

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 3, 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 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 Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved to approve the minutes of August 20, 2002, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of September 3, 2002, as presented.

On the Consent Agenda, Item 6, Boys and Girls Club mentoring Services, change the total amount requested to \$72,554.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Sharpe noted that the Florida School Boards Association Board of Directors and the Federation member presidents have received information about the Prudential Spirit of Community awards. The annual search is being conducted for young people who have demonstrated outstanding community service over the past year. The National School Boards Association (NSBA) is proud to support this unique youth recognition program and encourages all school boards to promote the program to the middle and high school level principals. She presented information to the Superintendent to identify some of our youth to represent Alachua County at the NSBA conference.

She announced that the judge upheld the school uniform policy in Polk County, and kids may wear school uniforms.

Mrs. Cawthon noted that the president of the FSBA sent out a copy of a statement that she reads often from the Constitution of Florida which

states, "The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the state of Florida, it is therefore a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure and high quality system of free public schools that allow students to obtain a high quality education and for the establishment, maintenance and operation of institutions of higher learning and other public education programs as the needs of the people may require." She feels this is important and the legislators making laws and planning our budgets need to read this as it is in the Constitution.

Superintendent Chambers thanked all those that helped in the schools in many ways during the first week of school by participating in the district's helping hands initiative.

Superintendent Chambers noted that this month's character trait is "Respect" and student artwork will be recognized.

RECOGNITION/PRESENTATION/REPORT

Character Education Student Artwork

Depicting this month's character trait, "Respect," Stephen Foster Elementary student Hannah Blitch was presented with a certificate for her artwork.

Department of Education Five-Star School Award

Ms. Karen Scarborough, coordinator, School Volunteer Program, presented the Florida Department of Education Five-Star School Awards to the following six schools: Archer Community, Chiles, Newberry and Wiles Elementary schools, and A. Quinn Jones Center, and Kanapaha Middle School. The award is earned by schools who demonstrate excellence in the five categories of Business partnerships, family involvement, volunteers, student community service, and School Advisory Councils.

Budgeting/Financial Update

Mr. Keith Birkett, deputy superintendent, Planning, Budget and Systems Accountability, presented information on the following issues:

- School Recognition Program—Congratulated the 22 schools that have maintained a letter grade of 'A' or improved a letter grade on receiving the 2002 Recognition Program awards totaling \$1,792,776.
- Driver Education Safety Act, which allows county governments to pass an ordinance to add a \$3 surcharge to civic traffic violations. The funds are to be used for "traffic education programs" in public and non-public schools. The funds are intended to enhance

programs and cannot replace existing funds and may not be used for any form of administration.

- Reviewed enrollment figures as of 8/30/02 and compared them with the projected FTE, which is 28,170 students—about 316 less students than last year. The elementary schools are 77 less, middle schools are 119 less and high schools 498 more. The special centers and charter schools were 205 less and the dual enrollment is up 28. This gives the district approximately 125 students more than projected, which is still less than last year.

Mr. Terry Tougaw, executive director, Facilities/Transportation, presented a review of timelines relevant to School Choice and rezoning, and the potential impact the passage of two proposed constitutional amendments relating to class size reduction in K-12, with the implementation time period of 2010; and a volunteer universal pre-kindergarten education program, with implementation by 2005, would have on Alachua County Public schools.

The current School Board Policy 5.11, School Attendance/Zones/Choice, states that implementation of the Choice Plan will occur in the 2003-04 school year. This is being brought to the Board as the Board may wish to eliminate the implementation year of 2003-04 until completion of the zoning study for the district.

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

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PUBLIC HEARING—  
ADOPTION OF  
MILLAGE  
RESOLUTIONS  
AND BUDGET FOR  
THE 2002-03 FISCAL  
YEAR

Mr. Birkett reviewed for the public the tax notice sent out by the property appraiser’s office each year. He pointed out that the budget is built on the six priorities established by the Board through strategic planning:

- Developing systems for effective collaboration between stakeholders and community
- Upgrading facilities throughout the district
- Safe and orderly environment for students and staff
- Competitive salary schedules and benefits for all staff
- Emphasis on reading and math
- Alignment of district goals and objectives through strategic planning.

Mr. Birkett provided the proposed millage and budget resolutions together with supporting financial detail, by fund, and highlighted the appropriation changes from those that were tentatively approved at the public hearing held August 1, 2002.

Budget Highlights include:

- Funds for salary and benefit enhancements
- Continuation of classroom material stipends of \$100
- Continuation of school recognition awards of \$100/student in high performing schools
- Analyze student functional capacity of secondary schools
- Safety and security training
- Implementation of the new School Code
- Teacher training for implementation of elementary reading program
- Focus on remedial reading programs at middle and high schools
- Training for state curriculum mandates in designated areas
- Increased focus on communication

2002-03 Adjustments:

- Additional administrative cuts totaling more than \$1 million
- District department budget cuts of 10% or \$220,000
- Elimination of the 7<sup>th</sup> period day in high schools (through attrition), approximately \$2.1 million
- Reduction in lottery teachers (through attrition), estimated savings \$300,000
- Maintenance and Capital Outlay, additional deferral of \$2.1 million
- School Hours—transportation savings of \$330,000
- Limited Summer School, estimated savings \$750,000

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, addressed the millage and increased local effort and noted that there are many areas in the budget that require explanation. He urged Board members to ask the important questions and make an effort to go over large line items in the budget.

Mrs. Barbara Gallant, citizen, expressed concern that no one on the Board is working with the FSBA Legislative Committee to represent Alachua County. She urged the Board to become involved in representing the district and attend the legislative meetings and provide input on the district's priorities and goals.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that she has been attending all the legislative committee meetings through the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) and they have discussed many legislative priorities. FSBA is ready to present their platform issues during the special legislative day. She noted that many of the platform issues raised by FSBA are issues that affect all counties.

Mr. Birkett read the Millage Resolution for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

RESOLUTION DETERMINING REVENUES AND MILLAGES LEVIED

RESOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF REVENUES TO BE PRODUCED AND THE MILLAGE TO BE LEVIED FOR THE GENERAL FUND, FOR THE DISTRICT LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, AND FOR EACH DISTRICT BOND INTEREST AND SINKING FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2002, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2003.

WHEREAS, Section 237.091, Florida Statutes, requires that upon receipt of the certificate of the property appraiser giving the assessed valuation of the county and of each of the special tax school districts, the school board shall determine by resolution the amounts necessary to be raised for the District School Fund, for the District Local Capital Improvement Fund, and for each District Bond Interest and Sinking Fund, and the millage to be levied for each such fund including the voted millage; and

WHEREAS, the certificate of the property appraiser has been received;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the District School Board that the amounts necessary to be raised as shown by the officially adopted budget and the millages necessary to be levied for each school fund of the district for the fiscal year are as follows:

1. DISTRICT SCHOOL FUND (nonvoted levy)

a) Nonexempt assessed valuation	b) Amount to be raised	c) Millage Levy
\$7,118,849,633	LRE \$40,090,514	5.928 Mills
	BASIC DIS \$ 3,449,083	.510 Mills
	SUPP DIS \$ 1,406,685	.208 Mills

3. DISTRICT LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (nonvoted Levy)

a) Nonexempt assessed valuation	b) Amount to be raised	c) Millage Levy
\$7,118,849,633	\$13,525,814	2.000 Mills

4. DISTRICT INTEREST AND SINKING FUND(S) (voted)

a) Nonexempt assessed valuation	b) Amount to be raised	c) Millage Levy
\$7,118,849,633	\$3,787,228	.560 Mills
	\$3,381,453	.500 Mills
	\$5,139,809	.760Mills

5. THE TOTAL MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED EXCEEDS THE ROLL-BACK RATE COMPUTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065(1), F.S., BY 4.99 PERCENT.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to adopt the Millage Resolution for the 2002-2003 fiscal year as read.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF  
2002-2003 BUDGET

Mr. Birkett read the Budget Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, HEREBY ADOPTS AS ITS FINAL BUDGET THE TENTATIVE BUDGET PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ON AUGUST 1, 2002, WITH THE AMENDMENTS SHOWN ON SCHEDULES I THROUGH VI APPROVED THIS MEETING, CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2002-2003 FISCAL YEAR:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>
GENERAL	\$ 170,197,569.33
SPECIAL REVENUE	24,170,044.23
DEBT SERVICE	14,111,720.05
CAPITAL PROJECTS	64,906,313.28
TRUST AND AGENCY	<u>3,719,501.23</u>
TOTAL	\$ 277,105,148.12

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to adopt the 2002-2003 Budget Resolution as read.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The public hearing on the Millage Resolutions and Budget was adjourned and a public hearing convened on the Pupil Progression Plan.

PUBLIC HEARING—  
AMENDMENTS TO THE  
PUPIL PROGRESSION  
PLAN

Mrs. Sandi Anusavice, director, Curriculum Development/  
Implementation, reviewed the following proposed changes to the Pupil  
Progression Plan:

- According to a technical assistance paper on Student Progression from the Department of Education, good cause exemptions apply only to the mandatory retention for reading deficiencies at third grade. Therefore, it is proposed to remove the language about “promotion for good cause” at the middle school level and clarify the language about “promotion for good cause” in the elementary section.
- Change the title “Pupil Progression Plan” to “Student Progression Plan” to reflect the terminology currently in use with the School Code.

There was no public input.

The public hearing was adjourned and the regular Board meeting reconvened.

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SCHEDULED  
AGENCIES--  
SUPERINTENDENT’S  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. Jeff Smith, chairman, Superintendent’s Advisory Council, provided the Board with a brief update on the committee’s purpose, which is to provide and exchange information and develop recommendations on districtwide policies and procedures relevant to educational issues and the efficient operation of the district.

Dr. Smith reported that a subcommittee has recently been formed in order to study and make recommendations regarding the development of a communitywide task force on rezoning. A task force that represents the diverse community of Alachua County will improve the Board’s position in future rezoning initiatives. He noted that the subcommittee is proceeding with the preliminary task of organizing and addressing issues pertinent to the development of a task force.

The Board thanked Dr. Smith and the committee for their time and efforts in the pursuit of excellence for our school district.

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen suggested that the rezoning task force should be an independent group and neither the School Board nor the Superintendent should be involved.

PROCLAMATION—  
SEPTEMBER 6-14, 2002,  
AS AMERICAN  
CHARACTER WEEK

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe                      Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the Proclamation proclaiming September 6-14, 2002, as “American Character Week” as read.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PROCLAMATION—  
SEPTEMBER 2002,  
PROUD TO BE AN  
AMERICAN MONTH

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the Proclamation proclaiming September 2002, as “Proud to be an American Month” as read.

Mrs. Carroll requested at the next Board meeting to take 10-15 minutes with students and focus on American history and possibly have a small presentation of the Oak View Veterans’ Day project; a musical number; and reading of historical documents.

Mrs. Sharpe also requested that on September 11 every student at each school in the district stand for a moment of silence at the same time on that day in honor of those that lost their lives and to give thanks.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

To kick off “Proud to be an American Month” a powerpoint created by Lori Van Riper in tribute to the events of September 11 was presented.

FLORIDA RETIREMENT  
SYSTEM RESOLUTION

Mr. Birkett noted that employees have the option to stay in the regular Florida Retirement System (FRS), which is the defined benefit plan or to opt into a defined contribution plan, which means the retirement becomes portable and they take that with them and manage the assets of the retirement fund. FRS is scheduling workshops across the state and requesting school boards encourage employees to attend an FRS Plan Choice workshop. All school board employees must make the decision on which option they want by November 30, 2002.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the Retirement Resolution as read.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHOOL  
IMPROVEMENT GUIDE

Mr. Don Lewis, director, curriculum, stated that the School Improvement Guide is designed to give School Advisory Councils the assistance needed to complete a School Improvement Plan and to align with the district's Strategic Plan.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve the proposed School Improvement Guide as presented for advertising.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHEDULE  
WORKSHOP/  
RESCHEDULE BOARD  
MEETING

Responding to Superintendent Chambers, Mrs. Carroll stated that she prefers going ahead with the public hearing process on the School Choice policy timelines rather than scheduling a workshop.

Mrs. Sharpe agreed with an item being placed on the next agenda to schedule a public hearing on the School Choice policy timelines.

DISCUSS POSSIBLE  
RESCHEDULING OF  
NOVEMBER 5, 2002,  
BOARD MEETING

Motion by Mrs. Cawthon

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to reschedule the first meeting in November to Monday, November 4, 2002, 7 p.m.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion failed 4-1

No: Mrs. Carroll  
Mrs. Cawthon  
Dr. Leathers  
Mrs. Sharpe

Yes: Mr. Cake

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to change the time of the November 5, 2002, meeting to 3 p.m.

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 1-13 with the change as noted on item 6.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

DISCUSSION ITEM—  
CONSTRUCTION  
CONTRACT CHANGE  
ORDERS

The Facilities Division presented a report on Construction Change Orders, which are the legal means to revise the terms of a construction contract. The report included the types of change orders, a review of current policy, and contract history and statistics since 1997.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

Mrs. Carroll noted that she had received a letter from a stepparent whose daughter while in grades K-5 was absent more than 400 days. The parent expressed concern that the district is not following Chapter 232 exactly and bringing in social services fast enough. and noted that Marion County does something very different in terms of truancy and bringing in social workers. Mrs. Carroll requested Superintendent and staff contact Marion County and see what they do that is different that may help us. Also look at what the law allows in terms of the responsibility of parents.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that she wanted to pat this Board on the back. When three of the current members came on the Board, there were many schools in bad need of repair and this Board looked at what could be done and made a difference. She is proud of this Board having done a fantastic job in upgrading facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.