

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 4, 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 and 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. Childs

Moved to approve the minutes of April 14, 2004, and April 20, 2004, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of May 4, 2004, as presented.

Move Action Item 8, Discussion/Appointment of New Superintendent, to Action Item 1.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Hollinger attended the Summer Reading Achievers Kick-Off Event at Duval Elementary School, May 7, 2004. Alachua County has been selected as one out of eleven cities in the United States to participate in this program.

Mrs. Child reminded everyone to recognize teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3-7, 2004. Thank you apples were delivered to all Alachua County teachers courtesy of the University City and Gainesville Kiwanis clubs. She also announced that the Archer Historical Society has requested a letter of support from the School Board in order to obtain a state grant to restore the old Archer School gymnasium.

Mrs. Pinkoson thanked the Duval Academy Steel Drummers for their performance prior to the Board meeting. She also thanked staff for their efforts during the Alachua County Public Schools Foundation golf tournament and the O2B A Kid Again fundraising events, which raised money for classrooms and scholarships.

Chairman Sharpe announced that the Alachua County School Board Leasing Corporation will hold a special meeting at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the Regular School Board meeting adjourns.

Chairman Sharpe read the following letter into the record:

Dear Chair Sharpe:

The Interlocal Agreement creating the Alachua County Recreation Coordinating Council entered into as of March 16, 2004, by Alachua County, The School Board of Alachua County and the City of Gainesville requires that each signatory agency appoint one (1) individual to serve as a member of the coordinating council. The Gainesville City Commission has appointed Commissioner Rick Bryant to serve as the City's representative.

Please notify me when the School Board makes its appointment to the Coordinating Council. When all three members have been appointed, I will request that the City Recreation and Parks Department coordinate an organizational meeting of the Coordinating Council.

The City looks forward to implementing this important cooperative agreement to improve recreation services to the citizens of Alachua County.

*Sincerely,
Thomas D. Bussing
Mayor*

Mrs. Pinkoson informed the Board that she has been serving on the Coordinating Council and would continue to do so if the Board wishes.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to officially appoint Mrs. Tina Pinkoson as a member of the Alachua County Recreation Coordinating Council.

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

Chairman Sharpe requested Superintendent Hollinger write a letter on behalf of the Board in support of restoring the old Archer School gymnasium and submit prior to May 10, 2004.

RECOGNITION(S)

March of Dimes—Walk America Top School Traveling Trophy
Top schools were presented with trophies in recognition of their outstanding performance in raising funds for the March of Dimes: Chiles Elementary, Howard Bishop Middle and Eastside High Schools.

2004 Employee of the Year Honorees

Forty-seven school-related employees of the year were recognized for their dedicated and exemplary service. Mrs. Ann Griffin, Williams Elementary School, was recognized as the district’s 2004 Representative to the Florida School-Related Employee Recognition Program.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools “STAR” Recognition

Each year the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has selected several schools from the district to receive STAR (Schools Taking Action for Reform) recognition for their hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence. Schools who receive STAR recognition must be SACS accredited, must have a performance grade of A or B for the 2002-03 school year, the schools accreditation status must be All Clear or Advised, and the school must be current with SACS dues. The following schools were recognized as STAR schools: Alachua, Archer Community, Chiles, Duval, Foster, Glen Springs, Hidden Oak, High Springs, Idylwild, J. J. Finley, Littlewood, Metcalfe, Newberry, Norton, Prairie View, Shell, Talbot, Terwilliger, Waldo Community and Wiles Elementary Schools, Howard Bishop, Ft. Clarke, Kanapaha, Lincoln, Mebane, Oak View, Spring Hill and Westwood Middle Schools.

SPICE (Science Partners in Inquiry-based Collaborative Education)

The School Board and the University of Florida have had the opportunity to collaborate this year on a \$1.6 million grant from the National Science Foundation. SPICE, currently operating in three middle schools, is the result of the grant to help improve and enhance middle school science in Alachua County. University of Florida graduate students, teachers and principals were recognized for their involvement with this grant.

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

PUBLIC HEARING—TO
CONSIDER PROPOSED
NEW AND REVISED
JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Proposed new Job Description for Administrator on Special Assignment

A citizen suggested that the additional money necessary to fund the Administrator on Special Assignment job duties can better be used in the classroom, and suggested the Board allow the new superintendent to decide if this position is necessary.

Mr. Jim Robinson, staff attorney, noted that the Administrator on Special Assignment is a regularly established position and the employee in this position would be entitled to retirement benefits. It

was also noted that this position is not intended to be long term, but is a position for someone in transition and not intended to waste money.

Superintendent Hollinger informed the public that there are several principals currently in DROP and leaving at different times throughout the year, and this position would allow for a smooth transition.

Dr. Paulson questioned the necessity for the position/job description if any administrator could be assigned any where at any time.

Revised Job Description for Director, Personnel Services

Mr. Eubank requested staff review the current pay grade (five) for competitiveness and present the Board with a different recommendation, and also suggested addressing professional designations as a preference.

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

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen and teacher expressed concern with the job description for Administrator on Special Assignment and questioned whether this was a newly created administrative position and the salary.

Mr. Robinson responded that it is a new job description and will be occupied by an existing administrator who is in a transitional state.

**PRESENTATION(S)/
REPORT(S)**

Budgeting/Financial Update

Mr. Terry Tougaw, Planning & Budgeting Officer, reminded the Board that a budget workshop is scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 2004, 9:30 a.m. in the Boardroom. He requested Board members prepare a list of their priorities for 2004-05 school year and bring to the workshop.

Charter Schools Update

Mr. Don Lewis, director, Charter Schools, provided a brief update on the Oasis Charter School, which has steadily balanced its account, due to a \$7,000 donation by a corporate sponsor and personnel cutbacks. He also pointed out that the remaining charter schools have had healthy fund balances, and the annual audits are taken very seriously.

**DISCUSSION/APPOINT-
MENT OF NEW
SUPERINTENDENT**

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved to appoint Dr. W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., as the 19th Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2004, subject to entering into an appropriate contract of employment, and authorize the Chairman and Board Attorney to negotiate terms and conditions of the proposed contract with Dr. Boyd at a later date, and bring back to the Board for approval.

The Board unanimously approved Dr. Boyd’s appointment.

Chairman Sharpe pointed out that there were four excellent candidates who applied for the position, but Dr. Boyd was the only candidate that met all the criteria.

The Chairman called for a roll call on the motion.

Mrs. Cawthon	Yes
Mr. Childs	Yes
Mr. Eubank	Yes
Mrs. Pinkoson	Yes
Mrs. Sharpe	Yes
Motion passed unanimously	

Dr. Boyd thanked the Board for their support and pledged to make this the best school district possible.

Chairman Sharpe and the Board thanked Superintendent Hollinger for doing an outstanding job, and requested a letter detailing her exemplary performance as Superintendent be placed in her personnel file.

PROCLAMATION AND PLEDGE OF CIVILITY

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming May as Civility Month and acknowledge and support the pledge of civility.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION— RESOLUTION COP-04-01

Mr. Keith Birkett, Deputy Superintendent, introduced the Board’s financing team, and reported that the rating agency has upgraded the district’s financial system.

He also clarified that staff may have overstated the scope of the Loften gymnasium project and noted that it was never a full-fledged gymnasium, but a large multi-purpose room with no lockers, no showers, and only consists of a large common room with restrooms and custodial storage.

He presented three options should the Board decide not to go forward with the gymnasium project at Loften High School:

1. Approve the project list as presented.
2. Remove the Loften High School gym from the project list and reduce the amount of the COPs sale.
3. Substitute a project for the Loften High School gym and keep the sale at the same level as it is.

Mr. Ed Gable, director of Facilities, reviewed the list of nine projects totaling \$17,350,000.00.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the administration's recommendation to adopt Resolution COP-04-01, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, OF NOT EXCEEDING \$20,000,000.00 CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION, SERIES 2004, FOR THE PURPOSE OF LEASE-PURCHASE FINANCING OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA; APPROVING A GROUND LEASE BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF CERTAIN OF ITS REAL PROPERTY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; APPROVIING A NEGOTIATED SALE OF THE CERTIFICATES TO THE PURCHASERS, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

Mr. Birkett informed the Board that the maximum amount the Board can approve at this meeting is \$30 million. He explained that once the projects are all completed and there is money leftover, staff would come back to the Board and substitute or add another project to the master lease.

Mr. Eubank expressed concern with the per classroom price range. He also felt that Loften High had serious needs in terms of low enrollment, classrooms and food service. He suggested the district take a more comprehensive look at Loften and how it fits into the district, and wait until the new superintendent comes on board before making a decision.

Mrs. Childs expressed concern with the high cost for the Rawlings food service and Loften High gymnasium projects, and feels classrooms should be a priority.

Mr. Gable informed the Board that Loften's Master Planning Committee decided that the multi-purpose room/gymnasium was top priority.

Mrs. Childs requested new numbers on Loften's multi-purpose/gymnasium plans.

Mrs. Cawthon pointed out that she sat on the master plan committee at Loften and the staff and students overwhelmingly chose the multi-purpose gymnasium as their priority. She noted several advantages of having a multi-purpose facility at Loften:

- The new facility provides space for Horizon Center as well as other groups on the eastside of Gainesville, including Eastside High School.
- Provides opportunities for more students to play sports and choose Loften High School, which would in turn encourage students to improve their grades in order to play sports.
- Dr. Boyd supports Loften High School as a dual-enrollment campus.

She voiced her support for these worthwhile projects, and believes it would be unfair not to approve the Loften High multi-purpose gymnasium.

Mr. Eubank once again suggested delaying the decision on the Loften High multi-purpose gymnasium and Horizon Center until the new superintendent comes on board.

Mrs. Childs expressed concern that this is the first time she has heard the Loften High School project referred to as a multi-purpose room. She stated she is supportive of the multi-purpose room, but not supportive of the gymnasium.

Chairman Sharpe stated that Loften High School is a viable high school and the Board should treat it as such. She felt that every time the issue of Loften High School comes up, it always seems to get minimized and she feels it is due to low enrollment. She suggested that when amenities are made available to Loften students, the enrollment numbers could very well increase.

She is satisfied with calling it a gymnasium because if it is called a multi-purpose room then it is going to be a smaller room and she is not sure that it will serve the same purpose. She feels Loften students deserve to have a gymnasium, especially if the gym is going to serve both Loften and Horizon Center students.

She pointed out that she was the one who suggested the name change from Loften Center to Loften High School because she did not feel that they were being treated fairly and the name had taken on a negative tone. She does not believe that the district promotes Loften enough and it is an excellent school, which produces qualified students to enter the work force. She believes it is better to have the available COPs and work towards not using it all than to not have enough and worry about where to get the rest. She believes that once the Board approves the COPs, it is much easier to approve it all in one package than to approve part of it and go back and add later.

Mrs. Sharpe feels the Board needs to look at this very fairly and do what is right for Loften High School and Horizon Center. She is in favor of the gymnasium at Loften High School; however, the Board needs to hear from the principal who knows what is best for the school and students.

Dr. Ellen West, principal, reported that Loften High School has been an accredited school for 12 years, except that they are mentioned for the lack of athletic facilities. She pointed out that PE is a required part of the curriculum and Loften only has a court, and urged the Board to support the gymnasium.

A member of the Loften High School Advisory Council, a parent and student addressed the Board and urged them to support the gymnasium project.

Mrs. Pinkoson commended Dr. West for her advocacy of Loften, but felt the Board lacked a vision for Loften, and there continues to be a need to draw more students to those programs. She does not believe that by adding the multi-purpose gymnasium will solve the problem, and wants to make sure that this is just part of the process and not the answer.

Dr. West stated that she will continue to keep the Board informed and Loften is trying to be a regular high school that fits different students. Loften High is a school of choice. Prior to that, Loften was termed as a "dumping ground." Students now can choose to attend Loften and Loften can choose to accept them or not based on academic and discipline screening. Youngsters with significant long-term or repeated disciplinary actions are not accepted. She pointed out that Loften's image is changing day by day, and Loften can help make a difference with overcrowding at Buchholz, Gainesville and Eastside High Schools.

Mr. Eubank stated that Loften has his support and he is confident with a new superintendent there will be a resolution. Due to the lack of vision the Board has for Loften High School, he feels more comfortable voting on \$5 million for infrastructure renovation to include the whole campus because he does not believe that a multi-purpose gymnasium is going to fix the problem, but a more complete solution is necessary.

Mrs. Childs expressed concern that she hears from high schools that send students to Loften in need of vocational training, but they are turned away. She pointed out that if Loften is a school of choice,

students should be allowed to attend to increase the enrollment. She stated she would be willing to invest additional money into Lofton if they are willing to open up the criteria and accept more students under their choice program. Alternative schools are cropping up because of the failure by the public school system to meet the needs of students, and Lofton is a place where those needs can be met. She feels that Lofton is in need of a multi-purpose room, a new cafeteria and classrooms.

Dr. West asked for the Board's support and stated that she is willing to work with the Board, and if the Board would like for Lofton High to take every student, she will try it, but based on competency, she believes the students will realize, within one semester, that they are not making progress.

Mrs. Cawthon suggested leaving all the figures as they are in the COPs and some of the projects would be completed at a lower amount and earmark the remainder for use by Lofton High and Horizon Center.

Mrs. Pinkoson pointed out that the Lofton High master plan committee voted for the multi-purpose gymnasium as their first priority and she will vote to honor their request. She still feels that the Board needs to understand Lofton's vision in order to help achieve the vision. She suggested discussing Lofton's vision at the next informal school board meeting and making it a viable high school.

Mr. Eubank stated that he would support Lofton High school's multi-purpose room with two conditions:

1. Increase the project list allocating the entire increase to Lofton High School/Horizon Center.
2. The new superintendent report back to the Board within six months working with Lofton to propose how best to use the money.

Mr. Eubank was reluctant to do it otherwise without having a real vision for Lofton, and suggested the Board schedule a workshop within six months to discuss Lofton's vision.

The Board's financial advisors suggested that if the Board wishes to increase the project list total, the changes be made at this meeting.

Mr. Gable stated that he would bring a rough plan to the Board workshop on Thursday detailing the description of the 90x90 (11,000 gross sq. ft.) large multi-purpose room for Lofton High School, which will have a full-size basketball court.

Chairman Sharpe stated that Loften High School has always had a vision, but the Board has not. She questioned how the Board is going to entice additional students to Loften when there is a reluctance to treat it as a real high school. For the past 8-9 years the district and Board have not marketed Loften for it to be as successful as it should be. She believes that when the Board treats Loften as a high school, the enrollment should increase.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved to amend the motion to increase the Loften High School/Horizon Center project scope by \$2.5 million, increase the total amount that the Board is authorizing the underwriters to increase the issue by \$2.5 million, and request the new superintendent report back to the Board in workshop session within six months with a recommendation.

The question was called on the amendment.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved to amend the motion to change the project description list for Loften High/Horizon Center to read Loften High School Multi-purpose Gymnasium/Food Service/Classrooms, with a total project amount of \$5 million.

The question was called on the amendment.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PROPOSED 2005-06
SCHOOL CALENDAR
AND AMENDMENT TO
THE 2004-05 SCHOOL
CALENDAR—FIRST
READING

Mr. Tougaw reviewed the calendar proposals, which were developed in conjunction with ACEA, principals and district staff.

Changes to the 2004-2005 Calendar include:

Tuesday, August 10 – Preplanning

Tuesday, August 17, 2004 – School Begins

Wednesday, November 24 – Holiday for all employees

Wednesday, June 1 – End of School

Changes to Summer School include:

Monday, June 6 – First Day of Summer School

Thursday, June 30 – Last Day of Summer School

A total of 19 days (extend hours to 20 days worth of time), which would allow summer school to end within the same fiscal year.

Superintendent Hollinger noted that for the last several years elementary principals felt that intensive instruction would be more beneficial to the children, and principals have found that they are losing students after July 4.

Based on employee concerns, Mrs. Childs requested staff inform 12-month employees that they will not lose time off from work during the summer due to the change.

Motion by Mrs. Cawthon

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the administration's recommendation to schedule a public hearing 6:30 p.m., May 18, 2004, to consider the proposed 2005-06 School Calendar and amendment to the 2004-05 School Calendar.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CHANGE ORDER
NUMBER TWO FOR
PROJECT SBAC CD630-
SIDNEY LANIER
CENTER CLASSROOM
RENOVATIONS,
BUILDINGS 2 AND 3

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that this change order adds \$129,070.03 to the contract, revising the contract to \$1,134,306.95 and represents an increase in cost for: demolition and replacement of structurally unsuitable and unstable existing masonry walls and footings in building #2; and provides a sidewalk to provide access for the Safewalk Playground installation. This change order adds eighty (80) consecutive calendar days to the contract time.

Motion by Mrs. Cawthon

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the administration's recommendation to authorize execution of this change order as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

REASSIGNMENT OF
STUDENTS

Mr. Robinson reported that projected enrollments at Glen Springs Elementary School and M. K. Rawlings Elementary School for the 2004-2005 school year approach or exceed capacities, which means that the schools will be crowded. New residential subdivisions planned to be developed within the existing zones of the two schools will exacerbate the problem. In the case of Glen Springs Elementary School, these new developments are Uptown Village and Walnut Creek. In the case of M. K. Rawlings, this new development is Eden Park. It is anticipated that new owners will begin to take occupancy as early as this summer. Reassignment of students whose primary legal residence is eventually established in the new developments to other schools that are not projected to be crowded would mitigate crowding at Glen Springs and M. K. Rawlings.

Motion by Mrs. Cawthon

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the administration’s recommendation to reassign students whose primary legal residence is or will be in Uptown Village and Walnut Creek from Glen Springs Elementary School to Stephen Foster Elementary School; and reassign students whose primary legal residence is or will be Eden Park from M. K. Rawlings Elementary School to W. A. Metcalfe Elementary School; and that transportation be provided subject to standard terms and conditions.

The owner of Uptown Village addressed the Board and expressed concern that the city has been trying to promote pedestrian connectivity and challenging developers. Uptown Village developers have created the pedestrian connectivity to Glen Springs Elementary and requested the Board reconsider and allow Uptown Village to remain zoned to Glen Springs.

A citizen did not feel that this was a long-term comprehensive answer and urged the Board to review and adjust zone lines on an annual basis to affect as few students as possible.

Mr. Childs informed the public that the Board must fill current schools to capacity before any new schools can be built.

A citizen commended the Board for tackling the zoning issue.

A citizen encouraged the Board to build more interconnectivity between the governmental agencies, developers and realtors.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1

Yes: Mrs. Cawthon
Mrs. Childs
Mr. Eubank
Mrs. Pinkoson

No: Mrs. Sharpe

STUDENT CASE
NO. 04-13-X

Mr. Robinson reported that the student is charged with fighting. A hearing is scheduled May 4, 2004.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to extend the student’s suspension through May 18, 2004.

Mrs. Childs noted that the reason this case has appeared for the past two meetings was due to the parent’s request for additional time in order to secure witnesses and an attorney. This is an expulsion recommendation and the parent has been offered Horizon Center, but

has chosen not to send the student. The student is currently on home instruction. The Board has jurisdiction over the student for the remainder of this school year, over the summer and into next school year as well. After hearing the case, she noted that she has several choices: (1) recommend expulsion, (2) recommend placement at Horizon Center through the middle of next school year, or (3) recommend the student return to the home school.

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

CANCEL JULY 6, 2004,
SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING

Motion by Mrs. Cawthon Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to cancel the July 6, 2004, School Board meeting.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

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)

There was no additional citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

There were no requests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.