

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 4, 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 Dr. Leathers

Moved to approve the minutes of March 21, 2000, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of April 4, 2000, as presented.

Add the following Action Items: B.2.c.(10), Student Case No. 00-21-X; (11), Student Case No. 00-22-SB; B.2.e., Schedule a Special Board Meeting for an Informal Hearing with Chance Charter School on the proposed termination of the contract.

Add to Consent Agenda item C.3.a., Attachment E, District Consultant Services.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Brashear made the following announcements:

- Attended the National School Boards Association (NSBA) conference in Orlando and commended district staff for their presentations on the district's Reading and Writing Program and the Leadership Academy.
- Thanked the Teaching and Learning Center and urged fellow Board members to participate and brush-up on their technological skills.
- Attended the North Central Florida local emergency vehicle exhibition.

The Board extended condolences to Chairman Sharpe and her family on the loss of her mother-in-law.

Dr. Leathers also attended the NSBA conference and participated in a workshop presented by retired General Colin Powell related to the Alliance for Youth.

Mrs. Carroll attended an NSBA workshop presented by former First Lady Barbara Bush related to family literacy and noted that there is a need for Alachua County to obtain grant funding.

Chairman Sharpe reported that she attended her fifth NSBA conference as a delegate.

It was noted that the art work displayed in the Boardroom was provided by the students of Anchor, Archer, Talbot, Metcalfe and Littlewood schools.

Chairman Sharpe recognized the visiting girl scouts of Troop 863.

SCHEDULED
AGENCIES—
GAINESVILLE
REGIONAL UTILITIES

Mr. Mike Kurtz, general manager, Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU), presented brief overviews of two GRU-sponsored programs—GRU Game Day with the Gators and Solar in the Schools. GRU Game Day with the Gators program is already underway and provides tickets for sporting events to local youth agencies and Alachua County elementary and middle schools for use in recognizing attendance, rewarding academic performance and motivating student achievement.

The proposed Solar in the Schools program involves the installation of solar electric systems on school rooftops at up to eight schools located throughout the GRU service area, including the City of Alachua. GRU has been selected by Florida Solar Energy Center and the Florida Energy Office of the Florida Department of Community Affairs to receive grant funding for a solar energy program. The program expenses would be covered by state grant funding, utility customers voluntarily pledging to contribute monthly on their utility bills, and GRU contributions. GRU feels middle school students would be most interested and receptive to learning about renewable resources and the responsible use of energy, and GRU would be interested in giving guest lectures as part of this program. In addition, a solar energy curriculum, targeted to middle school students, would be available at no cost for use in conjunction with the GRU proposed program.

Mr. Cake requested an articulation agreement between GRU and the School Board be prepared and presented at a future Board meeting.

RECOGNITION—
INTELLECTUAL
FREEDOM ESSAY
CONTEST WINNER

Ms. April Hogan, Eastside High School media specialist and president of the Professional Association of Library and Media Specialists, announced that April 9-15 is recognized as National Library and School Library Media Week. She recognized and introduced Miss Robin Luck, a senior at Lofton High School, as the Intellectual Freedom Essay winner and presented her with a check and an Encarta CD.

TEACHER
RECOGNITION
PROGRAM HONOREES

Ms. Grace White, public information officer, recognized the forty-one teacher honorees in the Alachua County Teacher Recognition Program. Special Recognition was awarded to Tish Philbrook, elementary school honoree; Tracy McCall, middle school honoree and Diana McPherson, Alachua County's representative to the 2000 Teacher Recognition Program.

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- Several Eastside High School students expressed their support of assistant principal Sam Welker and urged the Board to reconsider his transfer to Newberry High School.
- A citizen presented the Board with a proposal to reduce persistent misconduct on school buses.
- A representative from the Hippodrome State Theatre presented the Board with a proposal for a partnership extension for the upcoming year.

Chairman Sharpe suggested the Hippodrome Theatre contact the Jane Fonda Foundation for Teen Pregnancy Prevention for possible grant funding.

- Mr. Frank Counts, University of Florida, WUFT-TV, Channel 5, requested the Board's help in an effort to facilitate a televised Town Meeting April 26, 8-9:30 p.m., to discuss the community's views on police-community relations, economic opportunity, and the role of affirmative action. Mr. Counts noted areas of assistance that would be appreciated—School Board co-sponsor this event; waive fee for the use of Lincoln Middle School auditorium; provide A-V technical service staff for the meeting room; and assistance in publicizing the meeting through various channels of communication as the Board sees appropriate.

Board members requested that Superintendent Marazza and staff assist WUFT-TV, Channel 5, as much as possible in its effort to facilitate a televised Town Meeting.

Mrs. Brashear commended and thanked the Eastside High School students for taking the time to come to the meeting and address the Board with their concerns.

Board Attorney Jim Lang explained to the students that there was no item on the agenda regarding the matter addressed.

Chairman Sharpe thanked the students for taking the time to address the Board and also commended the students for their input and urged them to continue to provide such input.

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR—
TERWILLIGER PRINCIPALSHIP

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Sandy Medeiros as principal of Terwilliger Elementary School, effective March 30.

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING BUDGET AND TRIM CALENDAR

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to approve the 2000-2001 Strategic Planning Budget and Tentative TRIM Calendar, establishing July 24, 2000, 3:00 p.m., as a special Board meeting for approval of the Tentative Budget for Advertising; August 1, 2000, 5:30 p.m., for the Public Budget Hearing and adoption of the Tentative Budget and Millage; and September 5, 2000; 7:30 p.m., for the Public Hearing and adoption of the Final Budget and Millage.

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

STUDENT CASE NO. 00-05-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student is 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 Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to extend the student’s suspension through May 2, 2000.

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

STUDENT CASE NO. 00-12-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.

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

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

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-13-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.

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

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

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-14-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student is charged with fighting while at school. A hearing is scheduled for April 11, 2000.

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through May 2, 2000.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-15-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student is charged with fighting while at school. The parent did not request a hearing.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to expel the student through the first semester of the 2000-2001 school year.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-16-HC

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

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-17-SB

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

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was charged with persistent misconduct while riding the school bus. A hearing was held on March 21, 2000.

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's bus suspension through May 2, 2000.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-18-SB

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was charged with persistent misconduct while riding the school bus. A hearing was held on March 29, 2000.

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's bus suspension through April 30, 2000.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-19-SB

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 Mr. Cake Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's bus suspension through June 6, 2000.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-21-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student is charged with possession of a controlled substance while at school. A hearing is scheduled for April 5, 2000.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through May 2, 2000.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 00-22-SB

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

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through May 2, 2000.

The parent addressed the Board and expressed concern that the charges made against her child by the bus driver were exaggerated and there are inconsistencies in this case. The parent noted that the transportation division has repeatedly denied requests to view the bus video of the incident and has not been helpful.

Superintendent Marazza stated he is available to discuss this case with the parent and answer any questions.

Mrs. Brashear stated she was not aware this issue would be an agenda item and noted for the record that she has spoken with the family and others involved and will need to abstain from voting.

Board attorney Lang agreed that it would be appropriate for Mrs. Brashear to abstain from voting on this case.

Mrs. Carroll requested that the Superintendent provide the Board an understanding as to parents' rights to review video tapes.

Superintendent Marazza noted that parents will be informed of their rights when calling the administration.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Abstained: Mrs. Brashear

SCHEDULE BOARD
WORKSHOPS

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to schedule a workshop at 5:30 p.m., April 12, 2000, in the Boardroom to receive information on the Career Service Salary Study.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to schedule a workshop on Strategic Planning May 15, 2000, 9 a.m., Conference Room E.

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

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to schedule a Special Board meeting for an informal hearing to discuss the termination of Chance Charter School on Tuesday, May 2, 2000, 9 a.m.

Mrs. Brashear suggested the time of the informal hearing be changed from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The mover and the seconder agreed to change the time from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Boardroom

Mrs. Carroll requested Superintendent Marazza reply to the concerns expressed in Mr. Larsen’s letter prior to the hearing on May 2, and any other information from Chance Charter School.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-14, with the addition of Attachment E – Consultant Services. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

Mrs. Brashear pointed out the following:

- Newberry High school’s master planning process is moving forward.
- 2,835 AP exams are being ordered.
- Eastside and Gainesville High Schools are getting lighting for practice fields.
- The district is saving money on change orders.

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

DISCUSSION ITEM—
BOARD MEMBER
REQUESTS

Mr. Cake made the following requests:

- The issue of funding of retirement for former Board member Jim Longstreth and other qualified individuals be placed on the next agenda.
- Schedule for graduation ceremonies for Board members attendance.

Dr. Leathers referred to retired General Colin Powell’s speech at the NSBA conference related to the Alliance for Youth and requested staff begin to actively research non-public funding and schedule a possible

workshop if appropriate.

Mrs. Brashear attended a technical session at the NSBA conference related to using computers to hold meetings. She suggested a pilot project on using computers for administrators meeting, school meetings, or problem-solving meetings and referred the issue to Jim Moffett of the instructional technology division to review the possibility of such a project through a grant with AASA.

Mrs. Carroll requested the Project Development office research Family Literacy grants in conjunction with the public library system to assist parents and families to become more involved in reading to their children.

Chairman Sharpe made the following requests:

- Superintendent Marazza, Board attorney Lang and the director of Finance review the issue of former Board member Dr. Longstreth's request for retirement benefits as it relates to what has already been done, how it relates to other individuals involved at that time, whether it is the board's legal obligation or not to do this, and options available.
- Reminded the Board of the April 12 and April 25 Master Board Training and the April 12 workshop on the Career Service Salary Study and requested staff legally advertise these meetings. She also authorized the Superintendent to schedule the third training session as soon as possible.
- Requested a recommendation on school uniforms be placed on the May 2 agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.