

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JULY 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; Chester Leathers Bev Carroll 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. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

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

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Cake read into the record as follows:

“Before we get started, the School Board will be adding to the Agenda an additional item. This item consists of the ratification of a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the teachers association and the School Board. This tentative Agreement was reached late on Friday, July 12, 2002. If the Board ratifies such Agreement, the ratification will also constitute a withdrawal of an unfair labor practice charge filed by ACEA against the Board, thereby not requiring the Board to have to pay its labor counsel attorney’s fees for drafting documents which are shortly due to be filed before PERC relating to such charge.”

Please add as Action Item 1.a., Ratification of the Agreements and Amendments to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Instructional Personnel, 1999-2002.

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of July 16, 2002, as amended.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Cawthon noted that she along with eight others from the district attended a mandatory DOE three-day summit in Tampa to provide assistance to low performing schools, especially “F” schools. DOE has mandated that an assistance team come in to work with each school

that has received an “F” grade. The district is fortunate to have resources locally to make up the assistance team. Specialists provided by DOE statewide will come in and help schools in counties that do not have the resources. There will also be a DOE person assigned to work with the “F” schools and the “D” schools to monitor and provide assistance. The “F” school will have to make changes in its School Improvement Plan and the changes will be ongoing. Money has been provided for a reading coach for each of the schools. She expressed the hope of a local policy in place on how the district will address dealing with “F” schools and “D” schools, so that when this happens the low performing schools can get assistance quickly.

Mrs. Carroll pointed out that one issue discussed at the LOGIC meeting earlier in the day was the constitutional amendments for education. She expressed concern to the delegation of the impact that two amendments will have on this school system—the cost of Pre-K in Alachua County and the cost of reduction in class sizes and issues related to this. She requested staff provide information on the cost to Alachua County for Board members to use with press releases or when speaking to groups.

Dr. Leathers explained that the LOGIC meeting is chaired by the legislative delegation, to which elected officials, local governmental officials and heads of municipalities, etc., are invited. The legislative process and activities are discussed and opened for questions and input. It is a very meaningful session.

Mrs. Sharpe, referring to the reduction in class size, noted that there is a breakdown of each school district with the cost of that reduction, and it is huge. She also noted that she attended the NSBA Southern Regional Conference in Daytona Beach where speakers spoke on leadership; the importance of national certification of teachers; and why should schools be run like businesses, maybe big businesses should be run like schools. Also, the “No Child left Behind” act will have serious implications on districts in Florida. Need to pay close attention to this and how it will impact the district.

Mrs. Carroll noted that last Friday the School Readiness Coalition voted to increase its market rate, which is what providers will be paid for each child. The downside is there is no more money and children will be removed from the program. This will add up to another 450 children to approximately 600 children already on a waiting list for subsidized childcare.

Superintendent Chambers extended condolences on behalf of the Board to Ms. Pam Latsko, teacher, Williams Elementary School, on the loss

of her stepdaughter, Becky Latsko Lyons.

Dr. Chambers noted that Camp Crystal received a perfect score for national accreditation by the American Camping Association, the premier overseeing agency for the nation.

She also noted that a Special Board meeting is scheduled July 23 at 3 p.m. for approval of the tentative budget for advertising; and a Special Board meeting is also scheduled for August 1, 5:30 p.m, for a public hearing and adoption of the tentative budget and millage.

RECOGNITION/
PRESENTATION/
REPORT

Budgeting/Financial Update

Mr. Keith Birkett, deputy superintendent, reported that the district met all the Academic Student Performance Standards for 2001-2002. He informed the Board of a meeting he attended in Tallahassee with Joy Frank, legislative lobbyist, and others, and presented, as follows, suggested legislative issues discussed and proposed recommendations that the Board may wish to consider while in the process of building the district's 2003 legislative platform.

- Replacement of non-recurring revenue
- Health insurance and property/casualty insurance
- A move to do away with District Cost Differential factor
- Impact of first group of DROP employees
- Florida Retirement System—rates have declined the last three years
- Continued growth in selected areas in the state
- Alternative education delivery systems
- Opportunity scholarships
- Increasing McKay scholarships
- Possible expansion of vouchers within federal legislation
- Continued growth in charter schools and impact on districts
- Millage restriction on use of 2 mill
- Performance pay plan
- Supplemental Academic Instruction and ESE guarantees are not keeping up with growth
- Information of the Growth Management legislation for interlocal agreements with the county governments and Board representation on committees. (He noted that he has talked with the county about the Board's desire to be a voting member of that committee, and it is being reviewed.)

Proposed Recommendations:

- Give districts more fiscal flexibility with funds received
- Look at or replace the classroom legislation—meeting performance standards
- Elimination of proration of funds by guaranteeing a base student

- allocation each year
- Fund growth and workload programs including ESE to keep up with increase in cost
- Increased state participation in addressing both health and property and casualty insurance issues
- Expand use of certain millage for operating purposes beyond four years
- Expand parental choice—with possible increase in vouchers and charter schools, suggested looking at the School Code and hold school districts to same level of standard as private schools.

The federal issues discussed:

- Continue to advocate for full funding of IDEA and increase the percentage of IDEA funds that are flexible
- Continue funding of medicaid services to school districts
- Fully fund the “No Child Left Behind”
- If the McKay scholarship is funded at the federal level, they will suggest doing away with the IEP and districts provide the IEP.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES There were no scheduled agencies.

CITIZEN INPUT A citizen challenged the district to challenge the state assigned school grade for Duval Elementary School and provided a sample letter to send to the Department of Education.

Superintendent Chambers noted that in addition to staff challenging the state grade, the district intends to challenge the grade by increasing student achievement.

A citizen expressed concern with cost overruns on construction contracts. Suggested a search of cost contracts overruns for the past five years to determine how much these actions added to the present school budget crisis, and also suggested this issue be a discussion item at a future meeting of the Board.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING—
REVISIONS TO CODE
OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

There was no public input.

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

PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO
POLICIES 6.21 AND
6.162—FIRST READING

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration’s recommendation to schedule a public hearing 7:30 p.m., August 6, 2002, to consider proposed amendments to Policy 6.21, Certification of Administrative and Instructional Personnel, and Policy 6.162, Contracts: Instructional and Administrative Personnel.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

RATIFICATION OF THE
AGREEMENTS AND
AMENDMENTS TO THE
COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING
AGREEMENT FOR
INSTRUCTIONAL
PERSONNEL, 1999-2002

Tentative agreement was reached with the Alachua County Education Association (ACEA) late Friday, July 12, 2002. Ratification of the agreement will also constitute a withdrawal by ACEA of an unfair labor practice charge filed with the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) against the School Board, thereby, not requiring the Board to have to pay its labor counsel attorney’s fees for drafting documents which are shortly due to be filed before PERC relating to such charge.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation that the School Board ratify the Agreements and Amendments to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Instructional Personnel, 1999-2002, as presented.

Mr. Phil Quaschnick, bargaining attorney representing the Board, clarified that \$300 will be added to the salary schedules reflected in items 2 and 3 of the tentative agreement. With regard to item 7 additional language would be included as “All middle school teachers who work less than full time will receive a one-time payment based upon the ratio of the time they teach compared to full-time teachers. For example, half-time middle school teachers will receive a one-time payment of \$150.”

Mr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, agreed with the clarification and additional language.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

EXTENDED DAY
ENRICHMENT
PROGRAM FEE
INCREASE

Extended Day Enrichment Program fees have not been increased in three years. An increase to cover the cost of salary increases, additional time of operation, and other increased costs of operating the program is requested.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the administration's recommendation to increase Extended Day Enrichment Program fees as presented.

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

PERSONNEL
APPOINTMENT(S)

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to appoint Dr. Charles Hall as Director of Special Instructional Programs, effective July 17, 2002.

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

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to appoint Dr. Wiley Dixon as Principal of Gainesville High School, effective July 17, 2002.

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 1-7 . (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

There were no requests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.