

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 14, 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 Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 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 July 14, 2003, as presented.

Attachment A, Page 4, change the leave date for Jason Roberts through 6/04/04; Attachment B, Page 5, change Thomas McKenzie to Kathryn McKenzie; and pull Consent Agenda item J. 20, Agreement with the University of Florida College of Health and Human Performance for Athletic Training, and add as Action item I. 10.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Childs encouraged Board members to participate as a team in the Junior Achievement Bowl-a-thon in August.

Mrs. Turner commended staff for the very informative school improvement plan presentations.

Mrs. Sharpe commended Duval Elementary School on their outstanding improvement in their school grade and urged the district to continue to assist and provide them with necessary resources.

She also announced that Mr. Jim Warford, K-12 Chancellor, has invited her to serve as a member of the K-12 Sector Accountability Task Force and she has accepted that challenge, but will unfortunately miss the first meeting in Orlando on July 22nd due to commitments in the district. She informed the Board that she will begin asking for their input on issues they wish her to address with the task force.

RECOGNITION—
FLORIDA’S BEST
AWARDS

The Florida Credit Union and Santa Fe Community College’s Tech Prep program were recognized for their partnership with the Alachua County School Board, as the best workforce development programs in the state for their business involvement in education. The award is sponsored by the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Florida Department of Education and Florida Trend and presents each educational partner with a \$500 check.

CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Peter Rebmann, Alachua County School Concurrency Project, provided the Board with a School Concurrency report for the Board’s review, which addresses school overcrowding.

SCHEDULED
AGENCIES— HEALTHY
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVE ON
RECREATION

Representatives from the Healthy Community Initiative Implementation Group on Recreation and the Friends of Recreation and Parks presented the Board with a proposal for the creation of a Coordinating Council for Recreation and Parks. The Council would be comprised of major stakeholders (City, County, School Board, League of Cities, UF, SFCC, YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, and citizens) who would meet regularly to address important issues relating to recreation and parks. They would establish a comprehensive, collaborative and sustainable countywide approach to recreation and parks policy, planning, development, management and utilization. The purpose of the Council would be to increase the utilization of current community resources.

The Board was urged to support the creation of a countywide Coordinating Council for Recreation and Parks, and was provided with a draft of the Interlocal agreement, which has also been presented to the City and County.

This issue will be addressed this item at an upcoming Board meeting for action.

PRESENTATION(S)/
REPORT(S)

Zoning Update

Staff provided an update on the 2003-04 Critical Zoning dates and reviewed the upcoming process involving the review of the proposed zoning policy. A public hearing on the proposed amendments to Policy 5.11, School Attendance Zones/Areas/Choice will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2003, 4 p.m.

The Board encouraged the public to provide their input on the revised policy.

Budgeting/Financial Update

Staff provided an overview on the 2003-04 Tax Roll compared to the 2002-03 Final Tax Roll, which indicates a 9.30% increase. He also reviewed the budget calendar, which includes a Special Board meeting

on July 22, 2003, 3:00 p.m. on the tentative budget and millage for advertising, and a Public Budget Hearing on July 31, 2003, 5:30 p.m., with final budget approval on September 16, 2003.

AMENDMENT OF
POLICY 5.11, SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
ZONES/AREAS/CHOICE

Mr. Jim Robinson, staff attorney, reviewed the revisions to Policy 5.11, School Attendance Zones/Areas/Choice and pointed out that many of the changes are legal, procedural and formal in nature. A substantial revision has been made to the “guideposts” of the rezoning policy by which the administration will proceed to draw the zone lines. These guideposts are intended to support the policy, which is to make the most economical and practical use of the Board’s physical resources in the implementation of the Board’s educational programs, consistent with the best interest of students.

The policy would charge the Superintendent with periodically reviewing the existing attendance areas no less than every two years taking into consideration the following factors in order of priority:

1. School Capacity--Listed in current Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) report--(1) class size amendment, (2) number of students intended to be served by any particular educational program offered at a particular school, and (3) core facility design.
2. Convenience of access to schools--Students would tend to be zoned to schools that are close to where they live, but not necessarily the closest school. Provides access for parents to be actively involved in their child’s education.
3. Safe and efficient student transportation and travel--Related to the saving of money associated with transportation of students, but is also involved with the drawing of zone lines that take into account topographical features and potential safety hazards.
4. Effective and appropriate instructional programs--Would permit staff to draw zone lines to reserve space in certain schools that allow the placement of special programs where they will serve students and the community the best, i.e. magnet programs in under utilized schools, or programs for exceptional students that are best located in a particular school.
5. Promotion of diverse school enrollments--Where possible staff will draw zone lines or place magnet programs in schools to achieve economic diversity within the school system.
6. Financial and administrative efficiency—Savings associated with reduced busing, reduction in use of relocatable classrooms and possibility of closing or converting the use of facilities. May be considered when drawing school zone lines and represents an effort to use the best and most efficient means of financial capital and human resources possible.

He informed the Board that these factors are to be accomplished by means that include, but not necessarily limited to, school choice

options and establishment of magnet programs. Where necessary and appropriate, consideration shall be given to subdivision of schools into schools within a school. This provision was added due to the passage of Senate Bill 30-A, which required school boards to adopt policies encouraging schools within a school.

He also reviewed several of the other proposed changes:

School Assignment Rules—Strengthens staff’s ability to ensure that families are attending the right school and not providing false information to gain admission to a school to which they are not entitled to attend.

School Choice and Zoning Exceptions--The granting of all school choice and zoning exceptions is conditioned upon the class size amendment together with implementing legislation and other applicable law.

Choice Assignment Rules--Provides the Superintendent an opportunity to grant weight to students whose demographic characteristics would compliment the characteristics of students who live within the chosen school’s assignment area.

Definition of school capacity

Hardship--grounds for a zoning exception.

The balance of the changes are formal in nature and are designed to clarify or strengthen existing policy. A new paragraph 7 was added, which deals with full-time employees whose primary legal residence is Alachua County will be given preference over non-residents.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to schedule a public hearing 4 p.m., July 22, 2003, to consider the amendment of Policy 5.11, School Attendance Zones/Areas/Choice.

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

PUBLIC HEARING—TO
CONSIDER
AMENDMENTS TO
POLICY 6.03,
EMPLOYMENT OF
PERSONNEL

Mr. Robinson provided a brief overview of the revisions to Policy 6.03, Employment of Personnel and stated that the revision presented to the Board contained a paragraph, which addressed a change implemented by Senate Bill 958, which has been passed into law. The law provides that a district school board may re-employ a retired member as instructional personnel, as defined in section 1012.01(2)(a) i.e., classroom teacher on an annual contractual basis after he or she has been retired for one calendar month. It was felt that since the statute has passed it need not have a rule to implement it and therefore the

paragraph was deleted from the proposed rule.

The revision now addresses the substance of Senate Bill 30-A, which has been passed into law and reflects that the Superintendent, in the exercise of her lawful discretion is directed and the Board ratifies and affirms, that employees of the Board who are K-12 instructional personnel, as defined in sections 1012(2)(a)-(d), F.S., i.e., classroom teachers, student personnel services, librarians/media specialist, and other instructional personnel, may not extend their Deferred Retirement Option (DROP) program period.

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, ACEA president, urged the Board to reconsider in order to insure that media specialists are not excluded.

Mr. Robinson clarified that a person can return as a classroom teacher after one month without prejudice to their retirement benefits. The legislature intended to encourage classroom teachers to return by affording them this unique benefit of being able to return after one month without interfering with their retirement benefit. The legislature did not intend to provide this same benefit upon other forms of instructional personnel.

He noted that the consideration that went behind the Superintendent's decision was the danger of inconsistency to develop objective criteria to judge which cases to grant a DROP extension and which cases not to. He was not aware of anyone not being able to apply to come back after 30 days as a classroom teacher and does not believe that anyone would be harmed by this policy.

REVISIONS TO THE
CODE OF STUDENT
CONDUCT

Mrs. Kathy Black, director, Student Support Services, reviewed the changes to the 2003-2004 Code of Student Conduct, which are recommendation by the Superintendent's Committee on Student Discipline as follows:

- Added a notice under Parent and Student Acknowledgement which deals with disclosure of directory information
- New section under the introduction regarding students with disabilities
- Additional clarification under the Dress Code.
- Change reflects the new name of Horizon Center.
- Changes in Florida Statute numbers

Mrs. Childs and Mrs. Turner requested that a section be added to the middle and high school Code of Conduct, which would allow students to be in possession of cell phones. Recommended prohibiting use of cell phones during the school day and they should not be disruptive to the school environment, either on campus or at any school activity at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee.

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

AMENDMENT OF
POLICY 5.11, SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
ZONES/AREAS/CHOICE
(continued)

Mr. Eubank commended staff for the modifications to the existing policy. He reviewed several areas of concern and made the following suggestions:

- Factor 1--Lack of specificity as it refers to school capacity (suggested Leon County’s policy which freezes enrollments when they reach capacity)
- Preferred an annual review of the policy with a report in early Fall
- Factor 3—Reword safe and efficient student transportation and travel
- Factor 4—Effective and appropriate instructional programs, which reserves space for magnet programs.
- Factor 6—Financial and administrative efficiency, may not be needed as a criteria since the first sentence reads: “It is the policy of the Board to make the most economical and practical use of the facility.”
- Add criteria of treating neighborhoods as intact units.
- Supports revision to the school capacity issue.
- Number 5, page 3, Choice Assignments—In the event a school becomes overcrowded, students may lose that choice and should not be guaranteed permanent choice.
- Item 3, page 4, Under Enrolled Schools—Lacks specificity and percentage.
- Item 4, page 4, Changes of Residence—Include as proof of residence a copy of a contract for the construction of a home, with date of completion.
- Page 5, 6a., School capacity--Specify percentage.
- Page 6, Item 5., Denial of a Zoning Exception—Provide parents an opportunity to appeal denied zoning exceptions and suggested parents be afforded the opportunity to meet with the Superintendent if they have been denied in their appeal.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that when she votes to schedule a public hearing it means that she has read it, agrees with it and she is ready to put it before the public. At this time she is unable to do so with the proposed policy at it is written. She believes that it is the policy of the Board to make the most economical and practical use of its fiscal resources.

She does not agree with the following:

- Convenience of access to schools--Is very general and could be neighborhood schools without consideration of diversity, which she feels is very important in any school system.
- Safe and efficient student transportation and travel—Saving on transportation as opposed to what? She believes the education of all students should be the number one priority.

- Effective and appropriate instructional programs—What would those programs look like?
- Promotion of diverse school enrollments—Believes that the word “promotion” is a weak word when it comes down to diverse school enrollment.

She stated that the word “neighborhood” schools should not be used as a buzzword to resegregate the school system. The district needs to insure diversity in school enrollments.

Before she votes on the policy she will have every question and argument to make her case to the Board. She believes that it is up to the Board to do the right thing, and what is popular is not always the right thing to do and she will present her arguments and concerns at a later time.

She will not vote for the policy to go on as a public hearing because she disagrees with several parts of it because it is so general and feels the interpretation is too open.

Chairman Cawthon made the following suggestions:

- Revisit the attendance areas every year.
- Choice option should be revisited because if a school becomes overcrowded students should not be allowed to continue attending.

Mr. Charles Chestnut, citizen, requested confirmation that freedom of choice is extended to the African-American community in cases where parents would prefer that their children continue attending west Gainesville schools, if they continue to provide their own transportation. He also suggested the Board develop a definition for neighborhood schools.

Mrs. Ruth Brown, citizen, urged the Board to address the issue of busing black children from east to west and suggested the reverse to create a mixture of races. Requested staff contact her to explain the proposed amendments to the policy.

Reverend John Banks, citizen, expressed concern with the neighborhood concept and stated that he is very proud of the current system of busing students from east to west. Feels that the neighborhood concept does not increase parental involvement and should not be the reason. Suggested including safeguards in the policy to allow those students to continue to attend those schools. He stated that the Board needs to make hard decisions about the quality of education and not about saving money or trying to meet a mandate. Urged the board to enhance existing programs on the east side.

Mrs. Turner explained her definition or concept of a neighborhood school—a child does not get on a bus and pass three other schools on their way to the school he or she may be zoned for.

Mrs. Childs wants to ensure that the district continues to promote diversity in all schools by creating such good programs in each school so that students from all backgrounds will want to attend. She proposes that the district institute, in conjunction with the zoning change, magnets in the under enrolled elementary schools that will attract students that do not live within a two mile walking radius of a school. Students that the district will have to bus to get them there, but who will be bused because they choose to do so. She wants the district to ensure continued diversity and provide enough space to allow families to continue their traditions of attendance at a particular school. She understands that the first year will be difficult, but manageable.

Mr. Eubank noted that the word “neighborhood” is not mentioned in the policy and stated that the focus needs to be on the quality of education the district is providing, and must continue to improve the quantity of resources available to schools on the east side. He wants to ensure that the district does everything it can so that no matter where a student attends school, the student will get the same quality education.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that the resources in a school do not make a school, or that the neighborhood school concept will increase parental involvement. She believes that schools need to reflect life. Research has shown that kids who have been isolated into groups of socio-economic status do not do as well as they do when they have a healthy mix because kids learn from their peers and this must be considered.

She noted that the policy does not refer to neighborhood schools but to convenience of access to schools, which she interprets as neighborhood schools. The Board should not be considering these things unless the number of students on free and reduced lunch and the economic status of these students are considered, which is more compelling than race. She feels it is unfair to have schools that are isolated with just poor kids because all students need to have a mix, and she is not referring to race because all black kids are not poor and all white kids are not rich. She speaks for all children and that is why she was elected as a School Board member. She will do what she believes in her heart is best for every child in the school system, regardless of color and need to have the best the district has to offer. The School Board should not be in the business of isolating these students because it would be a crime to retreat and go back, and she is not in favor of doing so.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1

Yes: Mrs. Cawthon
Mrs. Childs
Mr. Eubank
Mrs. Turner
No: Mrs. Sharpe

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC CC730—
ARCHER COMMUNITY
SCHOOL, RENOVATE
EXISTING SPACE FOR
CLASSROOMS

Mr. Ed Gable, executive director, Facilities, reported that bids for the construction of this project were received on July 8, 2003. There was a low bidder within budget and a recommendation was made. Unfortunately, staff received a bid protest from the second low bidder and the administrative requirements will preclude staff from making a recommendation at this time until the bid protest can be resolved.

Mr. Gable informed the Board that it may take six weeks to go through the administrative process to resolve this bid award.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to delete the bid award for action at this time.

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

SALE OF REAL
PROPERTY

Mr. Gable reported that as the Board looks at options to make adjustments to school sites and configurations, certain legal and administrative requirements must be met in advance.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to authorize staff to obtain appraisals, comply with Department of Education (DOE) requirements, and otherwise prepare to sell the Terwilliger Elementary School buildings and site at 301 NW 62 Street, as well as other real property.

Board members clarified that this action is strictly to get an appraisal on the property and to meet DOE requirements as to the feasibility and overview of what the sale would entail. It does not in any way indicate that the Board is going to sell Terwilliger at this point, and information will be presented to the Board prior to proceeding.

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

EDUCATIONAL PLANT
SURVEY

Mr. Gable reported that all capital outlay improvements and additions must be supported by recommendations within the current educational plant survey approved by the DOE. As the Board looks at options to make adjustments to school sites and add new schools, some of the options are not included in the current survey. A spot survey, or a

partial district survey can focus on limited areas and establish appropriate recommendations.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to authorize staff to perform an Educational Plant Spot Survey for submission to DOE.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AUTHORIZATION TO
PROCEED WITH THE
PROCESS FOR
ISSUANCE OF
CERTIFICATES OF
PARTICIPATION

Mr. Richard Trainor, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the proceeds of these Certificates of Participation (COPs) are intended for the construction of a new elementary school, and a new facility at Horizon Center. In order to ensure that newly constructed facilities are ready for use by the opening of the 2004-05 school year, staff has provided information on an aggressive timeline for the issuance of the certificates. Staff has since determined that the timeline will have to be revised by approximately one month. Originally anticipated having the authorizing resolution adopted by the Board at the August 5 Board meeting, but September 2 is now the target date. The action staff is requesting in no way obligates the Board to issue the certificates, nor does it incur any expenditures for the district. Due to the aggressive timetable involved, it is simply a request to proceed with the process of issuing COPs in the event that the Board wishes to take this direction in the immediate future.

Motion by Mrs. Turner

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to proceed with the Process of Issuance of Certificates of Participation.

Mrs. Childs stated that she is voting for this action, but in light of an earlier discussion, wants assurance from staff that it is being handled appropriately and that the individuals that need to be involved are involved in an appropriate way.

Mrs. Sharpe reiterated that based on previous comments she wants to ensure that everyone who wishes to participate in the COP process is involved.

Mr. Birkett reviewed the process and responded that staff is currently putting together all the information and an official statement will be prepared. Staff will work with the underwriter's counsel, which is the same team that was used on the last refunding and COP issue. He informed the Board that Mr. Jerry Ford is the Board's financial advisor who will work with staff on a daily basis and look at the market and

develop timelines. After completion of all the paperwork, staff will present the Board with information requesting permission to have a negotiated sale. The Superintendent has the authority to sign when the financial advisors advise staff that it is a good time to go to the market and sell the certificates.

Mrs. Sharpe requested Superintendent Chambers work with Mr. Ford to ensure that this process is a process that is inclusive and addresses the Board's concerns, since the Board is ultimately responsible.

Mrs. Childs requested Mr. Birkett keep her informed on the process.

Board members clarified that this is preliminary and no costs are incurred until the certificates are actually sold. The Board is only asking for permission to have everything in place should the Board decide to go forward. The Board is looking at all options and being proactive and aggressive in order to move quickly if necessary.

Superintendent Chambers stated that in light of earlier discussions, this action in no way authorizes staff to proceed with an elementary school. What is being done today is predicated on the spot survey that was just approved and the recommended direction from the Board as to what the use of the COPs would be for.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENTS TO THE
PUPIL PROGRESSION
PLAN—FIRST READING

Ms. Sandi Anusavice, director, Curriculum, reviewed the amendments to the Pupil Progression Plan, which are due to major changes in the law that have taken place this spring. Two of the major bills are Senate Bill 30-A and House Bill 1739. There are also minor changes that clarify processes that have already been in place and procedures that the district has already been doing, but the DOE is requiring districts to reflect these things in the Pupil Progression Plan.

She reviewed the major changes reflective of new procedures:

- Beginning this September the district is required to report annually to the local newspaper and DOE district policies on promotion and retention on pupil progression, and any revisions to board policy on retention and promotion procedures. The report will be ready for dissemination by September 1st.
- Senate Bill 30-A was passed and contains accelerated graduation options (18-credits) effective this fall.

Mrs. Turner stated that these changes are in the best interest of students, but resents the fact that the state created the 18-credit option for the sole purpose of saving money and she does not believe that it is

in the best interest of students. She appreciates the efforts of staff to implement this change in such a short timeframe.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to schedule a public hearing 7 p.m., August 5, 2003, to consider amendments to the Pupil Progression Plan.

Both the mover and seconder agreed to amend the motion and change the time of the public hearing to 6:30 p.m. due to a shorter agenda.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

JOB DESCRIPTIONS
FOR PERSONNEL
SPECIALISTS FOR
INSTRUCTIONAL
PERSONNEL, NON-
INSTRUCTIONAL
PERSONNEL, AND
EMPLOYEE
RELATIONS—SECOND
READING

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to adopt the job descriptions for Personnel Specialists for Instructional Personnel, Non-Instructional Personnel, and Employee Relations as presented.

Responding to Board concerns, Mr. Robinson assured the Board that due to the changes that have occurred in personnel, staff has implemented a team approach and DROP benefits will be accurately and sufficiently explained to employees.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ELIMINATION OF LESS
THAN TWO-MILE
COURTESY BUSING

Mr. Jack Shelton, director, Transportation, provided the Board with information on the elimination of the less than two-mile courtesy busing. State law provides funding only for students living more than two miles from their assigned school unless there are hazardous walking conditions. The hazardous walking definition is only for those students whose grade levels do not exceed grade six and does not apply to middle or high school students.

He informed the Board that staff has reviewed all areas in the county and there are only two areas that were found to be hazardous-- Hawthorne and Archer, and the district will continue to bus those students and receive state funding.

The Florida Administrative Code defines a reasonable walking distance for students is more than two miles between the home and school and one-and-half miles between the home and assigned bus stop. The state has determined that 5-7 years olds can walk to school and if they cannot it is up to parents to see that they get to school. School Board policy was written in conjunction with Florida School Law and the Florida Administrative Code. The district's policy states that any

student who resides two or more miles from his or her designated school by the most directly traveled route is eligible to ride the school bus to and from school. Those are the only students by policy that can ride except for some exceptions—special authorizations are granted by the School Board (currently 1,500 students). He also noted that all exceptional students are also eligible to ride a school bus.

He informed the Board that courtesy busing began when housing developments were under construction and was added for the safety of students. When construction was completed, courtesy busing remained, but in some neighborhoods busing stopped.

He recommended the Board eliminate courtesy busing, which would save the district \$30,000 in fuel savings and better utilize school buses to make the district's transportation system more time-efficient. He also recommends additional crossing guards for dangerous areas. He pointed out that OPPAGA also recommended the Board eliminate courtesy busing.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to approve the elimination of less than two-mile courtesy busing.

Mrs. Sharpe understands that Florida Statutes dictate the two-mile requirement, but they also do not pay the district if a student is harmed while walking to school. She understands the district is trying to save \$30,000, but the district must also protect the lives of small children. She is not against busing, but believes that districts need a certain amount of busing in order to survive and she is extremely concerned with small children having to walk--depending on what time of year it is, they may be walking in the dark.

Mr. Eubank clarified that this does not prohibit students who walk back beyond the two-mile limit. Students who live at the front of a subdivision and are within two miles of their school, will lose courtesy busing. Students at the front of the subdivision have the option of walking to school or walking in the opposite direction toward a bus stop beyond the two-mile limit at the back of the subdivision and ride the bus if there is room. He supports the use of the \$30,000 to assist with the development of magnet programs.

Mrs. Turner stated that she understands the concerns and believes that it is important to make sure that all students are safe, but she also believes that parents must take responsibility for their children. She is not voting for this because of the \$30,000 savings, but does not feel it

is fair that the district provides courtesy busing only for a few students and not all.

Mrs. Childs believes that it does not hurt students to walk two miles and students need to do more walking. She requested additional crossing guards be placed at the Newberry Road and 16th Avenue at Forest Ridge areas.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that she is inclined to vote against this mainly due to the safety issues. She does not believe the \$30,000 is worth the safety of these students. She does not believe that students who are currently receiving courtesy busing should be penalized and wishes the district could afford the same opportunity to all students.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 03-10-HC

Mr. Robinson reported that 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 May 28, 2003, and no exceptions have been filed.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to confirm the student's assignment to the Alternative Center.

Mrs. Sharpe left the boardroom.

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

AGREEMENT WITH
UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA COLLEGE OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN
PERFORMANCE FOR
ATHLETIC TRAINING

Mrs. Anusavice stated that the agreement provides athletic trainers for sports teams, one to each high school.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to accept the agreement with the University of Florida College of Health and Human Performance for athletic training as presented.

Mr. Eubank stated he supports the district participating in this program, which is conducted at the seven high schools at a cost of \$69,000 (25 hours per week and roughly \$10,000 per high school). He questioned

whether Loften High School would require the 25 hours per week in comparison to the other high schools, which have many additional athletic programs. Suggested rotating the Loften High School trainer.

Superintendent Chambers assured the Board that staff will investigate this issue and may be able to rotate the trainer at Loften High School among the other high schools.

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 1-21, with the deletion of item 20. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

CITIZEN INPUT (cont'd)

Dr. Paulson informed the Board that he has not received any information from district staff regarding starting times and waivers for middle schools.

Mrs. Sandy Hollinger, deputy superintendent, reported that this issue has been discussed with middle school principals and the decision was made not to change the school hours due to the concern with the extra minutes in the day due to the elimination of block scheduling. Principals are internally handling the five to seven minutes in the school day, and will have administration and support staff monitoring the halls in between the sections and also at lunchtime, which will not affect teachers in any way.

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank made the following comments/requests:

- Staff provide specific summary information on any type of agreement that is to receive Board approval.
- Thanked staff for providing the costs of all grants and if these grants are long-term commitments.
- Status of the savings realized by changing the school start times.
- Written explanation from the committee that decides what to do with the money that is allocated with such things as furniture, etc. and who is selected to be on the committee and their authority. Expressed concern that there are excessive costs for furniture for administrators when the district cannot provide reasonable chairs for classrooms.

Mrs. Childs made the following comments/requests:

- Agenda the Healthy Community Initiative on Recreation on the August 5, 2003, Board as an action item.
- Continues receiving complaints from elementary school parents

regarding early starting times. Prefers that elementary school students attend school at a normal time.

Mr. Birkett informed the Board that staff did work out a preliminary report on the change in school starting times, but plans to closeout the end of the year in order to get a more accurate accounting of the savings. He noted that fewer bus drivers were hired this year, and because of school bus efficiency, the district realized a savings of \$140,000 in additional revenue, but due to high fuel costs, it balanced out.

Mrs. Childs thanked Mr. Birkett for the information on class averages from the state.

Mr. Birkett informed the Board that staff is trying to reconcile the state information against the district's database in order to monitor and come up with the same data, format, and averages.

Mrs. Childs noted that Lofton High School and the Horizon Center are very low and wondered if their allocations were being adjusted accordingly, or if the district has taken action to say that those two programs would require the district to keep those class sizes that low. She suggested the resource allocation be adjusted at those two schools since this is a core program and the district's allocation for the core should be equivalent in every school. She requested assurance that allocations are going to the students and that the district is not favoring some over others.

Mr. Eubank requested information on how the district is doing in each school to be able to inform parents on class averages.

Mrs. Sharpe thanked staff for their efforts and explained that when she votes against something that is presented to her, it has nothing to do with whether or not she believes staff did a good job, it is because she cannot support the material that was presented. She knows staff works very hard and expressed her appreciation for all their efforts.

Superintendent Chambers informed the Board that staff attends meetings to listen to concerns from Board members, citizens, and other staff members. She assured the Board that staff will continue to be as responsive to their requests/concerns and follow-up on requests on a timely basis, and also let Board members know the status of their requests. She thanked Board members for their positive comments and for recognizing the effort that staff puts forth.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

JULY 14, 2003