. She does not feel that this will be an innovative program, but will be taking away the nature of dual enrollment. She also feels this is a funding issue and prefers that both institutions work together to do what is best for students.

Ms. Linda Lanza-Kaduce, SFCC, addressed questions related to the number of teachers and college coursework. She stated that SFCC's main concern is to provide students with additional opportunities. The dual enrollment program may not be new or innovative, but it is still unique in the state of Florida because students will be provided high school and college courses full time on campus. She stated that SFCC is trying to preserve a program that has been good for students.

Mr. Brian Babb, SFCC, reported that this funding problem has been facing the Board since 1995, and it is not a new issue. He requested the Board approve SFCC's application in concept and move forward and, if possible, discuss other options. Meetings will take place to work details out for the charter school and other offers or discussions may take place.

Dr. Leathers pointed out that the application and the amendments do not match. His vote on the contract will be contingent upon all of these

issues being addressed in detail.

Mr. Cake pointed out that when the Board holds the public hearing in April or May, the amendments to the contract must be part of the contract.

Superintendent Marazza noted that the operational definitions will be included in the contract.

Chairman Sharpe, referring to the addendum to the application, noted that the responses to the eleven modifications to the application are vague and do not give details on how they will be implemented. She feels that part of number eight may not have been addressed at all. She would like to see the financial aspect addressed and worked out for the best. She is willing to approve the application in concept, but her vote on the contract will be contingent upon all these items being addressed with specific details in the charter contract.

Mrs. Brashear noted that her understanding of the state statute is that anyone starting a charter school must be a 501C3. She questioned whether the Board of Trustees meets this requirement. This needs to be addressed to make sure we are in compliance with current law or wait until the law has been addressed in the legislative session and see what is required.

Chairman Sharpe expressed hope that both institutions can work together as in the past for the benefit of the students.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-2
Yes: Mrs. Brashear
Mr. Cake
Mrs. Sharpe
No: Mrs. Carroll
Dr. Leathers

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC CB730--
ARCHER COMMUNITY
SCHOOL ADDITIONS
AND RENOVATIONS

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that bids for the construction of this project were received on March 2, 2000.

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved to accept the low base bid of \$3,144,000 and additive alternate Nos. 1 and 4 in the amount of \$104,000 and award a contract for construction totaling \$3,248,000 to J. A. Standridge Construction, Gainesville, Florida, with completion of the project to be within two hundred sixty (260) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-05-X

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Tom Wittmer, staff attorney, 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 February 16, 2000.

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through March 21, 2000.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-07-HC

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was reassigned to the alternative program as a result of a history of disruptive behavior.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

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

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-08-HC

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was reassigned to the alternative program as a result of a Level IV violation--battery on school personnel. A hearing was held on February 14, 2000.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation that the student perform school service, write letters of apology and be placed on probation through February 2001.

Mrs. Carroll left the Boardroom.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-14-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student is charged with fighting while on campus.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through March 21, 2000.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-15-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student is charged with fighting while at school.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through March 21, 2000.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Mrs. Carroll returned to the Boardroom.

NEW/REVISED JOB
DESCRIPTIONS—
SECOND READING

Three job descriptions that establish work responsibilities for career service and professional/technical positions are proposed—two for Nurse Specialists and one for a Community Events Assistant. These new/revised job descriptions were approved for advertising on January 18, 2000.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to approve the three job descriptions as presented.

During discussion, Board members requested that the title of Community Events Assistant be changed to Assistant to the Director of Instructional Technology and Media Resources, and the job description reflect the Director as the immediate supervisor.

Chairman Sharpe felt it important to note that the Learning Resources budget contains \$8,000 that will be used to help fund the assistant position.

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

SCHOOL BOARD
MEETINGS/WORK-
SHOPS

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to cancel the April 18 School Board meeting due to spring break and schedule a workshop March 16, 2000, 2 p.m., for discussion on high school career and technical needs.

It was noted that Mr. Cake and Dr. Leathers will not be in attendance at the March 9 workshop scheduled on the Career Service Salary Study.

Chairman Sharpe stated that ACEA has requested another workshop on the Career Service Salary Study be scheduled in the afternoon to allow

employees to attend, and staff will work to schedule another workshop.

Chairman Sharpe requested that advertisement of the March 16 workshop specifically include Lofton High School in order to make the public aware of the current programs available at Lofton.

Superintendent Marazza stated that the March 16 workshop will focus on all programs throughout the district and will address student needs for an academic/technological high school.

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

ENGAGEMENT OF
INDEPENDENT
INVESTIGATOR FOR
COMPLAINT AGAINST
EMPLOYEE

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved that the Board engage a person to serve as an independent investigator for the complaint if needed and delegate the authority to the chair to enter into an agreement with such person and have a written report submitted to the Board following conclusion of the investigation.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-22. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

DISCUSSION ITEM—
CITIZEN INPUT

Chairman Sharpe previously provided the Board with information from two comparable districts, Marion and Clay Counties, related to citizen input and requested the Board review those procedures for any possible improvements to the district's procedures to make more user-friendly.

Mrs. Carroll suggested making it clear whether citizens have three or five minutes.

Mr. Cake expressed his continued support for citizen input at the beginning of the agenda and continue to allow citizens input during action items. He suggested options that may include a meeting at school or a 6-7 p.m. forum prior to the Board meeting for concerned parents, employees or citizens to meet with the Superintendent, appropriate staff members and interested board members on personnel or school-related issues.

Superintendent Marazza informed the Board that he and appropriate

staff are currently meeting with teachers at lunchtime to discuss concerns and invited board members to attend.

Mrs. Brashear also agreed with a 6-7 p.m. optional meeting (not on TV) and that comments be allowed during citizen input at the beginning of the agenda and during action items.

Chairman Sharpe noted that the “blue” discussion forms for citizens would be revised and updated.

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Brashear:

- Consider recognizing at the next Board meeting Alachua Elementary School for the first place state award in the Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl.
- Recognize all AP increased achievement since the district began returning 100% of the money back to the schools.
- Recognize Eastside High School on its outstanding recognition by *Newsweek Magazine*—third top school in the nation.
- Provide the City of Gainesville with official action at a future Board meeting supporting the renaming of the stadium at Citizen’s Field as the Milton Lewis Stadium.
- Provide Jim Longstreth with information related to his retirement request.

Chairman Sharpe requested the Board and Superintendent Marazza revisit and tour the Sidney Lanier facility and assure the staff they have not been forgotten and their facility needs will be addressed.

Mr. Terry Tougaw, assistant superintendent, Facilities, reported that staff recently updated Mrs. Costello, principal, Sidney Lanier Center, on the status of Lanier’s master plan process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.