

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 17, 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 Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the minutes of June 3, 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 June 17, 2003, as presented.

Action item 4, move “and Other Compensation” from item a to item b; change Action item 7, to read “Amendment to Policy 6.03, Employment of Personnel”; delete Action item 12, Employee Case No. E-02-03-03; delete Consent Agenda items 11, Cooperative Agreement with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., of North Florida, and item 23.b, Agreement with Santa Fe Community College Health Opportunity Partnership program. Delete from Attachment B, Page 3, Gwendolyn McCoy (7th name from bottom).

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board extended their best wishes and deepest appreciation to Mr. John Dukes, deputy superintendent, for his 49 years of dedicated and faithful service to the students of Alachua County.

Mrs. Sharpe recognized the boy scouts of Troop 316 from Kanapaha Middle School who are working on their citizenship badge.

RECOGNITION(S)—
FLORIDA CREDIT
UNION SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS

Florida Credit Union representatives recognized four recipients of the annual Servin/Ellis Scholarship Fund, of which they are a sponsor, and presented them with their scholarship awards.

CITIZEN INPUT	There was no citizen input.
SCHEDULED AGENCIES	There were no scheduled agencies.
PRESENTATION(S)/ REPORT(S)	<p><u>Zoning Update</u> Staff provided an update on the zoning workshop held earlier in the day, which included information on zoning timelines, a review of the proposed policy, grade configuration/school pairings; effects of student-body economic composition on student achievement; and the zoning advisory task force report. Additional public input opportunities are scheduled on June 23, 2003, 1-3 p.m., Kirby-Smith Boardroom, and 7 p.m. at Lincoln Middle School Auditorium.</p> <p><u>Budgeting/Financial Update</u> Staff provided a brief review of the budget and recent funding information received from the Department of Education regarding the class-size initiative and a review of the TRIM calendar. The Board was reminded that a special Board meeting on the budget is scheduled July 22, 3 p.m., on the tentative budget for advertising, a public hearing will be held July 31, 5:30 p.m., for adoption of the tentative budget and millage, and a final public hearing is scheduled September 16, 2003, 7:30 p.m., to adopt the budget.</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT	<p><u>Motion by</u> Mrs. Childs <u>Seconded by</u> Mrs. Sharpe</p> <p><u>Moved to</u> appoint Mr. Herschel H. Lyons as principal of Oak View Middle School, effective June 23, 2003.</p> <p>The question was called. <u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0</p>
MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION FOR PROJECT SBAC A0131— HAWTHORNE JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL MASTER PLAN	<p><u>Motion by</u> Mr. Eubank <u>Seconded by</u> Mrs. Turner</p> <p><u>Moved to</u> approve the master plan prepared by Florida Architects, Inc., Orlando, Florida, as presented.</p> <p>The question was called. <u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0</p>
AMENDMENTS TO SALARY SCHEDULES FOR 2002-03	<p>Mr. Jim Robinson, staff attorney, reported that at the June 3, 2003, School Board meeting, the Board ratified the tentative agreement reached with the union relating to additional salary increases for career service personnel for the 2002-03 school year.</p> <p>The amendment to the 2002-03 salary schedule footnotes for Professional/Technical (non-bargaining unit personnel) is presented for adoption. The amended language also incorporates proposed language,</p>

which would be effective July 1, 2003, for inclusion in the 2003-04 salary schedule footnotes.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to approve the amendments to the Career Service Personnel (bargaining unit members) and Professional/Technical Personnel (non-bargaining unit members) Salary Schedules for 2002-03 as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONTINUATION OF SALARY SCHEDULES WITH AMENDED FOOTNOTES FOR 2003-04

State law requires that each employee be paid in accordance with an applicable Board adopted salary schedule. It is recommended that the existing 2002-03 salary schedules, which include additional footnote provisions effective July 1, 2003, for the 2003-04 school year for Professional/Technical and Administrative personnel be readopted without provision for experience or step increases, subject to future amendments or salary schedule developments. It is also recommended that the existing 2002-03 Salary Schedules for Instructional, Career Service (bargaining unit), and Other Compensated Personnel be readopted without provision for experience or step increases subject to future amendments due to negotiations and/or salary schedule developments.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to approve the continuation of the existing 2002-2003 Salary Schedules for Professional/Technical Personnel (non-bargaining unit members) and Administrative Personnel, which include additional footnote provisions effective July 1, 2003, for the 2003-2004 school year; and approve the continuation of the existing 2002-2003 Salary Schedules for Instructional, Career Service (bargaining unit members), and Other Compensation Personnel.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

RENEWAL OF PROPERTY AND CASUALTY PROGRAM WITH THE FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARDS' INSURANCE TRUST FOR THE 2003-2004 FISCAL YEAR

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the administration's recommendation to renew the Property & Casualty Program with the Florida School Boards' Insurance Trust for the 2003-2004 Fiscal Year.

Mr. Eubank expressed concern with the high cost and suggested that as the market begins to settle down, the district begin looking at alternatives.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that last year the Board did look into other options

and the district could not find a better option than the Trust.

Mr. Hotary informed the Board that an internal loss fund of \$300,000 was created, but there has not been many calls on that money and staff believes it was sufficient and would not request additional funds this year.

Superintendent Chambers stated that even though the rates are going up the district has taken proactive steps locally to reduce claims.

Mr. Hotary briefly reviewed the loss reduction plan developed to help the district reduce claims, which calls for a 35% loss reduction in the start of the sixth year, resulting in a savings of approximately \$500,000 a year.

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

SCHEDULE SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS/ WORKSHOPS

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to reschedule the July Board meeting, 6 p.m., July 14, 2003; schedule a public hearing on the proposed zoning policy July 22, 2003, at 4 p.m.; schedule a public input session on the Zoning policy June 23, 2003, 1-3 p.m. at Kirby-Smith, and reconvene the public input session at 7 p.m., Lincoln Middle School; and postpone the July 31, 2003, No Child Left Behind workshop until a later date.

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

AMENDMENT TO POLICY 6.03, EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL—FIRST READING

Mr. Robinson reviewed the amendments in paragraphs 3 and 4 of existing Board Policy 6.03, Employment of Personnel. Both paragraphs are supported by separate bills. Paragraph 3 was written in response to Senate Bill 958, which in essence removed a 780-hour restriction permitting a classroom teacher to be reemployed on an annual contractual basis following a one calendar month retirement. At this time it is not certain whether the Governor will sign the Bill into law.

Paragraph 4 relates to Senate Bill 30-A, which provides that with the authorization of the district superintendent certain personnel may extend DROP beyond 60 months up to 96 months. In light of concerns over consistency in the potential difficulties and unfairness that could result on a case-by-case determination as to whether an individual should be granted a DROP extension, it is the superintendent's recommendation, intent and discretion under the law, that such extension not be granted. This rule would recognize the Superintendent's discretionary exercise of authority and provides that individuals would not be employed beyond the 60th month. That is not

to say that an employee could not be reemployed after retirement, but that the employee would not be continually employed past the 60th month of DROP.

Motion by Mrs. Turner

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to schedule a public hearing 7 p.m., July 14, 2003, to consider amendments to Policy 6.03, Employment of Personnel.

Mr. Robinson noted that other districts are following suit for the same reasons due to difficulty in dealing with a case-by-case basis.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CODE OF STUDENT
CONDUCT, 2003-04—
FIRST READING

Mrs. Kathy Black, director, Student Support Services, reviewed the five changes recommended to the 2003-04 Code of Student Conduct by the Superintendent’s Committee on Student Discipline. Three include additional wording, one includes changes in wording to reflect the changes in the Horizon Center school name, and one reflects changes in Florida statutes.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to schedule a public hearing 7 p.m., July 14, 2003, to consider revisions to the Code of Student Conduct.

Responding to Mrs. Childs, Mrs. Black stated that the committee is making no recommendations to change the current cell phone policy in the Code of Student Conduct, which states that a student may be in possession of a cell phone in their vehicle with prior consent from the principal.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BUDGET
AMENDMENTS

Motion by Mr. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve Budget Amendments No. 17, 18, and 19 as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AUDITOR SELECTION
COMMITTEE

In accordance with Florida Statute 218.391, the Board shall establish an Auditor Selection Committee for the purpose of soliciting and evaluating proposals from qualified firms desiring to perform the District’s annual financial and internal accounts audit.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to appoint Wes Eubank, Donna Omer and Charles Hall to serve on the committee as voting members, with Sonja Barnes and Wayne Hackett assisting in a non-voting, advisory capacity.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 03-04-X

Mr. John Dukes, deputy superintendent, reported that the student was charged with serious breaches of conduct while trespassing on school grounds. A hearing was held on march 24, 2003.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to reassign the student to the alternative school and enter a final order.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-30, with the deletion of item 11, 23.b., and the deletion of the name Gwendolyn McCoy from Attachment B, Page 3. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

CITIZEN INPUT (cont'd)

The ACEA president urged the Board to continue to make employee salaries their highest priority.

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank made the following requests:

- Reminded staff that he is awaiting cost information previously requested regarding school start times.
- Make copies of all agreements on the Consent Agenda available to Board members for review prior to Board meetings.
- Suggested that when grants end, staff provide the Board with cost information related to the grant-funded program in order for the Board to decide whether to make a commitment to continue with the program.

Mrs. Childs also requested cost information on the change in school start times in order to determine the transportation savings. She also reminded the public to visit the district's website for important School Board meeting information.

Chairman Cawthon informed the Board that Mr. Eubank has volunteered to serve as the Board's representative on the Central

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Florida Community Action Agency, Inc. She also requested staff provide the Board with a list of upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.