

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
JULY 24, 2000

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in special session duly called at 3 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; and Lawrence Marazza, superintendent. Mr. James F. Lang, attorney for the Board, was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sharpe, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of July 24, 2000, as presented.

Mrs. Brashear requested clarification on the wording for action item 1.b., Strategic Plan.

Mr. Tom Wittmer, staff attorney, stated that the item advertised is an amendment to the Strategic Plan. The Plan (Beliefs, Objectives, Parameters, Mission Statement and Strategies) was adopted November 2, 1999. The amendment will add specific results statements to each of the strategies. The Board will be considering only the results statements today.

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

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Brashear noted that she is working on safety issues outside the schools in conjunction with the Black on Black Crime Task Force. She received an invitation from FSBA for the Board to participate in proposing legislative changes. There is a city ordinance that prohibits the sale of liquor within 300 feet of a school but there is a state law that prohibits cities from regulating the zoning for stores that sell package beer. She will be drafting a proposal to bring to the Board that will address when a city makes a resolution in the interest of children and schools that the state not prohibit the law being carried out.

CITIZEN INPUT

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, noted that during the budget workshop he understood the Board's main priority to be teacher and employee salaries, but going through the wish list, he feels that the focus may be to try and do everything and forget about the teachers and employees. He reminded the Board that it can't do everything and that there were to be no upgrades until the Career Service Salary Study is implemented.

Dr. Leathers clarified that in the Board's priorities the top category with all fives is mostly geared to teachers, teachers' salaries and teacher conditions.

ADVERTISEMENT OF
THE 2000-2001
PROPOSED TENTATIVE
BUDGET AND MILLAGE

Dr. Mary Chambers, assistant superintendent, Business Services, noted that in the budget recommendations, except for additional teacher units and salary increases, there is about \$50,000 in additional budgetary items recommended and we have also recommended cutting the budget about \$400,000.

The ads, as described by the Legislature, for Advertisement of the 2000-2001 Proposed Tentative Budget and Millage will run in *The Gainesville Sun* July 29, 2000

Dr. Chambers felt it important to note that the June 30, 2001, fund balance of \$13,309,039 is an increase over the anticipated \$12,000,000 fund balance. By cutting and reducing items in the budget has freed up dollars to help pay for additional teachers and salary increases.

Dr. Chambers referring to the budget detail document explained that it has been expanded to include the 2000-2001 Budget Recommendation, the first section is the Strategic Plan Requests, and the second section is Departmental Requests, and the third section is Operational Support with the increases anticipated for next year.

She reviewed the priorities and departmental requests recommended in the proposed budget and discussed increases and reductions in budget items for the coming year. She noted that staff reviewed last year's enhancement budget and felt a reduction could be made in several accounts: Superintendent's flexible account, \$100,000; Leadership Academy Startup, \$80,000; ESOL Training; Administrative Assessment monies; Strategic Planning, \$50,000; Communications, \$100,000; and another \$50,000 seed money budgeted couple of years ago for programs required by the Legislature and are up and running now; for a total of about \$460,000.

Chairman Sharpe requested a list of the reductions.

Mr. Keith Birkett, director, Finance, reviewed the eight schedules showing proposed millage comparisons, budget hearing notices, and the comparison of the proposed 2000-2001 budget to the 1999-2000 expenditures. He noted that the actual property tax levy last year was \$48,633,943 and this year's proposed tax levy is \$53,016,053, which includes our required local effort, discretionary millages and our capital outlay 2 mill levy. Our actual millage is going down but included in the new ad, the required portion is going up 6.46 percent. We are required

to levy that millage in order to receive the \$89,757,094 in state revenue. The percent change over rolled back rate is 6.09 percent. Schedule III shows the actual millage rate compared to the proposed actual millage for next year. The total state is going up .056 mills and this is being offset by a reduction primarily in the voted debt service millage plus a slight decrease in the supplemental discretionary millage. The total millage is going down about 1.4 percent. He pointed out that Schedule IV, Budget Summary Notice, notes that the proposed operating budget expenditures are 2.1% more than last year's total operating budget. It also includes a listing of all millages and funds by categories. The total proposed millage levy is 10.803. The budget ads also include the historical summary of financial and demographic data, and the tax for school capital outlay.

Mr. Birkett read Schedule VIII, Budget Appropriations Approved for Advertisement.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, HEREBY ADOPTS THE TENTATIVE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ADVERTISEMENT DATED JULY 29, 2000, WHICH CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS, FOR THE 2000-2001 FISCAL YEAR:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>
GENERAL	\$ 163,365,838.00
SPECIAL REVENUE	16,767,541.00
DEBT SERVICE	14,416,687.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS	56,625,528.00
INTERNAL SERVICE	2,037,024.00
TRUST AND AGENCY	<u>4,233,316.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 257,445,934.00

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the 2000-2001 proposed Tentative Budget and proposed Tentative Millages for advertising.

Mr. Birkett explained that a mill is one dollar per assessed value of tax on property, for each one mill you pay one dollar per thousand in taxes.

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

AMENDMENT TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Chairman Sharpe pointed out that the Strategic Plan had come before the Board (June 20) and following discussion, it was determined that it should go through rulemaking procedures. A public hearing was

scheduled for July 18, 2000, and on a 3-2 vote, the final vote was scheduled for today.

She noted that the public hearing was held July 18, 2000, to consider the proposed amendment to the Strategic Plan. The amendment includes results statements for each of the nine strategies and that the Board would not only be voting for the amendment but would also be voting for the Plan.

Superintendent Marazza strongly urged the Board to adopt the Strategic Plan as presented with specific results statements for each of the nine strategies. This combines with what the Board adopted in November. The Board can bring items back for final review on individual basis as particular items are being implemented in due cost dollars. He is pleased with the quality of the plan. It is a community school plan and is indeed best for kids. He recommended the Board adopt it.

Mrs. Brashear feels the board has heard lots of agreement on items in the Strategic plan. She feels the strength of a 5-0 vote from the Board on the Plan is crucial, otherwise, it would have less of chance for success. She would like to find a way for a better chance for success, perhaps table for a later meeting.

Dr. Leathers noted his concerns are around two different approaches that both interrelate. One would be the plan itself, which he has supported from the beginning. The second has to do with the process and how to implement such a plan. He is concerned now as to the timing of that given the status of the district's leadership and where it is going with that. He suggested placing a hold on it at this time. He doesn't want to impose a plan upon a new leadership situation if it is that important and on the other hand, he doesn't want to lose what has been done. He feels the Board did an excellent job prioritizing its priorities.

Mr. Cake stated that he is not against good planning and not against strategic planning and especially not against this particular plan. However, he wants planning that takes place in an atmosphere of trust and collegiality with employees being required to carry out those plans being thoroughly and unconditionally committed to that plan. He does not want this strategic plan with its input and support from such a large number of committed community members to be defeated or worse yet be permanently shelved. Passage of this plan is not required in order to pass the budget.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to postpone the amendment to the Strategic Plan until September 19, 2000.

Mrs. Brashear feels this is a wise way to go. She asked that the Board consider setting aside a time for an interim meeting to allow anyone who felt left out, not listened to, or that the process was not well thought through enough to accommodate their points of view to come and speak with the Board members. They could also write or e-mail the Board members.

Mrs. Carroll noted that she sat down with a member of the planning team and a member of the action team and went through every document generated throughout this process and where changes were made to this plan it was done at the planning team level. Except for one area which stated that Board members sit on chambers of commerce and it came back as chamber. She would like for the Board to offer to sit down with the full planning team and hear their reasons and their merits for this plan.

Dr. Leathers stated that the Board could plan ahead and say to new leadership that this is the effort that we have put into this planning and what we believe at this point. It could be a major part of the criteria for selecting leadership. It is important to express in a very concrete way what we have planned and where we think we are going.

Mr. Cake stated he has had a similar concern. Throughout the plan there is mention of various inservice training that needs to take place. He hopes that during this preliminary discussion the Board can internalize what the various inservice training would mean. There are major strategies that are depending on those inservice training projects. He would like a better understanding of what the district is looking at in terms of total dollars. He would like to see the plan get to the point where the Board could act on various budget items and the Board would be aware of what the district is now going to do.

Mrs. Brashear thinks the idea of sitting down with the planning team is good. Anytime we do anything from organizing schools and school years to putting in any kind of new system of machines, there is a certain process that is agreed with. There was a set of guidelines as to how this particular strategic plan would be carried out by the consultants. If the Board is going to listen to more input, there needs to be a plan as to how the Board would hear from the people before meeting with the planning team.

Chairman Sharpe stated that she did not want to minimize the countless hours that the members contributed to this plan. Everyone started out in good spirits, but someone's spirit was lost along the way. There are

good points in the plan. There are some items and language in the plan that she would like clarification as to exactly what they mean. She would not want to tie the hands of new leadership but would like the new leadership to have the opportunity for input. She is not against strategic planning, but sometimes the process has a way of turning off the best of intentions.

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

Chairman Sharpe appointed a subcommittee of Mrs. Brashear and Dr. Leathers to discuss planning procedural matters for an interim meeting.

Mr. Wittmer noted that the Board now has indicated that it may want to take additional information or comments about the strategic plan and the normal way to do this is to comply with the rulemaking procedure by advertising in the newspaper.

ARTICULATION
AGREEMENT WITH
SANTA FE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mrs. Ginger Childs, assistant superintendent, Instruction, stated that as requested, Mr. Wittmer, staff attorney, researched whether the agreement should contain an annual right to terminate, and it does not appear that the Board would be in violation of any laws or authority by not including a clause to this affect.

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to approve the Articulation Agreement with Santa Fe Community College as presented.

Mrs. Brashear requested that the legal information be attached to the agreement.

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

BOARD MEMBERS
REQUESTS

There were no Board member requests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.