

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 5, 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: Chester Leathers, chairman; Bill Cake, vice-chairman; Bev Carroll, Jeannine Cawthon and Barbara Sharpe, members; Mary L. Chambers, superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leathers, 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 November 21, 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 December 5, 2000, as presented.

Delete Consent Agenda items H. 8., Contractual Agreement with the Corner Drug Store, Inc.; and H. 9., Contractual Agreement with Santa Fe Community College. Add as Action Item G. 3., District Facilities Work Program.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Sharpe received a thank you letter from a member of the Buchholz High School band regarding their recent trip to New York City to perform in the Macy's Day Parade, thanking the Board for their support.

The Board extended condolences to the families and friends of former School Board members on the recent loss of their loved ones.

Chairman Leathers attended the annual Florida School Boards Association meeting and noted that an excellent workshop was held on legislative issues.

RECOGNITION—GHS
STUDENT WRITING
AWARDS

The following Gainesville High School students were recognized: Kathryn Alford for winning the Red Ribbon Essay Contest, Ashley Manetz for the Florida Council Teachers of English writing contest, Maryam El-Shall and Nancy Miller for the National Council for Teachers of English writing contest, and Chelsey Simmons, for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Essay Contest.

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- Former School Board member Barbara Gallant addressed the students in the audience and urged them to be informed prior to addressing the board.
- A citizen expressed disappointment with the lack of Board action after offering solutions for the high number of graduates requiring remedial assistance.
- Former School Board member Darnell Rhea urged the Board to improve its citizen input procedures.
- Buchholz High School Band members presented plaques and a banner thanking the Board for providing support for their trip to New York City to perform in the Macy's Day Parade.
- A student requested information on the status of the proposal related to having a student serve as a member of the School Board.
- Several Gainesville High School students representing Students United to Reform Education (SURE) presented the following issues and concerns:
 - Unsanitary bathrooms/facilities
 - Insufficient number of custodians
 - Lack of desks
 - Too many rules
 - Short length of lunch period
 - Closed lunch campus
 - Dress Code
 - Insufficient time between classes
 - Overemphasis on student testing
 - Lack of school counselors and counseling services
 - Small lockers
 - Large class sizes
 - Test-centered curriculum
 - Weight of backpacks
 - Low teacher pay

A parent addressed the Board related to a dress code incident at Santa Fe High School and Superintendent Chambers offered her assistance.

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

2001-2002 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mr. John Dukes, assistant superintendent, Student Support Services, presented the district's proposal of the 2001-2002 School Calendar.

Dr. Gerry Combs, calendar committee member, briefly reviewed ACEA's proposal for the 2001-2002 School Calendar. He highlighted several key points: (1) Teacher workdays are within two days of the end of the nine weeks; (2) Middle/High schools interim reports go out from 22-26 days into the grading period; and (3) Spring Holidays should be at the end of the third nine weeks.

Mrs. Carroll noted that she is pleased to see that Spring Break is scheduled earlier this year. She also encouraged the public to provide the Board with input on the proposed calendar prior to Board adoption on January 16, 2001.

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

CITIZEN INPUT (continued)

Gainesville High School students continued to present their concerns.

Board members commended the students for their presentations and encouraged them to also take their concerns to the legislators in Tallahassee.

Mrs. Sharpe agreed with many of the students who do not believe in standardized tests.

Mrs. Carroll requested Superintendent Chambers address the facility concerns presented by the students which include lack of desks, unsanitary bathrooms, and locker repairs.

Mr. Cake encouraged the students to take into consideration that times have changed and there are reasons for some of the issues presented. He challenged the students to not just criticize the system, but to find solutions on how things can be improved.

Chairman Leathers stated that everyone must work together to improve the system.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO POLICY 4.51, EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAM—FIRST READING

Dr. Bill Cliett, Deputy Superintendent, reported that the proposed amendment reflects changes to section 232.425, Florida Statutes, made by the 2000 Legislature (Senate Bill 92; Ch. 2000-121.L.O.F.).

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the proposed amendment to Policy 4.51 for advertising.

Mr. Cake stated that as the Board's representative on the Florida High School Activities Association and the Appeals Committee, the district has continually been faced with students requesting waivers. These are students that for one reason or another did not mature, had a 2.0 GPA going into high school or got behind in the 9th grade and could never catch up. The FHSAA, along with the legislature developed this policy which will allow students in 9th and 10th grades the opportunity to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities and help keep them motivated and keep their grades up.

Chairman Leathers felt strongly that students should be offered this opportunity.

Dr. Charles Hall, principal, Gainesville High School, stated that principals were unanimous in their support of the policy amendment.

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

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATORS

Moved to appoint Mrs. Sharon Bailey as principal of Prairie View Elementary School, effective December 6, 2000.

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

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to appoint Mrs. Sandy Hollinger as principal of Eastside High School, effective December 6, 2000.

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

DISTRICT FACILITIES WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that this program has been prepared as required by section 235.185(F.S.) for submission to the SMART Schools Clearinghouse. The program represents a five-year schedule of major repair, renovation and capital outlay projects together with projections of available revenue. The district must submit this program annually and may revise the program at any time to reflect new project priorities and available revenue.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to approve the program as presented for submission to the Clearinghouse.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-17, with the deletion of items 8 and 9. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Carroll made the following requests:

- Schedule a workshop on January 9, 2001, 9 a.m., Conference Room E, to present information on the changes in funding for the school readiness coalition.
- Add Town Hall meetings as a Discussion Item on the January 16 Board agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.