

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 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 Chambers, superintendent; and James Lang, attorney for the Board.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leathers followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Girl Scout Troop 634.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

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

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of March 20, 2001, as presented.

Add as Action Item H.9.c., Student Case No. 01-18-X, and delete Consent Agenda Item 9, University of Florida College of Health Professions Statement of Agreement.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBERS/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Sharpe was happy to report that funding for AP and IB programs is back in the budget. She thanked everyone that participated in lobbying the legislature by letters, emails, telephone calls and going to Tallahassee.

She noted that following the last Board meeting she and Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, toured the junior high school in Hawthorne and noted some needs for immediate attention that would require minimum funding. Mr. Gable and the Superintendent are addressing these needs.

Dr. Leathers noted that Legislative Liaison Barbara Gallant reported she and Legislative Lobbyist Joy Frank have a more positive outlook now that Senate President MacKay will not support tax cuts. They are hopeful this will provide more available funds for finance and health needs.

Chairman Leathers referred to a new report, *Florida's Teacher Shortage*, just released by the Florida School Boards Association Task Force on Florida's Education Workforce—Recruitment and Retention. He noted under recommendations for teacher retention, the task force members support increased compensation and better retirement options and recommend the legislature implement the following:

- Increase teacher salaries to be competitive with surrounding states.
- Increase retirement options to include:
  1. Reducing required vesting years from six to three.
  2. Calculate retirement on high three years.
  3. Create uniformity in district-to-district years of service transfers.
  4. Short-term goal of increasing retirement rate to 50 percent of an educator's salary, and a long-term goal of moving toward 75 percent of an educator's salary.
  5. Investigate additional DROP options, including adjusting DROP program years from five to a longer period.

Mrs. Sharpe noted that she was a member of the task force and just received the report. Today she requested additional copies to share with Board members and the Superintendent and noted some copies may need to be made. A lot of hard work went into the report and it contains a lot of information she would like to share with everyone.

Superintendent Chambers introduced and welcomed Dr. Leila Pratt the new director of Human Resources.

She thanked the Board, principals, teachers and staff who spent countless hours during the last several days in important and comprehensive curriculum workshops. She appreciates the attention and time and hard work that went into these workshops and feels it will help provide better services to our students.

Dr. Leathers referred to the lengthy workshop on reading with Dr. Cecil Mercer, an expert on reading at the College of Education, and his presentation. Also, the staff was outstanding in their presentations with lively and positive interactions.

RECOGNITION/  
PRESENTATION—2001  
Commissioner's Business  
Recognition Award  
Recipients

Mrs. Kelly Kostamo, specialist, Business Partnerships, reported that there are currently over 300 business, agencies, and organizations participating in the Partners in Education program with over 465 established partnerships. She recognized the efforts of two partners who recently received the Florida Commissioner of Education's Business Recognition Award for exemplary partnership involvement—Gainesville Regional Utilities and the Alachua County Scholastic Chess Association.

Mrs. Sharpe pointed out that after she was elected to office in 1992, she got behind the chess program and wrote letters, sent to New York for videotapes on chess, had them provided to the schools, and did whatever she could to promote chess. She is proud to have been a part in helping the chess program become the program it is today.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES

There were no scheduled agencies.

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen reiterated a request made at a recent Board meeting that the Board publish a document elaborating more fully on the fiscal details of a multimillion dollar capital outlay issue approved February 20, 2001. The Board should make full and complete disclosure of all details of all major budget proposals now and in the future.

Superintendent Chambers noted that the information referred to has been provided many times at many meetings over the last several months. The documentation provided several months ago has not changed substantially since being provided in many public meetings. She has requested that the information, again, be provided.

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, requested that Board members email support to Senator MacKay. He noted that not much time is left and it will make a difference.

A parent addressed the Board in support of continuing the multicounty program for the hearing impaired.

Superintendent Chambers reported that staff is looking at all the different options and compiling cost information to, hopefully, work out some other options with the other districts.

PROCLAMATION—  
March 23-30 as 2001 Chess  
Week

Ms. Kelly Kostamo stated that this year the Chess Challenge will be hosted by Prairie View Elementary School on March 30, 2001. The 2001 State Scholastic Chess Championships will be held in Gainesville March 23 through March 30, 2001, with approximately 350 participants from throughout the state.

Ms. Kostamo read the proclamation proclaiming the week of March 23 through March 30 as Chess Week in recognition of all children who will be competing in the tournament, and particularly those students who will be representing Alachua County at this important event.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the proclamation as read.

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

PROCLAMATION—Keep Alachua County Beautiful

Mrs. Grace White, supervisor, Community Involvement, stated that in order to promote environmental education, ensure quality programs, encourage recycling and beautification for our community, the School Board of Alachua County does support the efforts of Keep Alachua County Beautiful in their endeavors to improve the quality of life for all citizens of Alachua County. She read the proclamation.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the proclamation as read

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

BID AWARD FOR PROJECT SBAC CB838—HAWTHORNE HGIH SCHOOL HVAC EQUIPMENT AND DUCT WORK REPLACEMENT, PHASE II

Mr. Ed Gable reported that bids for the construction of this project were received March 14, 2001.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration’s recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$400,989 and Additive Alternates #2 and #3 in the amount of \$39,184 and award a contract for construction totaling \$440,173 to Shine Company, Inc., High Springs, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within four hundred ninety (490) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the “Notice to Proceed.”

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

CHANGE ORDER NO. TWO—PROJECT SBAC CB909—EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL REROOFING

This change order adds \$214,415.20 to the contract, revising the contract to \$1,891,707.10, and represents an increase in cost for replacing 7,912 square feet of existing metal deck and insulation found to be structurally unsound. This change order adds forty-four (44) consecutive calendar days to the contract time.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration’s recommendation to authorize execution of this change order as presented.

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

OASIS ENRICHMENT

Mrs. Sue Griffith, director, Charter Schools, stated that the Oasis

ACADEMY CHARTER  
SCHOOL APPLICATION

Enrichment Academy Charter School Application presented by Ms. Patricia West, president and CEO of the East Gainesville Development Corporation, is a sixth through eighth grade middle school charter. The school proposes to operate under the incorporation status of the East Gainesville Development Task Force, Inc. The intent is to include some of the students currently participating in after-school activities and services through the East Gainesville Development Corporation. Strong emphasis will be providing the students with both basic skills and with “world of work experience.”

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the administration’s recommendation to (1) approve the application for the Oasis Enrichment Academy Charter School in concept; (2) authorize the staff to develop a proposed charter contract; and (3) schedule a public hearing on the proposed charter contract for 7:30 p.m., May 15, 2001.

Mrs. Sharpe noted that the Board of Directors has as a member of the Board one of the local legislators. She has requested Board Attorney Jim Lang to check with the Ethics Commission to determine whether he would be allowed to be a voting member of the Board for the charter school.

Dr. Leathers noted that he has been involved through the Black on Black Crime Task Force and other activities and is pleased that the Corporation is pursuing this middle school charter and commends all those behind it and involved.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

INTENT TO RENEW THE  
CARING AND SHARING  
LEARNING SCHOOL,  
INC., CHARTER SCHOOL  
CONTRACT

Mrs. Griffith noted Simon and Verna Johnson, founders and administrators of the school, were in attendance and stated that The Caring and Sharing Learning School, Inc., Charter School is nearing completion of its initial three-year contract. Florida Statute requires that the School Board declare 90 days before the ending date of the contract whether or not it intends to renew the charter contract. Review of the charter school indicates that the school is eligible for renewal. Following notification of intent to renew, a renewal contract will be negotiated with the charter school.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration’s recommendation to declare intent to renew The Caring and Sharing Learning School, Inc., Charter School contract.

Mrs. Sharpe commended Simon and Verna Johnson on a job well done.

Ms. Johnson noted that they have 91 students in the school, and financially

the school has been running smoothly.

Mr. and Ms. Johnson’s suggestion for other charter schools-- make sure you understand what you are getting into; make sure you discuss it with the people you will be working with; and understand the boys and girls are the young people you are going to work with; and, please, make sure you have a set plan you remain with through tough times and easy times; be sure you know what you are doing and make sure your finance is in the right pot.

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

JOB DESCRIPTION—  
CONSTRUCTION  
INSPECTOR FOR  
SAFETY—FIRST  
READING

Ms. Leila Pratt, director, Human Resources, stated that a new job description is needed for the position of Construction Inspector for Safety. This job description was inadvertently omitted when the entire job description manual was revised and presented to the Board for adoption on February 5, 1995. The employee who has occupied this position recently submitted his resignation. in order to advertise the vacant position, a job description must exist.

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve the proposed new job description as presented for advertising.

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

REVISIONS TO JOB  
DESCRIPTIONS—  
SECOND READING

Ms. Pratt stated that the job description for Information Resources Director and Human Resources and Development Specialist are being revised to more accurately reflect assigned duties and responsibilities. The job descriptions were approved for advertising February 6, 2001.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve the revisions as advertised.

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

STUDENT CASE NO.  
01-12-SB

Dr. Jim Scaggs, staff attorney, reported that the student is charged with persistent misconduct while riding the school bus. A hearing was held this afternoon.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration’s recommendation to extend the student’s

suspension from the bus through April 17, 2001.

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

STUDENT CASE NO.  
01-14-X

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to delete this item from the agenda.

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

STUDENT CASE  
NO.01-18-X

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student is charged with making verbal threats of violence against the school. An investigation is being conducted in this matter.

Motion by Seconded by

Moved the administration's recommendation that the student's suspension be extended through April 17, 2001.

Mr. Sam Stafford, friend and advisor to the family, informed the Board that the parent had received notice of this meeting and of the intent to extend the suspension to the 17<sup>th</sup> of April this afternoon. He stated that the student has been out of school since the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and asked why the extended length of the suspension.

Dr. Scaggs stated that the extension is to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Until there is proper time to consider information presented to staff yesterday, it was felt to be more appropriate to delay the action. The recommendation is made with the understanding that should Dr. Chambers choose not to proceed with recommended expulsion, then the student would be readmitted to school at an appropriate time short of April 17. However, should she recommend expulsion, then the suspension would be continued until the next regular Board meeting, which is April 17.

Dr. Chambers stated that considering today's climate, she stands by her recommendation.

Mr. Lang stated that he had discussed briefly with Dr. Scaggs that if the student wants to have instruction, this could be provided as long as the suspension is in effect.

Mr. Stafford stated that the explanation provided is marginally acceptable and the spring break is of most help in accounting for one of the weeks the student will be out of school. He pointed out that until the date of this

particular letter received today with reference to the ability to receive instruction, there has been no movement toward homework, no instruction or direction to this student since the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. While we are not at this time and hopefully will not have to address this case in the future once the investigation is completed, the parents are concerned with what they feel is harm that is being done to a number of parties, not only their child.

Superintendent Chambers stated that every effort will be made to provide appropriate instruction to the student.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-11 with the deletion of Consent Agenda Item 9. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

BOARD MEMBERS/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

There were no requests.

Chairman Leathers noted that the recent workshops were an extremely meaningful time period for him.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.