

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 15, 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 M. Cawthon, chairman; Barbara J. Sharpe, vice-chairman; Virginia S. Childs, F. Wesley 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 Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2003, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Turner

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of April 15, 2003, as presented.

Delete from Action Item 6, Student Cases, b., 03-02-X and c., 03-03-S.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Turner attended the Relay for Life fundraiser for the American Cancer Society at Hawthorne Jr./Sr. High School. She reminded the public to attend the Zoning Advisory Task Force meetings held throughout the community and provide input on rezoning issues. She also commended the forty-five (45) School-Related Employees of the Year and thanked them for their efforts.

As a delegate of the Florida School Boards Association, Mrs. Sharpe attended the National School Boards Association meeting in San Francisco, and noted that many policies were revised, including a number of resolutions, which she shared with the Board.

Chairman Cawthon announced that the school system was presented with two plaques--one on behalf of the Kirby-Smith March of Dimes Walk America team, and the other from the University of Florida Office of Community Service as a Community Partner of the Year.

Mrs. Childs attended the School Readiness Coalition meeting.

Superintendent Chambers noted that concern was recently expressed regarding math and science due to the enhanced interest at the student level. She reported that the district is working closely with the University of Florida to strengthen ties and provide the best opportunities for math and science in the district's schools.

RECOGNITION(S)/
PRESENTATION(S)/
REPORTS

Character Education Student Artwork

Students from Westwood and Mebane Middle Schools were recognized for their outstanding character education artwork depicting this month's character trait, "Courtesy."

Eastside High School French Team State Champions

The Eastside High School French Team was recognized for earning First Place honors at the annual Congres de la Culture.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools "STAR" Recognition

Eleven elementary schools and seven middle schools were presented certificates for meeting the criteria to earn the STAR recognition (Schools Taking Action for Reform) from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

2003 Employee of the Year Honorees

Forty-five outstanding School-Related Employees of the Year were recognized for their exemplary efforts and were presented with plaques. Nancy Richards, School Nurse Specialist, Archer Community School, was selected as Alachua County's 2003 Employee of the Year.

Mrs. Turner announced that Ann Mullally, principal, Chiles Elementary School, has been recognized as Florida's Distinguished Principal through the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- A member of the ACEA negotiating team provided the Board with a comparison of administrative salary increases vs. teacher salary increases during the 2000-01 negotiation process.
- A citizen expressed concern with the amount of Change Orders and recommended an independent investigative team look into the issue of cost overruns.
- A citizen urged the Board to support after-school programs.
- A parent expressed concern with the current procedures regarding the release of student information to military recruiters, and urged the Board to develop a policy that adheres to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

SCHEDULED AGENCIES There were no scheduled agencies.

PRESENTATION(S)/
REPORT(S) Zoning Advisory Task Force Update
The Chairman of the Zoning Advisory Task Force updated the Board on meetings that have been held throughout the community to receive public input on the rezoning process. Additional meetings have been scheduled throughout the county, but it was pointed out that citizen attendance at this time has been very low.

District School Assistance Plan Update
Staff submitted a report on district activities that support Duval Metcalfe, Waldo and Prairie View Elementary Schools. The Board was informed that the district received kudos from the state for providing programs and remediation during the summer months. The focus of summer school this year will be on third and eighth grade Level 1 students, and high school course failures. ESE students will also be targeted.

Budgeting/Financial Update
Staff provided an update on the budget proposals in the current legislative session, highlighting the differences in the budget requests by the Governor, House, and Senate.

The Board was informed that the new Talbot Elementary School entrance has received very positive feedback from parents and the community.

PROCLAMATION AND
PLEDGE OF CIVILITY
IN THE MONTH OF
MAY

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming May as Civility Month and acknowledge and support the pledge of civility. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

PROCLAMATION—
APRIL AS “JAZZ
APPRECIATION
MONTH”

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming the month of April as “Jazz Appreciation Month” in the Alachua County schools. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

PROCLAMATION—
SCHOOL LIBRARY
MEDIA MONTH

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming the month of April as School Library Media Month in the Alachua County schools as presented. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADMINISTRATIVE
APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to appoint Mrs. Sandra H. Hollinger as Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instructional Services, effective April 16, 2003.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to appoint Mr. Vicente Perez as Director of Exceptional Student Education, effective April 16, 2003.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to appoint Dr. James A. Robinson, III, as Staff Attorney, at Pay Grade 0, Step 14, \$90,678, plus a \$2,550 doctorate supplement, effective April 28, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC A0234—
LINCOLN MIDDLE
SCHOOL LOCKER
ROOM REMODELING

Bids for the construction of this project were received April 9, 2003.

Motion by Mrs. Turner

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to accept the low base bid of \$386,130 and Additive Alternate #2 in the amount of \$46,637 and award a contract for construction totaling \$432, 767 to Anglin Cavallino Construction Company, Inc., Gainesville, Florida, with completion of the project to be within ninety-nine (99) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the “Notice to Proceed.”

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 02-28-X

The student was charged with possession and sale of a controlled substance while at school. A hearing was held on February 4, 2003.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to expel the student through the 2002-2003 school year and enter a final order.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 03-05-SB

The student was charged with persistent misconduct while riding the school bus. The parent has not requested a hearing.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to suspend the student's bus riding privileges through the 2002-2003 school year.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 03-06-SB

The student was charged with persistent misconduct while riding the school bus. A hearing was held April 15, 2003.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's bus suspension until May 6, 2003.

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

BUDGET
AMENDMENTS

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to approve Budget Amendments #11, #12 and #13 as presented.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO
PROCEED WITH THE
REFUNDING OF SERIES
1994 GENERAL
OBLIGATION BONDS

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to proceed with the refunding of Series 1994 General Obligation Bonds.

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

SCHEDULE SPECIAL
BOARD MEETING

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to schedule a special School Board Meeting on Monday, May 12, 2003, 9:30 a.m., for Reappointments, and schedule a Facility/School Plant Survey Workshop immediately following the special meeting.

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 1-10. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT (cont'd)

A legal representative addressed the Board regarding concerns related to military recruitment at schools, and urged the board to place this item on the next agenda as an action item.

Superintendent Chambers responded that staff has been working on this issue and it will be referred to the staff attorney for review prior to making a recommendation.

A citizen addressed the Board regarding the required instruction law.

The president of the ACEA urged the Board to read the information provided related to administrative vs. teacher salaries. He also presented the Board with a letter written by the ACEA bargaining team relaying the team's views and input for the future.

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Turner visited the Horizon Center and stated that things look much better, and she looks forward to discussing options at the facilities workshop on May 12. She also attended the County Commission meeting on recreation and commissioners feel that the School Board should be involved in the recreation initiative. She requested that this issue be placed on the May 12 facilities agenda. She pointed out that county commissioners feel that the School Board uses the excuse of liability as an issue to not allow the public to use the district's facilities. She requested a report on the liability issue as the School Board allows outside agencies and groups to use the district's facilities, and also how schools are currently being utilized by outside groups and agencies in order to compare and share this information with the county.

Chairman Cawthon pointed out that county staff has been working on a recreation master plan for several years and school district staff members have discussed and addressed facility use with the committee.

Mrs. Childs read in the *Gainesville Sun* that the Department of Education, mainly the Governor, feels that increasing the number of charter schools will solve the class size reduction problem districts are currently facing. She suggested the district focus more on being customer friendly towards students, parents and families whenever possible. She is not against charter schools, but does not want to see

low quality charter schools open up in order to meet the class size amendment initiative. She noted that in some instances Board action may be required to undo some restraints placed on schools in order to assist students and parents. She suggested principals and assistant principals discuss the issue of being more customer-friendly.

Mrs. Childs also questioned whether the district had already cut the teacher dance unit at Duval Elementary School. She was under the impression that the issue had only been discussed by the Board, but not that the Board had voted to cut the dance unit.

Superintendent Chambers responded that the Duval Elementary School dance unit was on the budget worksheet and had been discussed at the recent budget workshop, along with the foreign language unit at Williams Elementary. In order to not renew or continue someone and preclude the district from making adjustments, staff had to look at all units. It had been discussed and went through the budgetary process at the workshop and the Duval unit was flagged as well as several others. She noted that as the Board goes through the budgetary process and it is determined that there is money available, the units can be made available.

Mrs. Childs requested a copy of the form being given to teachers that indicates the district does not have a place for them at the school right now, but wants to place them under a contract. She also requested the number of non-renewals as well as the people under district contract.

Mrs. Childs suggested that non-unionized employees be given the same recognition and treatment as unionized employees. If an employee is exemplary, has worked for the district many years and has received good evaluations, but due to no fault of their own their positions are cut, the district needs to offer these employees another position. The district needs to have compassion and value their loyalty. She feels that there are too many jobs that go unfilled not to be able to provide a loyal employee an opportunity at another vacant job.

Superintendent Chambers stated that any time it works within the contract and/or accepted practices and procedures employees are moved into a vacant position to fill a critical need. She noted that many positions are currently open in order to offer employees another position if their current position has been eliminated, and it fulfills a critical district need. She reported that staff has spent time trying to redistribute some of the functions and work toward what Mrs. Childs has suggested and she concurs. She stated that this is the first time in quite a while where the district is faced with putting people out of a position and not having another position to place them. At the

upcoming workshop, positions will be reviewed that have been eliminated, but there are some critical functions within that position that are being realigned and redistributed into a different position.

Mrs. Sharpe agrees that the Board needs to place people whenever possible, but she does not believe that just because there is a vacant position it should be filled with a warm body. She believes the district needs to look at job performance. She feels the district needs to be honest and fair in evaluating and looking at performance and needs to ensure that the district is effective and efficient, and the Superintendent is working on that.

Superintendent Chambers reminded the Board of the Executive Session immediately following the Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.