

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 19, 2002

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: Bill Cake, chairman; Jeannine Cawthon, vice-chairman; Bev Carroll, and Chester Leathers, members; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board. Board member Barbara Sharpe and Superintendent Mary Chambers were absent.

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

Chairman Cake noted that Board member Barbara Sharpe was absent and Deputy Superintendent Bill Cliett is sitting in for Superintendent Mary Chambers.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to approve the minutes of February 5, 2002, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of February 19, 2001, as presented.

Change the year on Consent Agenda Item 10 to 1996 and on information presented to the Board on school hours for 2002-2003, change the ending time for A. Q. Jones to 3:45 p.m..

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Cake read into the record a note from Mrs. Sharpe.

I am unable to attend tonight's Board meeting. Today, I am in Tallahassee being about the business of the Alachua County school district and the other 66 counties as well. I will also be in contact with Legislators and other dignitaries regarding education issues that affect us all.

I am aware that the Spot Rezoning item is on the Agenda only to be advertised for a Public Hearing in the future.

Thank you very much for your time. Have a good Board meeting.

Barbara Sharpe, Member, Alachua County School Board

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of Charlene Kicklighter Thomas, secretary, Lofton High School.

RECOGNITION/
PRESENTATION/
REPORT

Alachua County Public Schools Foundation—Altrusa Club

Ms. Mary Chance, director, Public Schools Foundation, noted that one of the major keys to the success of Take Stock in Children program is the dedicated volunteer mentors who meet weekly with the students and help them stay focused on their goals and another integral part of the program's success is the community organizations that step forward to augment the program and to help build that relationship between mentors and scholars. One such organization is Altrusa International of Gainesville. Altrusa was recognized and thanked for their sponsorship of two Camp Crystal retreats for the Take Stock in Children scholars – one last October and another one in March.

Outstanding School Volunteers, 2001-2002

Ms. Karen Scarborough, coordinator, School Volunteer program, recognized the district's outstanding school volunteers in the following categories: Mae Liza Carter as the Outstanding Senior Volunteer; Christopher Walker as the Outstanding Youth Volunteer; and Jeff Suggs as the Outstanding Adult Volunteer. Chris and Jeff were also selected as State Volunteers of the Year.

School Improvement Highlights

A representative from Stephen Foster shared highlights of activities and programs in the school that help contribute to higher student achievement.

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

PUPIL PROGRESSION
PLAN

A public hearing was held to consider the amendment to the Pupil Progression Plan that would align math and science credits with the state's required three (3) credits.

Mrs. Carroll noted for the record that Dr. Cliett had assured her that for students who don't do well on the FCAT, the need for the fourth year of math and science would be addressed. She asked Dr. Cliett to address how the preparation for the FCAT and the passing of the test may tend to push these students into a class that fourth year.

Dr. Cliett stated the FCAT, from all indications, now has a strong alignment and correlation with the college placement test students take when they have

a standard diploma in order to enter the community college. It is believed the FCAT will eventually take the place of the college placement test, as students who are getting a high school diploma must pass the FCAT. The students are going to have to have very strong math, reading and writing skills and should not need remediation once they enter. There will be a greater push at the high schools to provide all the remediation necessary for the students to be successful in passing the FCAT for graduation. Many of the high schools will be requiring additional math, reading or what other courses are necessary for students in order to do that, in addition to after school tutoring programs and mentoring and all types of things within the realm of their possibility of providing services to the student. As a follow-up to the presentation at the last Board meeting by Santa Fe Community College representatives, most of our student groups toured the campus and took the college placement test—students became excited and more interested in what they had to do to be more prepared to go there.

Dr. Leathers expressed a concern with half of the population coming from lower socio-economic backgrounds, of inviting a situation where the upper echelon will continue to take more math and the others will take less. He noted that the University of Chicago just came out with a research study that math is the best indicator of success and progress in academic pursuits as well as in the status of life.

Dr. Cliett noted that the FCAT is really going to drive that and if the students do not pass the test in the 10 grade, there are going to be many services and programs available for them and for some it will mean a fourth year of math in order to pass the test. He feels there will be greater requirements and greater standards on students as the FCAT begins in elementary. We will see students entering high schools with higher skill levels in reading, writing and math than we have before, thereby, providing less of a need for remediation.

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

RECOGNITION/
PRESENTATION/
REPORT (cont'd)

School Improvement Highlights (cont'd)

Representatives from Glen Springs and Hidden Oak shared highlights of activities and programs in these schools that help contribute to higher student achievement.

Budgeting/Financial Update

Deputy Superintendent Keith Birkett reviewed budget amendments presented to the Board on the Consent Agenda. He reviewed the implementation of the district's two-year Budget Stabilization Plan. He noted that the current Governor's budget would provide funding of \$1.5

million less than at the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year, with the Senate proposal showing \$4.3 million less and the House \$1.2 million less.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES
 March of Dimes Chain
 Reaction Programs

The March of Dimes Chain Reaction youth group presentation featured programs in the schools on Folic Acid and Health Education, including the upcoming Health Conference that will provide health seminars for 350 seventh graders. They also encouraged participation in the annual Walk America event March 23.

CITIZEN INPUT

Chairman Cake noting that most requests to address the Board were on zoning pointed out that item 6 on the agenda is to schedule a public hearing March 5, 2002, on the spot rezoning of elementary schools. He suggested holding the public hearing at Gainesville High School. Tonight is the first reading and a presentation by staff. Following March 5, the issue will be brought back on March 19, for a vote.

He suggested rather than everyone getting up and stating the same thing, that a group select three speakers to represent their particular area.

The following issues/concerns/suggestions/requests/ were presented.

- Citizen spoke on the issue of discipline and provided the Board with a statistical analysis of school crime he had prepared.

Addressing the citizen, Chairman Cake pointed out that as a courtesy back in December, a meeting date was scheduled for his two concerns-- discipline and remediation--to be on an agenda. That was the last Board meeting. An ill staff member stayed and gave a comprehensive interpretation of discipline in our schools. Three staff members and three community college personnel gave a long report on the remediation at that meeting. The citizen was reminded that he did not stay around to hear that part of the meeting. We all participated in that meeting. The Chairman also wanted to let him and the public know that he was scheduled and a lengthy response was given, and the Chairman was sorry that the citizen was not there for that presentation.

- Interaction of racism in classes hidden behind neighborhood schools; poor pay scale for teachers; early history of the civil rights era; and the real national debt.
- Rezoning of Northwood Oaks neighborhood from Talbot to another school – suggested solutions – zone all new development to under capacity schools, do not rezone neighborhoods that have been zoned to a school for eight years.
- Rally in Tally; Dislike of Split Citizen Input format; decision making
- Representing the group of neighborhoods proposed for Terwilliger

from Hidden Oak, the largest single geographical area slated to be rezoned, the greatest number of children, some of the oldest most established neighborhoods west of I-75; request that they may participate in this democratic process, slow down the process by moving public input meeting back a couple of weeks; allow opportunity to ask questions tonight when the plan is presented; direct staff members to provide members of the community with the data needed to evaluate the proposal and make informed comments when public input is requested.

- Restore the community's faith in public service; put democracy back on the school board and enfranchise the students, teachers, parents and community members and listen to voices that have been silent too long; make sure students are treated like people instead of numbers and give all students access to the best opportunities; rebuild employee morale by upholding promises to give teacher and career service employees a living wage and a set salary schedule that won't change year to year; commit to reducing class sizes and making schools less crowded and more personal; encourage participation by parents and community members by simplifying complex issues so that everyone can understand; acknowledge every citizen's opinion and embrace differences; get out to the schools more; what about accountability for school board members; ask board members to make themselves available for phone calls; consider not splitting citizen input tonight.
- Northwood Oaks parents—believe the plan as it now stands is inconsistent with what the school board wants in terms of neighborhood schools, at least as far as Talbot and Northwood Oaks are concerned. Reconsider—Talbot is their neighborhood school, Talbot was built to accommodate Northwood Oaks. Submitted a petition of 280 signatures, 75% of all residents in Northwood Oaks; neighborhood has a diverse population, good mix of all ethnic and economic groups. Suggested sections of other neighborhoods that may be reviewed as options. Moved to this neighborhood in order to have a neighborhood school; a quality education; neighborhood is safe for the children; property value will decrease. When Talbot was built, neighborhood was promised it would be their school. Suggest Norton as an alternative for the neighborhood; district set a legislative priority changing the state law to allow construction of schools where population of growth is occurring; rezone in the east to redistribute children to underutilized schools while remaining close to home; zone new communities to fill underutilized schools; doesn't seem fair to be bussed past a school to another school.
- Talbot parents support the spot rezoning plan and noted the benefits; support the suggestion for alternative neighborhoods to be rezoned.
- Huntington—divert the new neighborhoods; one of the first neighborhoods zoned to Talbot; consideration for the older

neighborhoods.

- J. J. Finley (Sugarfoot neighborhood)—special school because of the incredible diversity, intimate atmosphere; students of every nationality; students of speakers of other languages; proposed changes would move 31% of the students which would have a drastic affect on the school; would lose needed programs and teachers; it would become the second least enrolled school; would be more than one and a half standard deviation from the mean, which would be 522; look for other solutions.
- Changing of School Starting Times—Gainesville middle schools starting at 9:20 a.m. – concerned about having to leave a 13 year old daughter home in order to get son to whatever elementary school he will be zoned to at 7:30 a.m.

ALACHUA COUNTY
VALUE ADJUSTMENT
BOARD, 2002

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved that Mrs. Bev Carroll and Mrs. Barbara Sharpe continue to serve on the 2002 Alachua County Value Adjustment Board, with Mr. Bill Cake as the alternate.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

CHARTER CONTRACT
FOR MICANOPI
MIDDLE SCHOOL, INC—
SECOND READING

A public hearing was held February 5, 2002, to consider the Charter Contract for Micanopy Middle School, Inc. The school will serve middle school students grades 6-8.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve the Charter Contract for Micanopy Middle School, Inc.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

AMENDMENT TO
POLICY 7.41, PAYROLL
PROCEDURES—
SECOND READING

A public hearing was held January 15, 2002, to consider amendment to Policy 7.41, Payroll Procedures.

Dr. Jim Scaggs, staff attorney, noted that the language “which fulfill the requirement of Florida Statutes” as requested by the Alachua County Education Association was included in item 9 of the policy.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the administration’s recommendation to adopt Policy 7.41, Payroll Procedures as amended.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

BUDGET
DEVELOPMENT/TRIM
CALENDAR—2002-2003

Mr. Birkett noted that the Truth in Millage (TRIM) establishes the dates the Board must take action legally on the budget during the summer.

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the 2002-2003 Tentative TRIM Calendar, establishing July 23, 2002, 3 p.m., as a special Board meeting for approval of the Tentative Budget for advertising; August 1, 2002, 5:30 p.m., as a special Board meeting for the Public Budget Hearing and adoption of the Tentative Budget and Millage; and September 3, 2002, 7:30 p.m., for the Public Hearing and adoption of the Final Budget and Millage.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

CHANGE ORDER
NUMBER ONE FOR
PROJECT SBAC CA715—
HAWTHONE JR/SR HIGH
SCHOOL ANIMAL
PRODUCTION AND
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, noted that this change order adds \$43,628.97 to the contract, revising the contract to \$1,221,172.97, and represents an increase in cost for replacing existing water and sewer service to the campus. This change order adds thirty (30) consecutive calendar days to the contract time.

Moved the administration's recommendation and authorize execution of this change order as presented.

Explaining why the change order was necessary at this time, Mr. Gable noted that in planning for the construction of the technology center it was assumed that some of the existing water and sewer lines that are serving the new building as well as continuing to serve the existing building would be adequate for those purposes. Not only were they not sized as indicated on the drawing but they were in bad shape so we are replacing those not only to provide for the new building but improve service for the existing building and provide for capacity of any future development on the site.

He also noted that it would be more expensive to come back at some future time as a separate project for replacement.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

SPOT REZONING OF

Dr. Mel Lucas, director, Research, Development and Zoning, stated that to

ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS—FIRST
READING

help manage the financial crisis confronting our schools staff has developed a proposal that if adopted will save the district several hundred thousand dollars year after year. The savings will come from three different sources—return of leased portable classrooms, reduction in transportation costs, and any expenditure for upgrading portable classrooms. The proposal will affect fewer than 10% of the elementary students, improve the communication between the homes and the schools, and have a better focus of Title I resources. There is a small impact on the economic diversity of the schools, substantial money saved to the district and still the opportunity to expand elementary magnet programs in the future.

Dr. Lucas, referring to the maps, which define legally the proposed changes, presented in detail the following areas proposed for rezoning.

The following areas are proposed for change to **Prairie View Elementary School**:

The area currently zoned for Hidden Oak bordered on the north by W. University Avenue, on the west by SW 13 Street, on the south by Depot Avenue, and on the east by SE 3 Street, including, but not limited to Porter's Oaks.

The area currently zoned for Hidden Oak bordered on the north by Depot Avenue, on the west by S. Main Street and SE 16 Drive, on the south by Williston Road, and on the east by a line projected south from SE 6 Street.

The area currently zoned for Wiles bordered on the northwest by Williston Road, on the northeast by the railroad bed running parallel to SE 10 Terrace and on the south by a line projected from SE 24 Avenue, including but not limited to Woodlawn.

The following areas are proposed for change to **Williams Elementary School**:

The area currently zoned for Norton bordered on the north by the railroad bed projected from Depot Avenue, on the west by the railroad bed running parallel to SE 10 Terrace, on the south and the east by Williston Road, including, but not limited to Springhill.

The area currently zoned for Norton located at 1101 SE 15 Street known as Carver Gardens.

The area currently zoned for Glen Springs located at 1717 through 1723 SE 8 Avenue known as Kennedy Homes.

The area currently zoned for Prairie View Elementary School bordered on the west by SW 34 Street, on the south by Hull Road, on the east by SW 13 Street, and on the north by Museum Road including, but not limited to, Diamond Village, Maguire Village, and Schultz.

The area currently zoned for Prairie View located from 2901 to 2917 SW 13 Street known as Tanglewood Apartments.

The following areas are proposed for change to **Lake Forest Elementary School**:

The area currently zoned for Idylwild south of University Avenue including SE 26 Street and SE 26 Terrace including the area known as Lake Terrace.

The area currently zoned for Littlewood bordered on the west by SE 15 Street, on the south by SE 15 Avenue, on the west by SE 20 Street and on the north by SE 8 Avenue, including Lincoln Estates.

The following areas are proposed for change to **Duval Elementary School**.

The area currently zoned for Terwilliger Elementary School bordered on the west by Waldo Road, on the south by University Avenue, on the east by NE 20 Terrace, and on the north by NE 8 Avenue, including, but not limited to the area known as Moorehaven.

The area currently zoned for Littlewood located at 1717-1733 NE 8 Avenue known as Gardenia Gardens.

The following area is proposed for change to **Foster Elementary School**.

The area currently zoned for Talbot Elementary School bordered on the west, Township 9 S, on the south by NW 53 Avenue, on the east by NW 31 Terrace and on the north by NW 68 Avenue including Northwood Oaks.

The following area is proposed for **Norton Elementary School**.

The area currently zoned for Talbot Elementary School bordered on the west by a line projected by NW 59 Street, on the south by NW 39 Avenue, on the east by a line projected by NW 47 Terrace, and on the north by a line projected by NW 48 Place including but not limited to Huntington, Huntington North, Huntington Lakes.

The following area is proposed for change to **Glen Springs Elementary**

School:

The area currently zoned for Talbot Elementary School bordered on the west by NW 75 Street, on the south by NW 33 Place, on the west by NW 51 Avenue, and on the north by NW 39 Avenue including, but not limited, to Heatherwood, Timberlane, Timberway and Savannah Place.

The following areas are proposed for change to **Terwilliger Elementary School:**

The area currently zoned for Hidden Oak bordered on the west by SW 122 Street, on the south by SW 8 Avenue, on the east by SW 75 Street and on the north by Newberry Road including, but not limited to, Hamilton Heights, Fort Clarke Forest, Tomoka Hills, Sunningdale, Buckingham, West Chester Manor, Saw Buck.

The area currently zoned for Hidden Oak bordered on the west by SW 75 Street, on the south University Avenue, on the east by Interstate 75, and on the north by Newberry Road.

The area currently zoned for Hidden Oak located at 7025 W. University Avenue known as Pine Meadows Apartments.

The following area is proposed for change to **Littlewood Elementary School:**

The area currently zoned for Finley Elementary School bordered on the west by SW 43 Terrace, on the south by SW 7 Avenue, on the east by SW 34 Street, and on the north SW 2 Avenue and Newberry Road including, but not limited to, Camelot Apartments, Anglewood, Viscaya Apartments.

The area currently zoned for Finley Elementary School along W. University Avenue, SW 54 Terrace, SW 1 Avenue known as the Clear Lake area.

The following are is proposed for change to **Idylwild Elementary School:**

The area currently zoned for Wiles Elementary School bordered on the west by a line running parallel to, and east of SW 63 Boulevard (residents on the east and west side of 63 Boulevard will remain in Wiles), on the south by Archer Road, on the west by SW 49 Street, and on the north by a line projected from SW 36 Avenue including, but not limited to, Oaks of Kanapaha, Westgate Manor, Reserve of Kanapaha, Madison Cove Apartments, and Broken Arrow Bluf.

The following area is proposed for change to **Irby Elementary School**

(grades K-2) and **Alachua Elementary School** (grades 3-5).

The area where African/American children are zoned for Talbot Elementary School bordered on the west by a line projected by NW 75 Street, on the south by an east/west line at the intersection of State Road 121 and County Road 231, on the east by a line roughly parallel to, and west of, County Road 225, and on the north by the Alachua County line including, but not limited to, Montechoa, La Crosse, Seminole Woods, Wood Meadow.

Responding to Dr. Leathers, Dr. Lucas noted that it is possible to get the number of students that would be bussed by one school to another school and that it would take a substantial amount of time.

Chairman Cake suggested Dr. Leathers meet with Dr. Lucas and review the particular area or areas of concern to him and see whether to go with it.

Chairman Cake asked for a review of the process should major changes be proposed to what has just been described. He reiterated that the public hearing is proposed for March 5, and suggested it be held at GHS and that the spot rezoning of elementary schools would be an action item March 19.

Dr. Lucas felt sure if the Board or other sources suggested major changes, there would have to be another public hearing. He pointed out that at the beginning of the school year staff did not have a plan to rezone and did not like bringing a proposal like this to the Board at this late date. The proposal is necessary because of a financial crisis and there is a time limit in terms of staffing of schools.

Dr. Scaggs agreed that, in fairness to those that might be affected, if major changes were made, you would want to notify them in a timely manner.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the administration's recommendation to schedule a public hearing to consider spot rezoning of elementary schools 7:30 p.m., March 5, 2002.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved to amend the motion to allow staff to come up with three separate dates for public hearings at night for Talbot, Hidden Oak, and Finley areas with the understanding that Board members and staff will attend those meetings, and advertise those meetings.

With regard to other schools, staff may look at Northwest Gainesville, West Gainesville and East Gainesville and include Montecocha with the Talbot group.

It was noted that in accommodating certain areas if parents in another area wanted to attend a hearing in another area or all three hearings to voice their input, it would be acceptable.

Board Attorney Lang noted that any proposals may be submitted to Dr. Lucas but it must be presented to the Board at the public hearing. It was noted that all amendments are made in public.

The question was called on the amendment.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

The question was called on the motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

SCHOOL HOURS FOR
2002-2003—FIRST
READING

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the administration’s recommendation to schedule a public hearing 7:30 p.m., March 5, 2002, to consider proposed school hours for the 2002-2003 school year.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

WORKSHOP TO
DISCUSS READING
ADOPTION

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the administration’s recommendation that the Board approve the scheduling of a workshop for the overview and discussion of the reading adoption process.

In response to Chairman Cake, Dr. Scaggs stated that Board Policy 4.63, Instructional Materials Selection, is currently being followed. He noted that it is a very structured process. Once the selection committee narrows its choices, it submits a recommendation to the Superintendent, who in turns makes a recommendation to the School Board.

Dr. Cliett passed out a timeline that shows the process the committee has followed to this point in meeting the policy.

The Chairman noted that he does not want to influence the committee nor does he want vendors to feel they need to sell him on the materials. He wants this to be handled by the professionals. He does not want a workshop prior to the committee making a decision.

Dr. Cliett clarified that the purpose of the workshop is so that the Board would be clear on the process the committee follows and aware of the criteria used in making a selection—the evaluation areas and basal readers they review to determine which is better than another.

The Chairman again stated that he does not want a discussion by the Board to influence the committee.

Mrs. Carroll noted that there is a federal law with dollars tied to Title I and other requirements that has just been passed that the Board needs to be knowledgeable of, and the committee needs to be aware of this law.

Dr. Cliett noted that the following Monday an interactive video conference is scheduled for the committee with the reading office in Tallahassee to clarify any question the committee may have about the criteria and process the state used in giving the districts the publishers adopted by the state. Board members are welcome to come and listen. The meeting next Thursday is where each representative from each elementary school will bring back the input from their school and share, and at that point the six programs up for adoption can be narrowed to three or one or it might be there is enough consensus to make the decision.

Mrs. Carroll feels it would have been nice to know how the committee comes up with its decision. The big issue going on now with the committee is if the committee picks a series that requires a lot of training, it means the Board provides the dollars for that training. She feels there is a lot to gain by sitting down and talking with the committee.

It was agreed to hold a workshop after the committee makes its decision.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-12 . (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

There were no requests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 p.m.