

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
September 16, 2003

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in session duly called at 6:00 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. Turner

Moved to approve the minutes of September 2, 2003, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of September 16, 2003, as presented.

Consent Agenda, Item J.3., Attachment B, Page 8, delete the name Darlene King, and Attachment D, Page 2, item 4, change the "Funds" source to "0100-9112, Public School Technology Fund."

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Childs urged the Board to sponsor a golf cart in the Chamber of Commerce Pro-Ed Golf Tournament.

Mrs. Sharpe attended the Tour of Excellence sponsored by Nova Southeastern University on September 15, which recognized Mebane Middle and Buchholz High Schools as two out of ten schools in the state of Florida to be recognized for excellence in education.

Mrs. Turner thanked Duval Elementary School's choir for their presentation at the Legislative session.

RECOGNITION

A. Quinn Jones Center, Ft Clarke Middle, Wiles, Chiles and Terwilliger Elementary schools were awarded the Department of Education's Five Star School Award for exemplary community involvement.

CITIZEN INPUT

Citizens and employees presented the following concerns/requests to the Board:

- Concern was expressed over School Board member salaries and the authority they have to set their own salaries annually.
- President of ACEA, responded to recent concerns regarding the personal safety of the district's bargaining team during a recent bargaining session, and urged Board members to view the videotape of the session, which would prove otherwise.
- An Archer Community School teacher urged the Board to fund a step increase for teachers.
- Parent of an Idylwild Elementary School student expressed concern with the student being left unsupervised in the school clinic.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES

ACEA presented the Board with several questions relating to the budget, funding, class-size reduction, and teacher salary issues for Board input and response. The Board was urged to provide better communication.

Chairman Cawthon requested staff provide ACEA with responses to the questions presented.

PRESENTATION(S)/
REPORT(S)

Budgeting/Financial Update: Congratulations were extended to the 2003 School Recognition Program Award winners, for a total award of \$1,780,498. Staff reviewed the class size reduction categorical fund and explained how those funds can be used.

Mrs. Sharpe requested staff thoroughly explain the district's health insurance coverage correctly when responding to ACEA's concerns.

Mr. Eubank requested staff provide the current analysis of health insurance coverage by district.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that she does not want to rely on internet information for health insurance benefits by district and negotiations, but would like the numbers and facts to be clear. She suggested staff meet with FSBA to provide updated information.

Zoning Update: Staff announced that three public input sessions on the School Attendance Zone Lines are on the agenda for approval later in the meeting as follows: 6 p.m., 9/22, Lincoln; 6 p.m., 9/23, Talbot; and 6 p.m., 10/9, Kanapaha.

Mrs. Sharpe requested zoning information in writing.

INTERLOCAL
AGREEMENT
CREATING THE
ALACHUA COUNTY
RECREATION
COORDINATING
COUNCIL

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to authorize the Chairman to send a letter to the County Commissioners, the City Commissioners, the President of the University of Florida, and the President of Santa Fe Community College expressing the School Board's desire and intent to enter into an interlocal agreement for the creation of a coordinating council for parks and recreation as proposed by The Healthy Community Initiative Implementation Group on Recreation, and requesting that agency staff be authorized and directed to meet with the Superintendent and staff to prepare an interlocal agreement for presentation to the respective agency heads for consideration and approval.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AUDITOR SELECTION
COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION
FOR THE DISTRICT'S
ANNUAL FINANCIAL
AND INTERNAL
ACCOUNTS AUDIT

Motion by Mrs. Turner

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to award a contract to Davis Monk & Company, to perform the school internal accounts audit annually, in the firm fixed-price amount of \$41,000, to be escalated each year thereafter through 2007 by a 3% cost-of-living factor, and award a contract to Ernst & Young, to perform the financial audit, in firm fixed-price amount of \$94,000, to be escalated by a 3.5% cost-of-living factor each year thereafter in which the financial audit is performed.

Responding to Mrs. Sharpe, Mr. Wayne Hackett, purchasing director, explained that the RFP document allows the district to split the two components, internal account audit and the financial audit. He noted that when the decision was made, the committee went back and reevaluated and ranked each proposal.

Mrs. Turner believes that the way the statute is written is not healthy for the way the district does business. She appreciates the committee's efforts and believes the process was fair. She feels more comfortable than before and that it worked out for the best.

Mr. Eubank requested that a discussion be added to an upcoming agenda to review Board policy related to local vendor preference, professional services, commodities and construction to allow for more flexibility.

Mrs. Childs also suggested expanding the Board policy beyond the state statute as long as the district is not in violation. She also requested that in the future staff review decisions and recommendations before they

are presented to the Board, so that the Board is not in the position of rubber-stamping.

The question was called.

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

Mrs. Sharpe stated that it is hard for her to say no, but she still has a very unsettling feeling because of the process. She understands that state legislators make mistakes, but she is an elected official and receives more votes than the legislators. She is concerned with the way the process was handled and she does not blame Mr. Hackett in any way, but she does have a problem with a firm receiving 78 points and another firm receiving 75 points, and that firm is not qualified. She believes that once a firm has been selected, they are qualified and they are the ones that have been doing the job for the past five years and are qualified. In her heart she does not feel that the Florida Legislature, in their non-wisdom, dictates to her how she should vote, and she cannot support it.

PROPOSED 2003-04
COPS PROJECT
PRIORITY LIST

Motion by Mrs. Turner

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the 2003-04 COPs Project Priority List as presented.

An Archer Community School teacher urged the Board to address the shift in boundaries at rural schools.

Chairman Cawthon requested staff take a look at zoning Archer Community and Newberry Elementary schools.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The Board meeting was recessed and a public hearing convened.

PUBLIC HEARING ON
ADOPTION OF THE
MILLAGE
RESOLUTIONS FOR
THE 2003-2004 FISCAL
YEAR

Mr. Terry Tougaw, Planning and Budgeting Officer, presented a financial/budgetary overview.

Teachers urged Board members to raise teacher salaries.

Mr. Tougaw read the Millage Resolution for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

RESOLUTION DETERMINING
REVENUES AND MILLAGES LEVIED

RESOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF REVENUES TO BE PRODUCED AND THE MILLAGE TO BE LEVIED FOR THE GENERAL FUND, FOR THE DISTRICT LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, AND FOR EACH DISTRICT BOND INTEREST AND SINKING FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2003, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2004.

WHEREAS, Section 1011.04, Florida Statutes, requires that upon receipt of the certificate of the property appraiser giving the assessed valuation of the county and of each of the special tax school districts, the school board shall determine by resolution the amounts necessary to be raised for the District School Fund, for the District Local Capital Improvement Fund, and for each District Bond Interest and Sinking Fund, and the millage to be levied for each such fund including the voted millage; and

WHEREAS, the certificate of the property appraiser has been received;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the District School Board that the amounts necessary to be raised as shown by the officially adopted budget and the millages necessary to be levied for each school fund of the district for the fiscal year are as follows:

1. DISTRICT SCHOOL FUND (nonvoted levy)

a) Nonexempt assessed valuation	b) Amount to be raised	c) Millage Levy
\$7,816,643,951	LRE \$43,040,005 BASIC DIS \$ 3,787,164 SUPP DIS \$ 1,396,053	5.796 Mills .510 Mills .188 Mills

3. DISTRICT LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (nonvoted Levy)

a) Nonexempt assessed valuation	b) Amount to be raised	c) Millage Levy
\$7,816,643,951	\$14,851,624	2.000 Mills

4. DISTRICT INTEREST AND SINKING FUND(S) (voted)

a) Nonexempt assessed valuation	b) Amount to be raised	c) Millage Levy
\$7,816,643,951	\$1,299,517	.175 Mills
	\$3,490,132	.470 Mills
	\$5,198,068	.700Mills

5. THE TOTAL MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED EXCEEDS THE ROLL-BACK RATE COMPUTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065(1), F.S., BY 4.32 PERCENT.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to adopt the Millage Resolution for the 2003-2004 fiscal year as read.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Tougaw read the Budget Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, HEREBY ADOPTS AS ITS FINAL BUDGET THE TENTATIVE BUDGET PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ON JULY 31, 2003, WITH THE AMENDMENTS SHOWN ON SCHEDULES I THROUGH V APPROVED THIS MEETING, CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2003-2004 FISCAL YEAR:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>
GENERAL	\$ 179,397,683.34
SPECIAL REVENUE	25,674,503.19
DEBT SERVICE	12,976,269.81
CAPTIAL PROJECTS	<u>54,947,130.64</u>
TOTAL	\$ 272,995,586.98

Motion by Mrs. Turner

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the administration's recommendation to adopt the 2003-2004 Budget Resolution as read.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Tougaw read Resolution Number 03-04:

A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004

APPROVAL OF 2002-2003 GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND RELATED COST REPORT

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2002-2003 General Purpose Financial Statements and related Cost Report for Submission to the Department of Education.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that she has been on record three or four times and will once again request whenever there is a charter school that is in a deficit, that the Board be made aware immediately, not wait until the school is in deep trouble.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHEDULE PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS ON REZONING

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to schedule public input sessions on school attendance zone line changes, 6 p.m. on September 22, Lincoln Middle School; September 23, Talbot Elementary School; and October 9, 2003, Kanapaha Middle School.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE NO. 03-12-HC

Mr. Jim Robinson, staff attorney, 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 on August 7, 2003.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Turner

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to confirm the student's assignment to the alternative center.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-13, with changes as made on Item 3. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

Mr. Eubank requested Board members be provided with E-rate information, when available, in order to provide input on how to best use dollars.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT (cont'd)

There was no additional citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/SUPERINTENDENT REQUESTS

Mrs. Sharpe noted that while she cannot support every recommendation that comes before her from staff, it in no way reflects that staff has not done a great job. However, she voted on the issues the way she believes

is best for the school district and the children in this district. She has always and will continue to do what is in the best interest of children.

Mrs. Sharpe requested the following:

- Staff apprise the Board of any charter school that is in a deficit at any given time.
- Schedule a workshop, as soon as possible, with the Florida School Boards Association to present the Board with options and updates on the current environment for superintendent hirings.

Mrs. Childs requested staff provide specific responses to the questions presented by ACEA and copies be provided to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.