

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

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in regular session duly called at 6 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 Ms. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2003, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Turner

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

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

Change Purchase Order amount on Attachment D, District Consultant Services, to 100 hours @ \$45 an hour for a total of \$4,500.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

RECOGNITION(S)/  
PRESENTATION(S)/  
REPORTS

Character Education Student Artwork

Students from Newberry and Prairie View Elementary Schools were recognized for their outstanding artwork depicting this month's character trait, "Perseverance."

Governor's All-Star Program—Best High School Junior in District  
Loften High School student Brandon C. Fulton was recognized by the Governor's All-Star Program as the *Best High School Junior* in the district. Brandon has been invited to Tallahassee, along with other district winners, to have lunch with Governor Jeb Bush.

Arts in the Schools Month

Information on Arts in the Schools activities and programs was presented, along with a video presentation of Buchholz High School's Wind Symphony in the prestigious Midwest Clinic held in Chicago.

Commissioner of Education Business Recognition Award Recipients

Representatives from Publix Supermarkets, and the Gainesville Jaycees were recognized for their organization's outstanding contributions to Alachua County public schools. The two local Partners in Education received the Commissioner's Business Recognition Award at a recent conference in Orlando.

Governor's Mentoring Recognition Award

University of Florida student Alyssa Rademan was named one of five state Mentors of the Year by the Governor's Mentoring Initiative. Alyssa was recognized for her participation in the Alachua County public schools CHAMPS and Project Mascot mentoring programs.

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- A citizen relayed concerns from local businesses relating to science and math preparation of Alachua County students and their employment options after graduation.
- A citizen voiced several concerns dealing with graduates requiring remediation, nepotism and the Superintendent's contract.
- A citizen voiced support of substance abuse prevention.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES

There were no scheduled agencies.

BUDGETING/  
FINANCIAL UPDATE

Staff presented current FTE Information based on February calculations.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board recognized several graduate students from the University of Florida who were in attendance to complete requirements for an educational leadership course.

Mrs. Turner encouraged students to do their best during FCAT week, and commended teachers, parents, bus drivers, staff and faculty for all their hard work.

Superintendent Chambers and Mrs. Sharpe both attended a UF Dental School event, which provided students with the opportunity to receive free dental care.

REZONING TASK  
FORCE

Mr. Terry Tougaw, Facilities, reviewed a list of community organizations that have or will be providing representatives to serve on the Rezoning Task Force. He also reviewed the proposed charge and a tentative timetable of the task force.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the administration’s recommendation to appoint a Rezoning Task Force and approve the Task of the committee as presented.

Mrs. Childs encouraged public input and suggested that school advisory councils, PTA’s and other interested groups invite members of the Rezoning Task Force to their schools to listen to their concerns and input. She pointed out that the task force will be operating under the Sunshine Law and will not be able to have discussions outside of their publicly noticed meetings. She also noted that the task force will not be drawing zone lines, but will establish guidelines to be presented to the School Board in a report.

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

BID AWARD FOR  
PROJECT SBAC  
CD634—MEBANE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CLASSROOM  
RENOVATIONS,  
BUILDINGS 2, 3, & 4

Bid for the construction of this project were received February 25, 2003.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to accept the low base bid of \$764,444 and Additive Alternates #1 and #2 in the amount of \$39,500 and award a contract for construction totaling \$803,944 to Music Construction, Inc., Live Oak, Florida, with completion of this project to be within four hundred eighty-two (482) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the “Notice to Proceed.”

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

DESIGN  
DEVELOPMENT/  
CONSTRUCTION  
DOCUMENTS FOR  
PROJECT SBAC B0046—  
HAWTHORNE AND  
NEWBERRY HIGH  
SCHOOLS GYMNASIUM  
AIR CONDITIONING

Tilden Lobnitze Cooper Engineering, Jacksonville, Florida, has prepared Design Development/Construction Documents for the construction of this project.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve these plans and that a bid date for this project be established.

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

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 03-01-HC

The student was reassigned to the alternative center as a result of a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct. A hearing was held on January 15, 2003.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to enter a final order adopting the hearing agent's recommended order that the student be allowed to remain at zoned school under a behavioral contract.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-6, with the change to purchase order amount on Attachment D, District Consultant Services, to 100 hours @ \$45 an hour for a total of \$4,500. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Rising Stars Middle School Athletic Program

Mr. Charley Wise, curriculum coordinator, presented information on after-school sports programs offered for middle school students in Alachua County. He informed the Board that currently all middle schools offer some type of after-school activity for students with the help of Safe and Drug Free Schools grant monies. These programs are limited and use teacher volunteers as coaches and referees. Activities include such things as tutoring, study hall and informal sport events competing with other middle schools in the county. He also provided information and cost estimates for more extensive programs offered by other districts.

He stated that many middle school principals were concerned that a serious sports program would lure students away from the academic aspect of the current after-school programs.

Mrs. Wanda Clark, instructor, Lincoln Middle School, explained that the proposed Rising Stars Middle School Athletic Program would better prepare serious middle school student athletes for the level of competition and academics they will face in high school and beyond. Her program requires that students maintain a 2.0 GPA and stay out of trouble to be eligible to compete in sports such as girls and boys track, volleyball and basketball. The program would be funded through donations, fundraising, concession revenues and parental support. Each sport would cost \$10,000 to \$12,000, which would cover the cost of supplements for teacher/coaches, pay for officials, T-shirts, game balls, clocks and scorekeepers. Mrs. Clark pointed out that the district should separate the recreational athletes from the student-athletes.

A majority of Board members felt that any after-school programs should focus on all students, not a select few, and emphasis should not be placed on preparing students to be better prepared for high school sports, but taking care of all student needs after school.

Superintendent Chambers stated that money is an issue, but there is extensive support for this type of initiative. She informed the Board that both the county and city have expressed support and district staff will work in collaboration with them and other community groups to see if something positive can be done for the children of Alachua County.

Mrs. Childs stated that she had no problem with establishing guidelines similar to the Florida High School Activities Association, but did not want it to be competitive. Wanted to ensure that any student who meets the criteria with their grades and behavior would be able to participate.

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

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PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held to consider contracts for the SIATech Charter School and the DeSoto High School, Inc. Charter School.

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

Mrs. Sharpe stated that her concerns are the same because she has always labored under the assumption that charter schools would be providing a service not being offered at public schools, and she feels that this is a duplication of service. She stated that students attending the Job Corps cannot obtain a valid diploma and should work with the School Board of Alachua County and state of Florida to receive their valid diploma.

SIATech representatives stated that an initiative from the US Department of Labor stated that all Job Corps would work towards establishing high school diploma programs versus the GED.

Mrs. Turner attended an event last week at the Gainesville Wilderness Institute, but due to cutbacks in funding, this worthwhile program may be eliminated, and urged whoever was in charge of this program to look at a partnership to help these students.

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, expressed concern that there is a flaw in the system when charter schools can receive both state and federal funding for serving a population that public schools do not serve.

Mrs. Childs voiced concern that students attending SIATech would be earning state and federal dollars for the same students.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS  
(cont'd)

Rising Stars Middle School Athletic Program (cont'd)

A citizen urged the Board to put emphasis on after school programs that allow participation by all students and support academic programs.

Talbot Traffic Issue

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reviewed options for addressing traffic issues at Talbot Elementary School. He pointed out that the traffic situation presents many safety considerations for students and recommended a trial period for an optional entry to the school for the last two months of school, and that staff proceed with an engineering design, options and cost estimates (\$50,000-\$55,000) for consideration during the budgeting process, and explore incentives to cut down on traffic.

Board members agreed that the Talbot traffic situation is very dangerous and hazardous for students and felt that it was imperative to take action immediately to see what can be done in the short-term, and also review the situation during the zoning process.

Both Chairman Cawthon and Mrs. Sharpe suggested that possibly the Talbot PTA and school advisory council would be willing to contribute to remedy the traffic situation.

CITIZEN INPUT (cont'd)

A citizen addressed the Board regarding the Required Instruction Law on African-American history and expressed concern with the three-minute limit for citizen input.

The co-chair of the Lincoln Middle School Band program commended the Band on recent performances.

BOARD MEMBERS/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

The Board agreed to reschedule public hearings to begin at 7 p.m., rather than 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.