

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 20, 2001

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. A moment of silence was observed for Police Officer Scott Baird.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the minutes of February 6, 2001, 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 February 20, 2001, as presented.

Add as Action Item 9.a., Student Case No. 01-10-X; delete Consent Agenda Item 9., Agreement with the National Academy Foundation.

The question was called on the Consent Agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS/
DISCUSSION

Mrs. Carroll asked the Board to take note of two emails related to accountability of schools conference via website information and on funding of nurses in the school system.

Mrs. Sharpe attended the final task force meeting for work force recruitment and retention and a draft is being prepared for the task force to review. A final recommendation will be presented to the legislators when the session begins.

Chairman Leathers read from an editorial entitled, *Don't Shortchange our Education Needs*, which appeared in *The Gainesville Sun* related to education funding. He announced that he along with teachers and administrative staff visited three high schools in Dade County to look at the math programs. He also noted some facts about Miami-Dade.

He noted preparation and submission of the Board's legislative priorities and working in conjunction with the Florida School Boards Association is the Board's part of the process that goes to the House

and Senate education committees and then to the joint committee. He reviewed the Board's priorities which include: higher salaries, smaller class sizes, additional funding for facilities and maintenance.

Chairman Leathers referred to a memo from the Board's legislative liaison describing the atmosphere in the legislature and noted his appall with the arrogance and the process. He invited Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, Alachua County Education Association (ACEA) to make a statement for the teacher's union.

Dr. Paulson referred to the Governor's proposed tax cuts in education and health and encouraged everyone to take a stand against the proposed cuts.

SCHDULED AGENCIES

Ms. Sonia Winters, Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, announced that the Chamber held a golf tournament to support the Teacher Mini-grant program, which is available to all teachers in the district and awards up to \$250/per mini-grant. This year the Chamber received 124 applications for mini-grants and awarded \$10,000 in mini-grants to 23 schools and Camp Crystal. She also noted that the Chamber is involved in supporting education in Alachua County through the Adopt-a-School program, which provides the opportunity for citizens to volunteer their time at a school, and is also involved in the Summer Youth Employment program for students.

RECOGNITION—
PERFECT SAT SCORE

The Board recognized Christopher Olsen, a junior at Eastside High School, for achieving a perfect 1600 on his SAT test. Mrs. Sandy Hollinger, principal, also noted that he has been submitted as a nominee to the Governor's All-Star Group.

OUTSTANDING
SCHOOL VOLUN-
TEERS, 2000-2001

Mrs. Karen Scarborough, coordinator, School Volunteer Program, announced that Gainesville Regional Utilities and the Scholastic Chess Association have been awarded the Alachua County Business Partner Award and will be honored in March at the Commissioner's Business Partner Conference. She also announced that 89 individuals were selected as Outstanding School Volunteers who will be honored at a special luncheon hosted by Burger King and Cox Communications. She introduced the three Outstanding School Volunteers for 2000-2001: Jake Herring, Youth Volunteer, Rawlings Elementary School; Leslie Edmonds; Adult Volunteer, Williams Elementary School; and Irma Elliott, Senior Volunteer, Talbot Elementary School.

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

ADOPTION OF THE
AMENDED NOTICE OF
TAX FOR SCHOOL
CAPITAL OUTLAY

Mr. Keith Birkett, Deputy Superintendent, stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to take public input on the amended Notice of Tax for School Capital Outlay.

There was no public input.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to adopt the amended Notice of Tax for School Capital Outlay.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

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

CITIZEN INPUT

A Newberry Elementary School teacher invited the Board to their Spring Festival, April 5, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. She thanked Chairman Leathers for his support of teachers.

Representatives from Students United to Reform Education (SURE), updated the Board on their activities, which included a speech at the North Florida Labor Council; they presented a newly drafted mission statement to the legislative delegation and also had a chance meeting with Education Commissioner Crist. The Board was provided with copies of their platform and mission statement. The Board was urged to support holding a local rally.

Chairman Leathers commended Gainesville High School student Cecilia Thompson for her editorial in *The Gainesville Sun*.

Mrs. Sharpe commended former student Chris Poyner, acting lobbyist for SURE, for his extensive experience through the March of Dimes Chain Reaction and stated she is happy he is representing SURE. She urged SURE to select a small articulate group of students to represent them in Tallahassee.

Superintendent Chambers stated that she is encouraged by the support from the local legislative delegation this year and applauds the efforts of the students.

She also informed the Board that she attended the Science and Engineering Fair at the O'Connell Center and congratulated all the students for their efforts and also thanked the sponsors, judges and staff for their hard work.

ADMINISTRATIVE
APPOINTMENT(S)

Superintendent Chambers recommended the Board approve the appointment of Dr. Leila Pratt as Director of Human Resources, effective March 19, 2001.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to appoint Dr. Leila Pratt as Director of Human Resources, effective March 19, 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PROCLAMATION—
HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS SPILL
PREVENTION WEEK
FEBRUARY 25
THROUGH MARCH 3,
2001

Chairman Leathers read the Proclamation proclaiming February 25-March 3, 2001, as Hazardous Materials Spill Prevention Week.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the Proclamation proclaiming February 25-March 3, 2001, as Hazardous Materials Spill Prevention Week as read.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

APPOINTMENT OF
UNDERWRITING TEAM

Mr. Birkett reported that proposals for underwriting services were advertised and sent to eight investment banking companies. Six of the eight firms responded to the proposals and one firm declined.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to appoint A. G. Edwards and Sons, Inc., and William R. Hough and Company to serve as co-senior managers. In addition appoint Morgan Keegan and Company, Inc., to serve as co-manager on the financing subject to the success of negotiation of fees and expenses with the district's financial advisor.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOND COUNSEL
SERVICE AGREEMENT
FOR CERTIFICATES OF
PARTICIPATION AND
POSSIBLE GENERAL
OBLIGATION
REFUNDING

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the Bond Counsel Service Agreement for the Certificates of Participation and possible General Obligation Refunding with Livermore, Freeman and McWilliams, P.A.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BID AWARD FOR

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

PROJECT SBAC CE432—
WILLIAMS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
STUDENT SERVICES
REMODELING

Moved the administration’s recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$633,000 and additive Alternates 1a, 2, and 6 in the amount of \$138,433 and award a contract for construction totaling \$771,433 to Ric-Lon Enterprise, Inc., Jacksonville, Florida, with completion of this project to be within two hundred seventy five (275) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the “Notice to Proceed.”

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

INDEPENDENT
CONSULTANT
EVALUATION FOR
IMPLEMENTING THE
STANDARDS FOR SAFE
SCHOOLS

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve the consulting contract with National Institute for School and Workplace Safety for Implementing the Standards for Safe Schools for the School Board of Alachua County.

Mr. Dave Hotary, director, Risk Management, noted that the first report will be provided before the end of the school year.

Superintendent Chambers stated that this contract will support Strategy 1 in the Strategic Plan, which calls for a safe and orderly environment.

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

AGREEMENT WITH
FLORIDA ASSOCIATION
OF DISTRICT SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENTS

Superintendent Chambers stated that the district is expecting a tight budget year and in an effort to provide as much flexibility as possible for strategic planning priorities, she is recommending an organizational and compensation study by the Education Management and Consultant Services through the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) and recommends it be completed in two phases—first, an evaluation of our staffing structure in light of district priorities within the strategic plan; and second, a compensation study. The first phase is estimated to cost \$9,000 and the second phase \$14,000. FADSS does have a funding mechanism whereby these fees can be offset.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to approve the agreement with the Florida Association of District School Superintendents and Educational Management and Consultant Services for the organizational and compensation study.

Mr. Jerry Copeland, president, Educational Management Consultant Services, addressed the timeline and reported that the first phase could readily be done during the month of March. The second phase would begin at about the same time (60-90 day-period of time), which is well within the window of this particular year and prior to completion of the budgeting process.

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

AMENDMENT TO
POLICY 3.41, CHARTER
SCHOOLS—SECOND
READING

Ms. Sue Griffith, director, Charter Schools, stated that the amendment specifies and clarifies requirements of law and district practices and was approved January 16, 2001, for advertising.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the amendment to Policy 3.41, Charter Schools, as advertised.

Mrs. Carroll referred to the first page, section 3.41(13)(e), which specifies that charter schools will follow the district school calendar, and noted that if charter schools want to be a year-round school, they can make an amendment for that particular charter.

Mr. Cake pointed out the legislature has many changes in the hopper for charter schools for next year. Looks like the trend is to move away from school boards and put some of the charters with the state board.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-02-HC

Dr. Jim Scaggs, staff attorney, reported that the student was reassigned to the Alternative Center as a result of a history of disruptive behavior. A hearing was held on January 25, 2001.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to enter a final order adopting the Hearing Agent's recommended order.

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

STUDENT CASE
01-10-X

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student was charged with possession of a controlled substance while at school.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the administration's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through March 6, 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. E-01-01

Dr. Scaggs stated that the employee wishes to address the Board and is being recommended for suspension without pay pending termination proceedings.

Following advice of the Board Attorney, the employee was permitted to address the Board without referring to the merits of the case.

The employee stated that he is suspended without pay and is married with three children. He was suspended with pay last month and has not received the last check. He requested the Board consider allowing his accumulated leave to be used during the suspension pending the outcome of the termination proceedings.

Dr. Scaggs recommended the Board accept the superintendent's recommendation and he will research possible continuance of pay through unused leave.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved that the employee be suspended without pay effective Wednesday, February 21, 2001, pending termination proceedings.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHEDULE CHOICE
PLAN FACT FINDING
WORKSHOP

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to schedule a Choice Plan Fact Finding workshop May 8, 2001, 9 a.m.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-15, with the deletion of item 9. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Sharpe requested Superintendent Chambers address the audit findings and discuss corrections to be made.

Superintendent Chambers responded that the district has 30 days to formally respond, at which time responses will be incorporated in a bound audit report and released. As soon as the final audit is received, the information will be provided to the Board.

Mrs. Carroll requested that the brochure detailing the Board's Legislative Priorities be distributed to all schools and placed on bulletin boards in teacher lounges.

She also reminded the Board that the district Spelling Bee will be held February 22, 2001, 1:30 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Chairman Leathers requested the Board's input on SURE's request to hold a rally.

Board concerns and discussion focused on holding a rally during a school day; use of school facilities; legal ramifications involved; use of a school bus; if SURE is a legitimate student organization; the Board's policy prohibiting campaigning or politics on school campuses; funding; and a suggestion was made to contact other districts.

Mr. Don Lewis, director, Secondary Curriculum, informed the Board that SURE has substantially met the requirements to become a school organization or club and can request field trips.

Superintendent Chambers stated SURE must realize that there are Board policies and a Code of Ethics to benefit all students and they must understand the Board's parameters.

The Chairman requested Superintendent Chambers and the Board and staff attorneys research the issue and report back to the Board at the March 6, 2001, Board meeting.

Mrs. Cawthon referred to the 2001-2002 school calendar and stated that she continues to receive emails from concerned parents and preferred waiting another year for an earlier starting date.

Superintendent Chambers informed the Board that she will be meeting with staff to review alternatives for instructional initiatives to make up for days for student achievement.

Superintendent Chambers announced that there is a school district events calendar on the district's website.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.