

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 15, 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 Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the minutes of October 1, 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 October 15, 2002, as presented.

Change the amount in Consent Agenda Item I.8, from \$58,800 to \$59,800.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT/
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Sharpe announced that the Florida School Boards Association's full legislative committees met last week and developed a tentative 2003 legislative platform, of which some will become priority items and others position statements. Three or four top priority items will be sent to board members, superintendents and education lobbyists, and these items will be voted on by the FSBA general membership at the Joint Annual Conference in December.

She shared with the Board a couple of clips from the Oct. 5, 2002, *Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel* article, "November to Bring Hard Budget Choices" with regard to the Florida Legislators spending \$1.1 billion and onetime tax money on recurring state programs, creating a billion dollar hole in next year's budget that could absorb all of the state's projected revenue growth; and an expected student enrollment of up to 60 thousand additional children to the 2.5 million student system next

year—added cost of \$300 million dollars. She continued with the state will lose \$250 million next year from the estates tax decline; \$128 million in the corporate income tax reduction; and \$120 million in the latest intangibles tax cut postponed last year.

Mrs. Carroll congratulated the Metcalfe Recorder Ensemble having been chosen for a second time to perform at the Florida Music Educators Association meeting January 8 and 9, 2003.

Condolences were extended to employee Mary Anne Wagner, supervisor, Secondary Language Arts & ESOL, and family on the loss of her mother, Ms. Eldiva Bird. Condolences were also extended to the family and friends of former Eastside High School student Bryant Zachary Wilcox Farmer.

Dr. Chambers announced that this week is National School Lunch Week and that the district's school lunch personnel have adopted the theme of "Patriotic Week."

She also noted that she attended the Wal-Mart community input meeting and, as she stated very clearly, she was there with several principals and staff members as citizens and obviously was not speaking on behalf of the Board. Although she feels everyone is aware of the economic impact of additional growth for our county and what it can do for educational funding.

She welcomed the OPPAGA staff and consultants to the district. They will be auditing the school system looking for efficiencies and effectiveness in keeping with the Sharpening the Pencil Act, which is to move money back into the classroom.

RECOGNITION(S)/
PRESENTATION(S)/
REPORT(S)

Social Studies 2002 Teachers of the Year

Each year, the Florida Council for the Social Studies honors elementary, middle and high school social studies teachers in each district. The teachers are selected on exemplary teaching, student-teacher relationships and professionalism. The 2002 Outstanding Social Studies Teachers of the Year are DeBorah McCray, Prairie View Elementary; James W. Morris, Howard Bishop Middle; and LuLa Fontaine, Gainesville High School

District School Assistance Plan Update

Mrs. Sandi Anusavice, director, Curriculum, presented an update on district support and other assistance provided at Duval Elementary School. The examination of data has been of primary interest for Duval and district staff, which is a continuation and intensification of efforts begun in August and September.

MASTER PLAN
PRESENTATION FOR
PROJECT SBAC
CA530—BUCHHOLZ
HIGH SCHOOL

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

Principal Joan Longstreth reported that the Master Plan has had the input of all of the stakeholders addressing the needs at Buchholz with much thought during a long period of time. The plan includes academic classrooms, laboratories, athletic facilities, science buildings, etc., and all stakeholders feel the plan is very appropriate for the time and the people who are at Buchholz.

Architect Phil Daimwood presented a powerpoint overview of the master plan.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve the master plan prepared by Daimwood, Derryberry, Pavelchak, Architects, Longwood, Florida, as presented.

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

DISTRICT FACILITIES
FIVE-YEAR WORK
PLAN

This program has been prepared as required for submission to the Department of Education. The program represents a five-year schedule of major repair, renovation, and capital outlay projects together with projection of available revenue, which reflects \$63 million in capital outlay dollars budgeted for facilities projects through the 2006-07 school year. The district must submit this program annually and may revise the program at any time to reflect new project priorities and available revenue.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve the District Facilities Five-Year Work Plan for submission to the Department of Education.

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE
PUPIL PROGRESSION
PLAN—SECOND
READING

Public hearings were held to consider amendments to the Pupil Progression Plan

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the amendments to the 2002-2003 Pupil Progression Plan as presented.

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

SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT
GUIDE—SECOND
READING

The School Improvement Guide is designed to provide technical assistance and guidance to School Advisory Councils and administrative staff when compiling the School Improvement Plan and to align with the district's Strategic Plan.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the School Improvement Guide as advertised.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 02-22-X

Mr. John Dukes, deputy superintendent, reported that the student was charged with disorderly conduct and battery of another student. A hearing was held on October 1, 2002.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the student's suspension be extended through November 5, 2002.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 02-24-X

Mr. Dukes reported that the student is charged with assault of a teacher. A hearing was held October 15, 2002.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the student's suspension be extended through November 5, 2002.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-16 with the correction in Item 8 to \$59,800. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

DISCUSSION ITEM—
CHARTER SCHOOLS

Superintendent Chambers pointed out that the district is at its cap with regard to charter schools. There are currently three proposed high school charter schools requesting a waiver of the cap of 12 charter schools within the district.

Mr. Don Lewis, director, Charter Schools, informed the Board that upon contacting the Governor's Cabinet Relations director and the Department of Education (DOE) director of charter schools he was informed that they had received a request from DeSoto High School to raise Alachua County's cap. DOE has requested a district representative appear before the cabinet in November to report on the School Board's decision.

The three charter schools would target high school students at risk of dropping out of school and each has uniqueness within that category.

- DeSoto High School – language impaired-dyslexic students
- SIA Tech – skills/hands-on Job Corps students
- Richard Milburn Academy – released from incarceration, long-term suspension and extremely low achieving

Dr. Leathers commented that he has a positive feeling about some students charter schools serve; secondly, there is always a potential financial concern; and thirdly, and more importantly, until the state changes its funding and financial process for charter schools, the district continues to put in more dollars than allocated. The state system is not adequate to give the financial base of support necessary, and he feels it would be inappropriate to further tax the system.

Mrs. Carroll pointed out that all of these are high schools and for students with special needs. If you have never lived with a learning impaired child, a learning disabled student or dyslexic student and watched their frustration in a large environment, you have not witnessed one of the biggest tragedies the system has to offer. We don't offer many hands-on programs; those we do are not full. She would ask that in light of the fact that the district is overenrolled in the high schools, and the high schools are large, that the Board have an open mind and look at these charter schools as in-need from the current charter schools.

Mrs. Sharpe questioned SIA Tech being for hands-on Job Corps students when she knows that Job Corps has hands-on programs for students, and she cautioned duplication and suggested a look into this.

Superintendent Chambers noted that she wanted to make certain that either the Board wanted to stick with the current cap or allow staff to bring these back on a case by case basis and look at the merits of each of the requests.

Mrs. Sharpe feels there is a need to have a workshop on where the district wants to go with charter schools and to review the district policy.

Mr. Lewis confirmed that starting January 1, 2003, state law will be a binding decision-maker--an appeals commission is being formed to take effect January 1, 2003, so if a school board rules against an application, the appeals commission would judge the merits of that charter school and make a ruling and come back to the district with a binding decision.

Dr. Reynaldo Roque, founding board member, DeSoto High School, informed the Board that in going to the Department of Education he meant no disrespect to the School Board. Once he found out there was a cap, he couldn't go forward with the normal process. He is asking that the Board and school district evaluate this particular application on its own merits. The school will be serving dyslexic children.

Mrs. Sharpe requested Mr. Lewis ask hard questions of DOE. If they keep raising the cap for charter schools, what are they going to do to help the district? What authority do we have as a school board and school district?

She also requested Board Attorney Jim Lang review the Florida Statute and determine exactly what it means. We need to know where we stand.

Following additional discussion, Superintendent Chambers stated that the intent of the discussion item tonight was to speak about the policy on the waiver issue not to discuss the merits of the schools at this point.

Chairman Cake assured that the item would be placed on the November 5, 2002, Board meeting agenda and that the waiver requests would be reviewed individually.

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

There were no Board Members/Superintendent requests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.