

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 17, 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.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

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

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of April 17, 2001, as presented.

Delete Item F, Scheduled Agencies; change the amount in Item H.3, Certificates of Participation—Resolution COP-01-06, to \$24,200,000; and delete from Item H.7, Student Case No. 01-18-X.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Chambers announced the special meeting of the Alachua County School Board Leasing Corporation immediately following the Board meeting.

Chairman Leathers attended the National School Boards Association annual meeting in San Diego and noted that the total experience was very rewarding. As he talked with board members from around the country, a lot of discussion centered on the recent shootings in schools there. He learned the San Diego community had held a giant rally with over 30,000 families turning in their guns. The businesses cooperated and provided awards to those families.

The Chairman, along with other Board members, superintendent and staff, attended the Florida School Boards Association Day in the

Legislature. He reported that the Alachua County delegation is extremely supportive and working very hard.

Mrs. Sharpe commented that the Alachua County School Board has been lobbying not only for the district but the state at least as long as she has been on the Board (1992). She noted that Board members visited the Senate and the House and that Alachua County has a local delegation committed to helping with the district's educational and funding efforts. She interacted with other senators and representatives that are supportive and some that are not. The district has people there that understand the needs, and efforts are being made on behalf of the district. This Board is not dragging its feet and never has.

Mrs. Carroll echoed Mrs. Sharpe's comments and felt it important to remember that the Board members do have relationships not only with the local delegation but with other legislators and lobbyists in Tallahassee and have worked through grass root organizations that have been established over the years. She enjoyed the Day in the Legislature and watching the committees work.

Mrs. Sharpe referred to the Florida Teacher Shortage Report and offered her copy for anyone interested to review. She also would like to have copies that have been made circulated.

RECOGNITION—PALMS
INTELLECTUAL
FREEDOM ESSAY
CONTEST WINNER

Ms. Susan David, representing the Alachua County Professional Association of Library Specialists, presented Maria Prado, senior, Gainesville High School, as the county winner of the Intellectual Freedom essay contest. Miss Prado read her essay entitled *The Importance of Intellectual Freedom*. The Board presented her with a certificate in recognition of her achievement.

CITIZEN INPUT

A parent addressed the Board regarding continuing the multicounty program for the deaf. She expressed how important it is to have certified teachers for the deaf and pointed out that most therapists are not trained in sign language. Her feeling is that the students will be placed in classes without certified teachers. She requested that the Board think of the children first.

Superintendent Chambers informed the Board that letters are in the process of going out and that she has talked with the other superintendents on helping with the costs of providing the services or providing those services in their own districts. At this time no responses have been received.

Mrs. Sharpe pointed out that the Board is not trying to do away with the program but is looking at options for funding and maintaining these programs by seeking help from the other districts.

CHANGE ORDER
NUMBER THREE FOR
PROJECT SBAC CB909—
EASTSIDE HIGH
SCHOOL RE-ROOFING

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that this change order adds \$148,182.80 to the contract, revising the contract to \$2,039,889.90, and represents an increase in cost for replacing 5,468 square feet of existing metal roof deck and insulation found to be structurally unsound. This change order adds twenty-three (23) 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

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC
CA715—HAWTHORNE
HIGH SCHOOL ANIMAL
PRODUCTION AND
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Mr. Gable reported that bids for the construction of this project were received April 3, 2001.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$957,131 and Additive Alternates #1 and #2 in the amount of \$220,413 and award a contract for construction totaling \$1,177,544 to General Mechanical Corporation, Daytona Beach, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within three hundred (300) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CERTIFICATES OF
PARTICIPATION—
RESOLUTION COP-01-06

Mr. Keith Birkett, deputy superintendent, Planning/Budgeting and Systems Availability, reported that paperwork is complete and staff is ready to go to market with the first of two planned Certificates of Participation (COPs) issues. The certificates will be on the market between April 30 and May 1 with closing May 11.

Mr. Jerry Ford, financial advisor, gave a brief overview on the process of the Certificates of Participation and noted that this is a very good time for the market. He informed the Board that this is the most common method of school financing in the state of Florida.

Mr. Ford stated that the annual principal and interest payments on this issue will depend on the final option chosen. The Board can assume the annual payments will be somewhere in the two-million-dollar-a-year range.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration’s recommendation to adopt Resolution COP-01-06, “A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance on behalf of the School Board of Alachua County, Florida, of not Exceeding \$24,200,000 Certificates of Participation, Series 2001, for the purpose of Lease-Purchase Financing of Educational Facilities for the School Board of Alachua County, Florida; Approving a Ground Lease by the School Board of Certain of its Real Property in Connection therewith; Approving the Major Financing Documents; Approving a Negotiated Sale of the Certificates to the Purchasers, Subject to Certain Conditions; and Providing an Effective Date.”

Mrs. Sharpe noted that the district does not have the funding to address some of its needs and COPs will help provide for those needs. This is a long-term investment, but she feels this is the only way the district can go.

Mr. Tougaw informed the Board that at the last workshop the projected amount needed for capital outlay, both repair/renovation and new facilities, is \$250 million.

The schools that will have some type of impact with COPs are: Shell Elementary, Bishop Middle, Kanapaha Middle, Eastside High, Sidney Lanier, Glenn Springs Elementary, Westwood Middle, high school tennis courts; and parking upgrades and site improvements.

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

ADOPTION OF
RESOLUTION NO. 01-08
GENERAL OBLIGATION
REFUNDING BONDS
SERIES 2001

Mr. Birkett noted that the district is looking at the market at a favorable time and by law you cannot refund bonds unless there is a proven savings. Based on the market today we estimate about a 4.91% savings in debt service, which equates to about a \$1.2 million reduction in our interest payments over the remaining life of these bonds. These bonds will be sold on April 25 or April 26 and the closing on these bonds will be the same day as the closing for the COPs, May 11, 2001.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration’s recommendation to adopt Resolution No. 01-01, “A Resolution Providing for the Issuance of not Exceeding \$26,800,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2001, of the School District of Alachua County, Florida, for the Purpose of Financing the Cost of Refunding Certain Outstanding General Obligation Bonds of the District; Containing other Provisions Relating to such Refunding Bonds, Authorizing a Negotiated Sale of Such Refunding, Bonds, Subject to Certain Conditions; and Providing an Effective Date.”

AUDIT REPORT NO. 01-132 OF THE ALACHUA COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD, FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2000

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

Mr. Birkett informed the Board that the audit does have more comments than in the past but overall this audit is a good audit. There is no indication any funds are out of balance. The audit indicates the district does have good sound internal controls.

Mr. Richard Trainor, director, Finance, reported that the Auditor General's Office audits larger counties every third year, the next two years the audit will be by James Moore and KPMG combined. He gave a brief update on each of the findings listed in the audit.

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation that Audit Report No. 01-132, a Financial, Operational, and Federal Single Audit Report of the Alachua County District School Board for fiscal year ended June 30, 2000, be filed as a part of the public records of the School Board.

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

ALACHUA COUNTY VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD, 2001

As provided for in Chapter 194, Florida Statutes, the Value Adjustment Board is comprised of three County Commissioners and two School Board Members. The Clerk of the Circuit Court, Mr. J. K. Irby, is requesting the election of two members and an alternate to serve on the 2001 Alachua County Value Adjustment Board.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved that Mrs. Sharpe and Mrs. Carroll continue to serve on the 2001 Alachua County Value Adjustment Board with Mr. Cake serving as the alternate.

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 was charged with persistent misconduct while riding a school bus. A hearing was held on March 20, 2001. The Hearing Agent recommends that the Board suspend the student's school bus riding privileges through July 12, 2001.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-13-NP

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

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student was reassigned to the alternative center as a result of a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct. A hearing was held on March 12, 2001. The Hearing Agent recommends that the Board confirm the assignment of the student to the alternative center.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

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

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

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. E-01-03

Dr. Leila Pratt, director, Human Resources Division, reported that the employee was placed on administrative leave with pay at a pre-termination conference March 14, 2001.

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the administration's recommendation to suspend the employee without pay effective April 18, 2001, pending termination procedures. Dr. Pratt explained that under the law the employee's due process rights allow the opportunity to request a hearing and the employee has requested a hearing.

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

SCHEDULE
WORKSHOPS

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the administration's recommendation to schedule a workshop June 7, 2001, 9 a.m., for a Legislative/Strategic Planning/Capital Outlay Update and a Budget Priorities Workshop on June 26, 9 a.m.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE
APPOINTMENT

Superintendent Chambers recommended Mr. Jim Utley as the Chief Technology and Information Services Officer for the School Board. Mr. Utley has 18 years of experience with the School Board. During his tenure, he has served as a programmer analyst II, systems analyst/project leader on the Business Services team, and director of Payroll/Employee Benefits. Mr. Utley has a bachelor's degree in psychology and post-graduate work majoring in business and computer science.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Mr. Jim Utley as Chief Technology and Information Services Officer, effective April 18, 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-14 (See Supplementary Minutes Book).

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Carroll asked that staff bring the Board up-to-date regarding the construction being stopped at Archer Elementary School.

Mr. Ed Gable reported that construction has not stopped. There are some changes that have to be made to the fire protection system. The contractor is still working. We are looking at different ways to protect the steel floor structure with fire sprinklers or spray-applied fire-protection which should have been done earlier in the process. To keep from backing up too much, we are looking at the best options and making sure we are doing this in the most economical way as the building is scheduled to being occupied at the start of school next year.

Mrs. Carroll stated that a few months ago, several teachers e-mailed her that DOE is requiring teachers attach their social security numbers to FCAT tests so that when the time comes when we actually structure teachers' pay around gain scores, that can be tracked. Their concern is that this is a major privacy issue. She e-mailed Joy Frank, lobbyist, and asked her to get in touch with those in Tallahassee responsible and see if this could be done in a different manner. For instance, can we not use teacher certification number, or can we not use a county code, school code, or teacher code that is supplied by the district, something to keep their social security numbers off those documents. Ms. Frank has talked with Tom Fisher in charge of assessment for DOE and they feel it is a legal issue. Mrs. Carroll requested that the staff attorney and Board attorney check and see if the teachers can be helped regarding this issue.

Mrs. Carroll noted that elementary schools have not been rezoned in a long time. She requested that staff facilitate discussion about spot rezoning and moving some children into areas that may be somewhat under enrolled with the intent that we not get away from this issue of

kids who live close to a school go to a school, but that we take the fringes of a zone and maybe move them to a school that they are closer to.

Chairman Leathers commended the Superintendent and staff on an outstanding workshop on FCAT earlier in the day.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.