

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 4, 2003

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in regular session duly called at 2 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Jeannine Cawthon, chairman; Barbara Sharpe, vice-chairman; Ginger Childs, Wes Eubank and Tina Turner, members; Mary L. Chambers, superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board.

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

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to approve the minutes of January 14, 2003, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of February 4, 2003, as presented.

Add as Action Item 8., Employee Case No. 02-03-02.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Turner attended the Cluster Schools Town Meeting on Monday, February 3, 2003, at Santa Fe High School. Area communities gathered to gather input, and schools invited their School Advisory Councils, business partners, parents and community members to discuss information to be included in developing their School Improvement Plans, especially in the area of reading. Strategies were also developed to help students pass the FCAT.

RECOGNITION(S)/
PRESENTATION(S)/
REPORTS

Outstanding School Volunteers, 2002-2003

Outstanding School Volunteers for 2002-2003 were recognized by the Board as follows: T. J. Atchison, Chiles Elementary School, Youth category; Kathy Davis, Archer Community School, Adult category; and Eleanor Henry, Duval Elementary School, Senior Category. Mrs. Henry was also selected as the state's outstanding volunteer and will be recognized at the Commissioner's Annual Business recognition event in Orlando.

Budgeting/Financial Update

A budgeting financial update provided an overview of the Governor's proposed budget, along with implications of categorical funding for class size reduction.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES There were no scheduled agencies.

CITIZEN INPUT The following requests/concerns/information were presented to the Board for consideration:

- Urged the Board to consider a proposal to implement middle school sports for the 2004-05 school year with support from Santa Fe Community College and the University of Florida.
- Addressed the Board with information regarding African-American history curriculum in all schools and on the required instruction law.
- Urged the Board to allow the public the benefit of hearing board discussion on an issue prior to vote.
- A statistical summary of the monthly Deans' Misconduct Report was shared with the Board.
- Concern was expressed that board meetings scheduled at 2 p.m. will not allow for sufficient citizen input.

Mrs. Sharpe shared a letter the Board received from the State of Florida Task Force on African American History, Florida A & M University. The task force commended Alachua County for infusing African American history, culture and experience into classroom activities at all grade levels and in all subject areas. The Task Force also noted that Alachua County's curriculum resource guide for teachers has gained prominence as the standard of measurement for other counties across the state.

APPLICATIONS FOR
CHARTER HIGH
SCHOOLS
SIATech CHARTER
SCHOOL

The SIATech Charter School will have a 9-12 grade configuration that will serve students at Job Corps, an affiliate of the Department of Labor.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the application in concept for SIATech Charter School, direct staff to develop a contract, and schedule a public hearing for March 4, 2003.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that charter schools are supposed to be different and SIATech would be a duplication of services currently being offered to students through the Job Corp.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1
Yes: Mrs. Cawthon
Mrs. Childs
Mr. Eubank
Mrs. Turner
No: Mrs. Sharpe

RICHARD MILBURN
ACADEMY, INC.,
CHARTER SCHOOL

The Richard Milburn Academy, Inc., Charter School will target students at severe risk of dropping out of high school. The Academy will also serve students coming out of incarceration and long-term suspension.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the application in concept for Richard Milburn Academy, Inc., Charter School, direct staff to develop a contract, and schedule a public hearing for March 4, 2003.

Board members expressed concerns over a weak curriculum, high administrative costs, uncertain finances and governance, and a lack of attendance policy for students.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion failed 5-0

DESOTO HIGH
SCHOOL, INC.,
CHARTER SCHOOL

The DeSoto High School, Inc., Charter School will target language impaired, dyslexic students in grades 9-12.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the application in concept for DeSoto High School, Inc., Charter School, direct staff to develop a contract, and schedule a public hearing for March 4, 2003.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC
CD632—WESTWOOD
MIDDLE SCHOOL
CLASSROOM
RENOVATION
BUILDING 9

Bids for the construction of this project were received January 28, 2003.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved the administration's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$597,970 and Additive Alternates #1, 2 and 3 in the amount of \$50,636 and award a contract for construction totaling \$648,606 to George Burns Enterprises, Inc., Gainesville, Florida, with completion

of this project to be within one hundred sixty-five (165) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

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

2003-2004 AND 2004-2005 SCHOOL CALENDARS—
SECOND READING

A public hearing was held January 14, 2003, to consider the proposed 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 school calendars.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 School Calendars as presented.

Mrs. Childs pointed out that in the 2003-04 calendar October 16 and 17 are inservice days the state is offering for teachers, but they are not off. On the 2004-05 calendar, she requested that the June 13 date for report cards be moved to an earlier date.

Mrs. Turner supported the 2003-04 calendar, which includes the day before Thanksgiving (Wednesday, November 26) as a Pupil/Teacher holiday. She believes the district will receive positive feedback from staff and parents, and hopes it will be incorporated into future calendars.

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

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT/TRIM CALENDAR

Mr. Keith Birkett, deputy superintendent, Budget, informed the Board that the TRIM calendar could be revised based on when the district receives the tax rolls and possible legislative changes.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the 2003-2004 Tentative TRIM Calendar, establishing July 22, 2003, 3:00 p.m., as a Special Board meeting for approval of the Tentative Budget for Advertising; July 31, 2003, 5:30 p.m., as a Special Board meeting for the Public Budget Hearing and adoption of the Tentative Budget and Millage; and September 16, 2003, 7:30 p.m., for the Public Hearing and adoption of the Final Budget and Millage.

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

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Mr. Birkett reviewed Budget Amendments No. 8, 9 and 10 as follows:

Budget Amendment No. 8 – General Fund, includes all budget changes in the General Fund for the period of November 1, 2002-December 31,

2002.

Budget Amendment No. 9 – Capital Projects Fund, includes all budget changes in the Capital Projects Funds for the period of November 1, 2002-December 31, 2002.

Budget Amendment No. 10 – Special Revenue Funds, includes all budget changes in the Special Revenue Funds for the period of November 1, 2002-November 30, 2002.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve budget amendments 8, 9 and 10 as presented.

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

Mrs. Sharpe left the boardroom.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 02-29-X

The student was charged with possession of a weapon while on campus. A hearing was held on December 19, 2002.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved the hearing agent’s recommendation to expel the student for the remainder of the 2002-2003 school year, and the extended session thereof, but allow the student to enroll in and attend the alternative center, on probation, beginning January 6, 2003.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

VALUE ADJUSTMENT
BOARD

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to appoint Mrs. Sharpe and Mrs. Turner to serve on the Value Adjustment Board, with Mr. Eubank serving as the alternate.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. 02-03-02

Chairman Cawthon stated that the case has been resolved.

Mrs. Sharpe returned to the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Per Mr. Eubank’s request, Consent Agenda item 2., Change Orders, was pulled for discussion and an overview was presented.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-10. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS—
CHANGE IN SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING
TIME AND AGENDA
FORMAT

Chairman Cawthon reviewed the proposed changes to the agenda format:

- Meeting time to begin at 6 p.m.
- Recognitions will be prior to Citizen Input.
- Citizen Input will be addressed for 15 minutes at the beginning of the agenda and input will be limited to three minutes per person.
- Scheduled Agencies will be limited to three minutes.
- Forms for Citizen Input should be submitted to the Chairman prior to the beginning of the meeting.
- Presentations/Reports will be made after Citizen Input.
- Public Hearing input will be limited to three minutes
- Citizens wishing to address an action item will be asked to speak during that particular item on the agenda.
- Citizen input will continue at the end of the meeting to allow citizens who did not have the opportunity to speak at the beginning of the meeting.

She stated that the changes will be addressed again at the next meeting and implemented the first meeting in March.

ALACHUA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
JOINT MEETING

Chairman Cawthon informed the Board that the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners would like to hold a joint meeting to discuss improvement of communication and joint cooperation.

Superintendent Chambers requested that Board members review their calendars and provide her with available dates to share with the county.

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank requested the following:

- Reminded staff that at the last meeting he requested information on the status of unfilled positions and if the district is actively trying to fill those positions.
- Copies of salary schedules from adjacent counties.

Mr. Birkett responded that copies will be made available at the budget workshop next week.

Mrs. Childs requested the following:

- Reader's Digest version of all district grants.
- A future discussion item regarding the Rising Stars Middle

School Athletic Program.

- Board needs to address setting a sunset or deadline date for the Richard Milburn Academy application.

Mrs. Sharpe suggested asking the Richard Milburn Academy if they wished to withdraw their application.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.