

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 5, 2002

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in regular session duly called at 3 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. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

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

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of November 5, 2002, as presented.

Delete from Action Item H. 7. Student Cases d-j.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT/
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Cawthon attended an ESE Advisory Committee meeting, which is made up of parents, teachers, guidance counselors, principals, district administrators and community agency representatives that deal with exceptional students. The following issues were discussed:

- Addressed the current focus of ESE programming in the district as it relates to national, state and local initiatives.
- Discussed reading, inclusionary practices and expansion of the home school liaison program.
- Presented a demonstration of the universal access station, which is being delivered to each high school media center to allow all students access to digital and print media.
- Encouraged parents of special needs children to attend the annual ESE Tools for Success conference to be held in February.

Mrs. Sharpe expressed her appreciation and sincere thanks to the three outgoing board members for their contributions to the Alachua County school system.

Mrs. Carroll congratulated Buchholz High School students Jeff Boe and Sandi Niemi for earning a perfect score on both the math and verbal portions of the SAT.

Superintendent Chambers also expressed her appreciation to the three outgoing Board members for their many contributions to the students and community of Alachua County and wished them great success.

Condolences were extended to the family and friends of former Lincoln Middle Band Director Neil Brooks.

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

Character Education Student Artwork

Students John Wyatt Hutchinson-Goodwin, Lake Forest Elementary, and Chase Withey, High Springs Elementary schools, were presented with certificates in recognition of their outstanding Character Education artwork depicting the November trait "Citizenship."

Veteran's Day Activities/Patriotic Video Presentation

A Veterans Day Celebration will be held on Monday, November 11, 2002, at the Alachua County Veterans Memorial in Kanapaha Park, 10:30 a.m. A video presentation was presented highlighting patriotic programs and activities that have taken place throughout the school system since September 11, 2001.

Fire Drill/Disaster Preparedness/Security Report

Staff members presented an overview of the district's Crisis, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Plan and noted that safety and security has been a high priority of the Board.

Budgeting/Financial Update

Mr. Keith Birkett, deputy superintendent, informed the Board that the district is already conforming to legislative recommendations by the Auditor General through an approved Strategic Plan to guide the budgeting process, and the district currently has a school board policy establishing fund balance criteria for the district. He also reviewed the four budget amendments on the Consent Agenda.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES

There were no scheduled agencies.

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen expressed concern that a school choice task force has yet to be formed and urged the Board to table the motion to change the prescribed implementation date of school choice from 2003-04 to the proposed 2004-05 school year. Suggested the new board deal with the issue in January after they have received new board member training.

A citizen expressed concern with the increasing number of student misconduct incidents and urged the new board to make this issue a priority.

The outgoing board members were congratulated and thanked for their support of charter schools.

Board members expressed concern that incorrect information regarding the closing of a charter school was being distributed by the state of Florida, and requested that staff address the issue and correct the misinformation.

Responding to a citizen's concern regarding school choice and rezoning, Superintendent Chambers informed the public and the Board that there are people working behind the scenes on rezoning, facility utilization, and different scenarios based on whether or not the constitutional amendments pass on the ballot today. The Superintendent's Advisory Council has reviewed the last task force report on rezoning and they are currently updating the task force representation. She stated that she did not want to proceed too far along on rezoning prior to the new School Board taking office, and is recommending that school choice be delayed one year (2004-05). She pointed out that school choice will take a long time to implement and there is a need to reconfirm the functional capacity numbers because they are vital to whether a child can go to a school. If the constitutional amendments pass, the functional capacity numbers may change and staff will be ready to proceed in the right direction when the new School Board takes office.

REQUEST TO CHANGE
THE NAME OF THE
TRAFFIC SAFETY
CENTER

A request has been made to change the name of the Traffic Safety Center to the Tom Love Traffic Safety Center in recognition of Mr. Love's many years of dedication and valuable service to the education of traffic safety for the School Board of Alachua County.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to change the name of the Traffic Safety Center to the Tom Love Traffic Safety Center.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

REVISED JOB
DESCRIPTION—
COMPUTER
OPERATIONS
MANAGER—FIRST
READING

Chairman Cake stated that during the October 1, 2002, School Board meeting, the Board voted to table action item 4, Revised Job Description—First Reading. The motion tabled read, "Approve the Revised Job Description for Advertising."

The ACEA, along with staff from the Operations department, expressed concerns in approving this revised job description. Subsequently, the administration met with the ACEA and Operations staff through the grievance process and has settled all issues related to concerns expressed. The administration has written a new job

description outlining the responsibilities for the new position. The new job description is titled Technical Support Coordinator and, along with the Operations staff, will report directly to the Technical Support Manager.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved to amend the original motion to schedule a public hearing on November 19, 2002, to consider the new job description.

Ms. Sande Calkins, ACEA, and an employee from the Operations department thanked the Board for listening to their concerns from the previous meeting and postponing the decision. They informed the Board that the job description was reviewed by the employees in the division, and everyone is satisfied that the salary and job description reflects the position.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONTRACT FOR
HOGGETOWNE
MIDDLE SCHOOL, INC.,
CHARTER SCHOOL—
FIRST READING

Mr. Don Lewis, director, Charter Schools, stated that on June 18, 2002, the Hoggetown Middle School, Inc., Charter School was approved in concept and staff was directed to develop a contract.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to schedule a public hearing 7:30 p.m., November 19, 2002, to consider the contract for the Hoggetowne Middle School, Inc., Charter School.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mrs. Sharpe clarified that the Hoggetowne contract is the twelfth contract, which is the total number a district is allowed.

Chairman Cake noted that the request for a waiver on the number of charter schools will be on the November 19 agenda.

AMENDMENT TO
POLICY 5.11, SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
ZONES/AREAS/CHOICE
—SECOND READING

A public hearing was held October 1, 2002, to consider changing the prescribed implementation date of school choice from 2003-04 to the 2004-05 school year.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to adopt Policy 5.11, School Attendance Zones/Areas/Choice, as amended.

Mrs. Carroll stated that she would be voting against the delay of implementation even though she understands all the reasons why it has to be postponed. She voted several years ago to postpone school choice and listened to a hostile crowd at that time, and it disturbs her

that she has been on the Board for eight years and could not get school choice where it needed to be. She will vote to keep the implementation date as is, 2003-04, recognizing that today's ballot initiatives will affect the outcome.

Mrs. Cawthon stated that she feels the same as Mrs. Carroll and does not understand why it takes over a year to implement school choice. She will vote in favor of postponing only with the condition that the issue will be revisited by the new board.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that the last time the board went through this process it was rushed and the public was very unhappy. So for these reasons the Board needs to proceed cautiously and wait to see how the constitutional amendments will impact the process. She felt it would be best to have everyone involved in trying to get this planned.

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by

Moved to table the motion until the November 19, 2002, Board meeting.

Motion dies for lack of a second.

Chairman Cake stated that this Board is not opposed to a choice plan. The Board is trying to put off a date that would reflect time allowed to consider the constitutional amendments that are before the public today. He stated that this Board has liberalized the district's zoning exceptions more than any time in history and there is currently a lot of choice that comes under a different name. He is confident that even if the current Board votes for this change, the new Board can revisit this issue.

Superintendent Chambers stated that the bottom line is community expectations. She is requesting that the Board allow the new board time, and the last thing she wants to do is disrupt students, create unnecessary anxiety and chaos when the district is not prepared to proceed. If the rezoning plan had been approved months ago, and if the district had time to prepare schools to reconfirm functional capacity numbers, the district would be in a position to proceed, but there are too many things in the air now and it is not fair to students to proceed at this time.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-2
Yes: Mr. Cake
Mrs. Cawthon
Mrs. Sharpe
No: Mrs. Carroll
Dr. Leathers

AMENDMENTS TO
SPECIAL PROGRAMS
AND PROCEDURES FOR
EXCEPTIONAL
STUDENTS
DOCUMENTS 2000-01
THROUGH 2002-03—
SECOND READING

A public hearing was held October 15, 2002, to consider amendments to the Special Programs and Procedures for Exceptional Students Documents 2000-01 through 2002-03 that reflect changes in state and district procedures.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the Special Programs and Procedures for Exceptional Students Documents 2000-01 through 2002-03 as amended.

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

MASTER PLAN
PRESENTATION FOR
PROJECT SBAC
CA530—BUCHHOLZ
HIGH SCHOOL

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the master plan prepared by Portal Architecture, Gainesville, Florida, as presented.

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 to enter a final order adopting the hearing agent's recommended order.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 02-23-X

Mr. Dukes reported that the student is charged with battery of school personnel. A hearing was held on October 1, 2002.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation that the Board enter a final order adopting the hearing agent's recommendation.

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 on October 15, 2002.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to expel the student through the 2002-03 extended school year.

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 1-14. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Responding to Mrs. Cawthon's request for an update on rezoning, Superintendent Chambers reported that staff and the Superintendent's Advisory Council has reviewed the previous task force report and is updating the composition of the members of the task force to ensure community representation. Staff is also reviewing the functional capacity and facility issues to ensure that every student station is utilized so that when the number is set, the district has a valid number before receiving applications for those schools. She hopes to have a task force formed in December or January.

Mrs. Sharpe requested that the Superintendent's office provide the new Board with a list of all committees Board members currently serve on and the committees that will open as a result of the three board members leaving.

Superintendent Chambers stated that a master committee list will be provided to the new Board at the reorganizational meeting on November 19.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.