

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 16, 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, Chester Leathers and Barbara Sharpe, members; Mary L. Chambers, superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board.

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

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved to approve the minutes of March 19, 2002, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the minutes of April 2, 2002, 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 16, 2002, as presented.

Add to Action Item 3, Student Case No. 02-15-X, and pull Consent Agenda Item 5, Budget Amendments, for discussion and separate vote as Action Item 4.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS/
DISCUSSION

Superintendent Chambers noted that Consent Agenda Item 5, Budget Amendments, would be discussed under E.4., Budgeting/Financial Update.

She requested that the Board allow at this time an update on red lining and an update on the Glen Springs master planning process.

Dr. Leila Pratt, director, Human Resources, reviewed the red lining process by school-based management and district administrators to discuss the appointment of instructional and career service employees. Non-renewal notices have been prepared for 184 individuals—62 had certification issues; 39 were targeted for budgetary reasons; and the balance was at the discretion of the principals, based on the needs of their schools.

Mr. Terry Tougaw, executive director, Facilities, noted that following the concerns expressed by residents on one side of the Glen Springs Elementary School property with the plans developed for the first phase of the master plan for Glen Springs, a meeting of the original steering committee was held this afternoon to share with them those concerns and take a look at some of the issues related to that particular planning. In addition, a SAC meeting is scheduled for the first part of May with all residents that surround the Glen Springs property invited to come and take a look at the plan and give input as to suggestions in terms with what can be done that will be applicable to a good site plan.

Mrs. Carroll attended the afternoon meeting and noted that staff had developed a second plan and there was concern as to whether or not that plan was as good as the first plan. The master planning process takes months to prepare. She felt the feel of the committee was that they wanted to work with the neighborhood but at the same time a lot of work and effort and understanding had gone into the master plan. She confirmed that a lot of communication had gone out to the parents of the school, members of the SAC and PTA that there was a master planning process and that it had been ongoing for a number of years. Staff has agreed to work through the second plan so that the committee will have a better picture, and they will meet again in two weeks to consider the new plan. She noted that the attorney for the one homeowner was present at the meeting.

RECOGNITIONS/
PRESENTATIONS/
REPORTS

2002 Teacher of the Year Honorees

The 2002 Teacher of the Year honorees were presented along with the elementary school finalist, Liana Glanville from Chiles Elementary School; middle school finalist, Jane Kiester from Westwood Middle School; and the 2002 Alachua County Teacher of the Year, Steven Noll, the high school finalist from Sidney Lanier Center.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools—“STAR” Recognition

Sixteen elementary and middle schools received “STAR” (Schools Taking Action for Reform) recognition from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for making great strides in improving the educational opportunities offered to their students.

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

MARTIN LUTHER KING
ACADEMY, INC.
CHARTER SCHOOL
CONTRACT

A public hearing was held to consider the proposed contract for Martin Luther King Academy, Inc., Charter School.

There was no public input.

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

RECOGNITIONS/
PRESENTATIONS/
REPORTS (CONT'D)

School Improvement Highlights

Representatives from J. J. Finley, Prairie View and Newberry Elementary Schools shared highlights of activities and programs in their schools that contribute to higher student achievement.

Budgeting/Financial Update

Mr. Keith Birkett, deputy superintendent, reviewed budget amendments numbers 17, 18 and 19 on the Consent Agenda. He also provided an overview of expenditure comparisons of March 2001 to March 2002.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, asked if staff would include the total revenue when presenting analysis of expenditures.

He noted that concerns have been expressed about cutbacks and that in ACEA's upcoming newsletter, ALERT, under Know your Contract, there is information on Article 12, sections 2 and 3, and Article 4, sections 14, 15, 16 & 17 of the contract about reassignment of teachers and reduction in force.

CITIZEN INPUT

The following suggestions/recommendations were presented to the Board for consideration:

- A citizen presented a summary of the monthly deans misconduct reports of March 1996 through 2002, which he stated shows no significant reduction in total school crimes. He plans to prepare a summation as distributed with each and every monthly misconduct report. He feels a massive team effort of the School Board, teachers and public must be organized to help solve the discipline problems.
- A citizen noted that after the discussion on African/American curriculum in the schools at the previous Board meeting, he feels the Board Members understand the need for balancing black history in the school curriculum. With regard to infusion, the state

law says if you were to engage in infusion, you don't need a set aside course. He suggested teachers review the state department's web site of the Commissioner's task force with lesson plans over some black history contents. He noted that infusion is a cross to curriculum, and there are achievers of different cultures in every area.

- A citizen gave a perspective on when the legislative session may end. The Appropriations bill has to be done by June 30.
- A citizen asked if any progress had been made in connection with the development and the teaching of the history of African/Americans. She referred to material she distributed at a prior meeting on ancient Egypt and noted that the material shows that Egypt represented an ancient civilization and all the people were black. Literature was created and everything that is a base of today was done back in ancient Egypt. She pointed out that our white and black kids don't know that. She feels in reading the material it will improve the understanding of what it is and why they are so concerned.
- A Gainesville High School student addressed the Board with regard to budget issues and red lining. She hopes that students next year and in the future will be as lucky as she has been to have had high quality teachers since coming to Alachua County.

PROCLAMATION AND
PLEDGE OF CIVILITY
THE MONTH OF MAY

The School Board of Alachua County joins other school boards in the state of Florida in renewing the pledge of public conduct and proclaiming the month of May as *Civility Month* and calls upon all employees, student, parents and the citizens of the community to exercise civility toward each other at all times.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming May as Civility Month and acknowledge and support the pledge of civility.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC A0038—
GLEN SPRINGS,
RAWLINGS AND
PRAIRIE VIEW
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS INTERIOR
WALL REPLACEMENTS

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$90,000 and additive Alternates #1 and #2 in the amount of \$156,277 and award a contract for construction totaling \$246,277 to AMJ Construction, Inc., Gainesville, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within one hundred eight (108) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

STUDENT CASE NO. 02-14-SB

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

Mr. Dukes, deputy superintendent, reported that the student is charged with persistent misconduct while riding the school bus. The parent has not requested a hearing.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the student's suspension from bus riding privileges be extended through May 31, 2002.

STUDENT CASE NO. 02-15-X

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

Mr. Dukes reported that the student is charged with possession of a weapon (knife) while at school.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the student's suspension be extended through May 7, 2002.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS #17, #18 AND #19

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

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve Budget Amendments #17, #18 and #19 as presented

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-12 with the removal of Item 5, Budget Amendments, to Action Items. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

BOARD MEMBERS/SUPERINTENDENT REQUESTS

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

Mrs. Carroll reminded everyone of the Chess Challenge at Wiles Elementary School Thursday, April 18, 2002.

Dr. Leathers noted that he would be undergoing hip surgery April 23, 2002.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.