

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 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: Barbara Sharpe, chairman; Judy Brashear, vice-chairman; Bill Cake, Bev Carroll, and Chester Leathers, members; Mary Chambers, acting 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 August 15, 2000, and Special Board meeting of May 2, 2000, as presented.

Dr. Leathers requested the word 'taking' on page 17 of the May 2, 2000, Special Board meeting, be changed to 'talking.'

The question was called on the minutes as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of September 5, 2000, as presented.

Pull for discussion and separate vote Consent Agenda Item C. 23., Resolution Allowing the SBAC to Register with FDLE as a Law Enforcement Agency pursuant to F.S. 230.23175.

Delete Action Items B.1.a., Bid Award for Project SBAC CB910—Newberry Elementary School HVAC Equipment and Duct Replacement; and B.1.b., Bid Award for Project SBAC CB842—Newberry High School Science Classroom.

Add as an Action item the Continuation of Temporary Duties of Dr. Mary Chambers.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Brashear requested an action item on the October 3 Board meeting agenda related to the purchase of the King Food Store property next to Williams Elementary School.

Mrs. Carroll extended the Board's condolences to Buchholz High School student Stephen Price on the recent loss of his mother, and thanked the many teachers for offering their support to this young man.

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- Mrs. Barbara Gallant, Pro-Kids Consult, made the following suggestions:
  - Develop a policy to insure when a motion and a second is made on the appointment of a superintendent, no vote should be taken until all Board members have had the opportunity for discussion and to provide input.
  - Include community and education groups in the evaluation process for Superintendent candidates.
  - Amend the agenda format and change the Superintendent Report sections to read, "Action Items/Presentations/Reports" and "Consent Agenda."

Chairman Sharpe noted that the Board reviews the agenda format for possible revision during the reorganization meeting in November.

- Dr. Gunnar Paulson, President, Alachua County Education Association, welcomed the many teachers in the audience and expressed his thanks for their dedication. He briefly reviewed the budget process, categorical funding, the collaborative bargaining process and the status of contract negotiations.
- Several teachers presented the following concerns for Board consideration:
  - High cost of consultant fees vs. low stipends
  - Funding of capital outlay improvements vs. increased salaries
  - Urged the Board to conduct a local superintendent search

CONTINUATION OF  
TEMPORARY DUTIES  
OF DR. MARY  
CHAMBERS

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved to continue the temporary duties of Dr. Mary Chambers until such time as the Board is able to select an interim superintendent.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

NEW JOB DESCRIPTION

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

FOR THE POSITION OF  
TUTOR—FIRST  
READING

Moved to approve the proposed new job description for the position of Tutor as presented for advertising.

Ms. Faye Cake, assistant superintendent, Human Resources, informed the Board that this is a full-time position requiring a high school diploma or GED, and is funded by the Goals 2000 grant.

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

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 00-49-X

Mr. Tom Wittmer, staff attorney, reported that the student was charged with directing verbal threats of violence toward school personnel. The parent has requested a hearing.

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through September 19, 2000.

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

RESOLUTION  
ALLOWING THE SBAC  
TO REGISTER WITH  
THE FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
ENFORCEMENT (FDLE)  
AGENCY PURSUANT  
TO F.S. 230.23175

Responding to Chairman Sharpe's question as to the need and why the district should be allowed to register as a law enforcement agency, Security Chief W. H. "Bear" Bryan explained that F.S. 230.23175 allows the Board to hire school safety officers as long as they comply with F.S. 943, which defines a law enforcement officer. It also gives the authority to make arrests on violations that occur on School Board property, the authority to carry weapons and participate such as the law states for any deputy sheriff. The FDLE requires a resolution that requests an ORI (Originating Agency) number for the School Board to be recognized as a police agency. An ORI number would allow access to the FCIC/NCIC (Florida Criminal Information Center/National Criminal Information Center) lines, which would also allow access to criminal histories, checking driver licenses, etc. He understands that it is an administrative mandate by FDLE to present a resolution for FDLE to recognize him as a certified law enforcement officer.

Chairman Sharpe stated that she felt very uncomfortable with the School Board becoming a police agency and questioned the need since School Resource Officers (SROs) are currently authorized to perform those duties.

Mr. Bryan stated that SROs are employed by their respective agencies. As explained to him by FDLE, in order for him to have power of arrest, the resolution, if approved by the Board, would give him that authority and FDLE would recognize him as a law enforcement officer.



Dr. Leathers questioned the use of a former employee providing consultant services totaling over \$11,500, as indicated on Attachment E – District Consultant Services.

Dr. Chambers explained that the individual was used to assist the district in appropriately placing students at the beginning of the school year, and this individual also performs other duties for the district during the year. She assured the Board that she would look into this issue.

The question was called on the Consent Agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

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

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PUBLIC HEARING—  
ADOPTION OF  
MILLAGE LEVY  
FOR THE 2000-2001  
FISCAL YEAR

Dr. Mary Chambers, assistant superintendent, Business Services, stated that this is the final Public Hearing and adoption of the final millage levy and budget for the 2000-2001 school year. She informed the public that the millage rate is going down, and the Board is levying the maximum amount that is allowed by the Florida Legislature, which must be done in order for the Board to participate in the Florida Education Finance Program (the district receives three-quarters of its funding from the state.) She pointed out that the two reasons the millage is going down is due to the tax base increasing and also as the district pays voted bonds, the interest is going down on those bonds, which impacts the millage rate.

Mr. Keith Birkett, director, Business Services/Budgeting, presented an overview of a sample property tax notice in order to explain how School Board taxes are impacting tax bills.

Responding to Mrs. Brashear’s concern, Dr. Chambers explained that the project to air condition a gym has been an ongoing concern in collective bargaining. The issue is related to the capital outlay transfer and the buy-back of some capital dollars. Over the last several years, the district has been buying back from the general fund to put into the capital fund to repair school roofs and maintenance items. Several comments have been made about not transferring those dollars from the general fund back into the capital fund in order to use the money to increase salaries. She stated that the district cannot directly use capital outlay dollars for any type of salary increases.

Dr Paulson, president. Alachua County Education Association, felt that if the Board did not use the money to air condition gyms, it would be available for salaries. He pointed out that if the Board used the money

to build classrooms and maintenance items at schools, it would not be an argument and urged the Board to place teachers ahead of air conditioning gyms. He expressed his willingness to work with the Board to come to an agreement, but felt that money was going for frills and it should be going to employees instead of air conditioning gyms and lighting football fields.

Dr. Chambers clarified that there are two issues: The Board cannot use capital outlay money for raises, but Dr. Paulson is referring to the capital outlay transfer. The Board made a five-year commitment to buy back in order to allow the Board to have more funds for repairs and maintenance at schools. The Board is in the final year of that commitment and does have flexibility.

Dr. Paulson urged the Board to divide the money in three years and again stated that the money is not going for direct instruction.

Mrs. Carroll stated that the Board must remain silent due to ongoing negotiations. She stated that the money is being transferred back into the budget and was used for school maintenance issues. She cited as an example the need for carpet replacement at Archer Community and Alachua Elementary schools. She felt these type of repairs benefit the classroom and are also teacher concerns. When the Board began to transfer money back into maintenance, it was due to teachers requesting the Board make necessary repairs to the classrooms, and it was important to the Board to accomplish these items.

Dr. Paulson once again stated that the money is not going into maintenance, but for lighting football fields and air conditioning gyms.

Mrs. Carroll requested Dr. Chambers provide the Board with capital outlay information for the next Executive Session.

Mr. Birkett read the millage levy resolution:

RESOLUTION DETERMINING  
REVENUES AND MILLAGES LEVIED

RESOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, DETERMINING THE AMOUNT  
OF REVENUES TO BE PRODUCED AND THE MILLAGE TO BE  
LEVIED FOR THE GENERAL FUND, FOR THE DISTRICT  
LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, AND FOR EACH  
DISTRICT BOND INTEREST AND SINKING FUND FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2000, AND ENDING JUNE  
30, 2001.

WHEREAS, Section 237.091, Florida Statutes, requires that upon receipt of the certificate of the property appraiser giving the assessed valuation of the county and of each of the special tax school districts, the school board shall determine by resolution the amounts necessary to be raised for the District School Fund, for the District Local Capital Improvement Fund, and for each District Bond Interest and Sinking Fund, and the millage to be levied for each such fund including the voted millage; and

WHEREAS, the certificate of the property appraiser has been received;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the District School Board that the amounts necessary to be raised as shown by the officially adopted budget and the millages necessary to be levied for each school fund of the district for the fiscal year are as follows:

1. DISTRICT SCHOOL FUND (nonvoted levy)

a) Nonexempt assessed valuation	b) Amount to be raised	c) Millage Levy
\$6,053,442,918	LRE \$34,516,126 BASIC DIS \$ 2,932,893 SUPP DIS \$ 1,414,690	6.002 Mills .510 Mills .246 Mills

2. DISTRICT LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (nonvoted levy)

a) Nonexempt assessed valuation	b) Amount to be raised	c) Millage Levy
\$6,053,442,918	\$11,501,542	2.000 Mills

4. DISTRICT INTEREST AND SINKING FUND(S) (voted)

a) Nonexempt assessed valuation	b) Amount to be raised	c) Millage Levy
\$6,053,442,918	\$3,507,970 \$3,335,447 \$4,916,909	.610 Mills .580 Mills .855Mills

5. THE TOTAL MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED EXCEEDS THE ROLL-BACK RATE COMPUTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065(1), F.S., BY 6.09 PERCENT.

The administration recommends that the School Board adopt the Millage Resolution for the 2000-2001 fiscal year as read.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to adopt the Millage Resolution for the 2000-2001 fiscal year as read.

Mrs. Brashear requested Dr. Chambers provide information on teacher allocations.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Several teachers presented the following issues and concerns for Board consideration:

- Higher salaries
- Provide enough supplies for the classroom
- Work together to come to an agreement
- Increase stipends
- Consider employee morale
- Reduce class sizes
- Do not cut electives

A parent requested the Board pave the existing tennis courts at Buchholz High School.

Dr. Chambers reported that as of this afternoon an additional 18 units have been allocated to the most needy schools requiring additional teachers and this information will be given to the schools by tomorrow.

Mrs. Carroll referred to Ms. Ginger Childs' memo indicating there was a need for 20 additional units.

Ms. Childs informed the Board that the difference between 18 and 20 units is 10% to 15% at different school sites. She stated that the numbers are good at the K-3 grade levels, and the biggest growth was in middle and high schools. More students reported to Talbot and Chiles Elementary Schools than were predicted and units were re-shifted to those two schools.

Dr. Chambers stated that one of the reasons staff is cautious is because the enrollment counts coming in do not always equate to dollars. After the FTE counts come in October, and if the district has the current number of students, the dollars will follow. If the district does not, and for some reason the counts are higher, then those dollars don't follow

and that impacts the general fund budget, which impacts the supplies and the teacher raises, gas for buses, etc. Staff has worked very hard to come up with the best numbers possible to be able to balance the needs of having teachers in the classroom, as well as having dollars for other things. She noted that the district needs to be absolutely certain that those dollars will follow later with the FTE.

ADOPTION OF  
2000-2001 BUDGET

Mr. Birkett read the Budget Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, HEREBY ADOPTS AS ITS FINAL BUDGET THE TENTATIVE BUDGET PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ON AUGUST 1, 2000, WITH THE AMENDMENTS SHOWN ON SCHEDULES I THROUGH VII APPROVED THIS MEETING, CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2000-2001 FISCAL YEAR:

FUND	APPROPRIATION
GENERAL	\$ 164,175,466.12
SPECIAL REVENUE	16,913,054.47
DEBT SERVICE	14,526,877.69
CAPITAL PROJECTS	56,602,477.75
INTERNAL SERVICES	2,063,702.26
TRUST AND AGENCY	<u>4,233,566.61</u>
TOTAL	\$ 258,515,144.90

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved the administration's recommendation to adopt the 2000-2001 Budget Resolution as read.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The public hearing was adjourned and the regular Board meeting reconvened.

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DISCUSSION ITEM—  
BOARD MEMBER  
REQUESTS

There were no Board Member requests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.