

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 2, 2004

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: Barbara J. Sharpe, chairman; Tina Turner Pinkoson, vice-chairman; Jeannine M. Cawthon, Virginia S. Childs, F. Wesley Eubank, members; Sandra H. Hollinger, interim superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sharpe, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2004, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of March 2, 2004, as presented.

Delete Action Items 1 and 2. (These items were addressed in Special Board meeting February 27, 2004.)

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Childs made the following announcements:

- Thanked staff for their efforts in coordinating the science fair
- Encouraged Board members to donate to the Cycling Take Stock In Children fundraiser on March 19-20.
- Provided the Board with information she researched regarding 2003-04 teacher negotiations and the associated costs. Wanted to assure the public that Board is spending the district's money wisely.

Mrs. Cawthon attended the Duval Elementary Fine Arts Program and commended them for an exemplary program.

Mrs. Pinkoson expressed her appreciation to teachers for preparing students for the rigorous FCAT test, and encouraged parents to help their children come to school prepared.

Mrs. Sharpe made the following announcements:

- Recognized Mrs. Hollinger as the new interim superintendent and expressed her appreciation and support.
- Attended the Prairie View Academy presentation for parents, and complimented Mrs. Hollinger for an excellent informational presentation. She urged parents and staff to support this program and make it a successful magnet program.
- Attended the School Volunteer luncheon and thanked all the volunteers for their efforts.
- Recognized the Boardroom artwork.
- Read a letter from the Board of County Commissioners Coordinating Committee related to plans for future tax initiatives, and requested attendance at their next meeting March 4 in the Health Department Conference room.

Mr. Terry Tougaw, director, Planning and Budgeting, reported that staff is planning to attend the March 4 meeting and will provide the recreational committee with a project list.

- Mrs. Sharpe received an invitation from the Forsythe County School Board in Cummings, Georgia, regarding their selection to host the 2004 National School Boards Technology visit April 18-20, 2004.

RECOGNITION

Governor’s High School All-Star Award

Brian Smith, a Buchholz High School Junior, was recognized by the Board for being selected as a 2004 Governor’s High School All-Star as a result of hard work and dedication to achievement.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed job description for the Public Information Officer –

There was no public input.

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

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen urged the chairman to allow citizens to provide input without being lectured.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES

March of Dimes

The March of Dimes Chain Reaction group provided an overview of their leadership council, health conference, and Walk America projects.

Mrs. Cawthon, Walk America Team Captain, encouraged Board members to join her for the walk on March 27.

ACEA Update

The ACEA president expressed concern over the costs associated with an outside attorney for collective bargaining.

PRESENTATION(S)/
REPORT(S)

Planning/Financial Update

Mr. Tougaw reported that 4,000 choice and zoning exceptions have been received and entered into the system. The file has been given to the University of Florida in case there is a need for a lottery system. The district is on schedule to notify parents by March 17 and will then use that information for staffing allocations.

Staff is currently working with a joint transportation committee and law enforcement in terms of crossing guard needs and projections. Currently developing a matrix on what agency costs would be and will report back to the Board.

Oasis Charter School Update

Mr. Richard Trainor, Chief Financial Officer, reported that staff was ready to provide the Board with a report; however, they did not receive the requested information from Oasis Charter School until 6:05 p.m. this evening.

Mrs. Charla Jones, principal, Oasis Charter School, apologized to the Board for the delay in providing the information to staff, but due to unforeseen circumstances it was unavoidable.

She assured the Board that Oasis Charter School has made the necessary budget adjustments, and noted there was funding that was not included in the previous information provided by district staff. Since the last Board meeting, Oasis staff has met with district staff and reviewed additional funding information, which includes Title I, an IDEA grant, and private donations. She also reported that additional funding is also expected from the Juvenile Justice program in the amount of \$15,000; enrollment has increased by 32%, and teaching positions have been reduced.

She stated that Oasis will continue to strive to provide quality education to the students and families they serve. She is also confident that they will continue to obtain various grants and additional funding and look forward to a strong end of the year.

Chairman Sharpe stated that it is very important for the Board to have updated information on time and requested that in the future, Oasis

provide this information in advance in order for staff to review and report to the Board in a timely fashion.

PROPOSAL FOR BEST
(Better Educated Students
and Teachers)

Mrs. Hollinger reported that a BEST workshop was held on February 24, and the committee developed the district plan presented for approval and implementation.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the BEST proposal for submission to the Department of Education.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BID AWARDS
C0309—NEWBERRY
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL ROOF
REPLACEMENT

Mr. Ed Gable, executive director, Facilities, reported that bids for the construction of this project were received February 24, 2004.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the administration's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$403,500 and award a contract for construction totaling \$403,500 to Cheesbro Roofing, Inc., Ormond Beach, Florida, with completion of this project to be within one hundred twenty (120) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BO309—SANTA FE
HIGH SCHOOL ROOF
REPLACEMENT

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the administration's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$499,000 and Additive Alternates 1, 2, and 3 in the amount of \$149,000 and award a contract for construction totaling \$648,000 to Quality Roofing of Florida, Inc., Tampa, Florida, with completion to be within one hundred twenty (120) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENTS TO
POLICY 5.11, SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE
ZONES/AREAS/CHOICE
—SECOND READING

Mr. Robinson reported that a public hearing was held February 3, 2004, to consider amendments to Policy 5.11, School Attendance Zones/Areas/Choice, to address growth and overcrowding.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the administration's recommendation to adopt Policy 5.11,

School Attendance Zones/Areas/Choice, as amended.

Board member discussion focused on new housing developments in overcrowded school zones, and suggested that district staff communicate with developers to avoid overcrowding.

Mr. Robinson informed the Board that letters have been sent to developers this week informing them of enrollment caps.

Mr. Eubank requested that a copy of the letter being sent to developers also be sent to the county in order to provide the information to anyone at the very beginning of the process before it gets to the planning commission.

Mrs. Pinkoson requested a copy of the letter since she will be speaking to the Women’s Board of Realtors.

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

ALACHUA LEARNING
CENTER, INC.,
CHARTER SCHOOL
CONTRACT RENEWAL

Alachua Learning Center, Inc., has requested a ten-year renewal of its charter contract. Florida statute requires the School Board declare, at least 90 days before the ending date of the contract, whether or not it intends to renew. Review of the charter school by all district divisions indicates that the school is eligible for renewal.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve a ten-year renewal of the Alachua Learning Center, Inc., Charter School contract.

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

EINSTEIN MONTESSORI
SCHOOL, INC.,
CHARTER SCHOOL
CONTRACT RENEWAL

Einstein Montessori School, Inc., has requested a ten-year renewal of its charter contract. Florida statute requires the School Board declare, at least 90 days before the ending date of the contract, whether or not it intends to renew. Review of the charter schools by all district divisions indicates that the school is eligible for renewal.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve a ten-year renewal of the Einstein Montessori School, Inc., Charter School contract.

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

BUDGET
AMENDMENTS #9, #10
AND #11 FOR THE
PERIOD OF 11/1/03
THROUGH 1/31/04

Staff presented Budget Amendments #9, General Fund; #10, Capital Projects Funds; and #11, Special Revenue Funds, for the period of November 1, 2003, through January 31, 2004, for Board approval.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve Budget Amendments #9, #10 and #11 as presented.

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

ALACHUA COUNTY
VALUE ADJUSTMENT
BOARD, 2004

As provided in Chapter 194, Florida Statutes, the Value Adjustment Board is comprised of three Alachua County commissioners and two School Board members. It is requested that two School Board members and one alternate be elected to serve on the 2004 Alachua County Value Adjustment Board.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved to appoint Mrs. Sharpe and Mrs. Pinkoson to serve on the 2004 Alachua County Value Adjustment Board, with Mr. Eubank serving as alternate.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 04-06-SB

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

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to suspend the student's bus riding privileges through the 2003-2004 school year.

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

DISCUSS AND
SCHEDULE PUBLIC
HEARING FOR CITIZEN
INPUT REGARDING
THE NEW
SUPERINTENDENT

The Board reviewed the Chairman's suggestions regarding the selection of a new Superintendent. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to leave the number of eligible candidates open for a possible change from three (3) to five (5).

Add the new dates for the two additional candidate visits to possibly occur on May 5-6, and May 10-11.

The Board suggested that an open invitation be extended to special interest and community groups, including the public to meet the candidates and ask questions. The Board is to inform the candidates to

MARCH 2, 2004

be prepared to address the community groups. It was suggested that the Zoning Task Force list be used as the invitation list.

The Board agreed to discuss additional details at their informal Board meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 9:30 a.m.

Chairman Sharpe read her suggestions into the record:

3/2/04

Action Item #11

Discuss and Schedule a Public Hearing for Citizen Input regarding the selection of the new Superintendent.

Suggestions from the Chair: Barbara Sharpe

1. Once we narrow the candidates down, (the finalists to be selected on 4/20/04), we might consider: Open Internal Meetings with Teachers, Administrators, and all Support Staff. Each group done separately, with time limits on question and answer periods for each individual candidate.
2. Open External Meetings could be done for each candidate with the general public (also with time constraints on question and answer periods.) These meetings could be held in an auditorium with large capacity. (Lincoln Middle School is an example).
3. Each candidate might be given at least two (2) days of interview time between Monday, April 26 thru Tuesday, May 4, 2004.

Ex: The first candidate: Monday, April 26. Internal and External meetings, and Tuesday, April 27, Board member interviews and escort around the district.

The second candidate: Wednesday, April 28. Internal and External meetings, and Thursday, April 29 Board Member interviews and escort around the district.

The third candidate: Monday, May 3. Internal and External meetings, and Tuesday, May 4 Board member interviews and escort around the district.

Select additional days for other candidates as needed.

CITIZEN INPUT(cont'd)

There was no additional citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank

- Discuss the issue of low pay for substitutes
- Staff address the high class size numbers at several schools

Mr. Jim Lang, Board attorney, requested that the Board schedule a Special School Board meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2004, 1 p.m., concerning an administrative proceeding pending before the Public Employees Relations Commission entitled Alachua County Education Association v. School Board. The Board will also recess the meeting to conduct a private attorney-client session to discuss strategies and possible settlement, and would reconvene to vote.

The Board agreed to schedule the Special School Board meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2004, 1 p.m. in the Kirby-Smith Boardroom to discuss the pending administrative proceeding.

Mr. Robinson provided the Board with a packet of information, which is an attorney work product related to the proceeding, and is not subject to review or copying for the public.

Mrs. Sharpe:

Requested staff research the following questions and report back to the Board at the next meeting, if possible:

- Is there a waiting list for gifted testing at the school site, and how long is the wait, and where are we presently?
- What type of alternative testing is available for low socio economic status students?
- What is the referral process for identifying low socio economic status students who may qualify as gifted?
- Is the present process active, and is it working?
- Data on students waiting to be tested and the accurate number of students broken out into categories such as low socio economic and otherwise. Also students that were recently tested and how long did they wait broken out in the same categories listed above
- Due to safety concerns, take a second look at the Phoenix Apartments for reconsideration of busing those children to Idyllwild.

Staff reported that the traffic safety committee is currently discussing transportation for Phoenix Apartment students.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.