

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 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 Pinkoson, vice-chairman; Jeannine M. Cawthon, Virginia S. Childs and F. Wesley Eubank, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., 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 Mrs. Cawthon

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the minutes of Board Meeting of October 19, 2004, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

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

Pending the cancellation of Board meetings in December and January, it is requested that the following item be placed on the November 2 Board agenda as an emergency action item in order to meet the project construction schedule. Add as Action Item 1.a., Project SBAC A0432, Newberry Elementary School New Classroom Building #3, Design Development/Construction Documents.

Also add as Action Item 8.a., Student Cases No. 0405-07-X, 0405-08-X, 0405-09-X and 0405-10-X.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Pinkoson thanked outgoing Board members Mrs. Cawthon and Mrs. Sharpe for their many accomplishments and contributions to the school system.

On behalf of the School Board, Superintendent Boyd presented outgoing board members Mrs. Cawthon and Mrs. Sharpe with plaques recognizing their service, dedication and contributions to the school system.

Chairman Sharpe made the following announcements:

- Read a letter from Taylor County urging the district to consider contributing to the Hurricane Education Relief Fund, c/o the Florida School Boards Association.
- Recognized Eastside High School students Britta Jones and Shaun Akinkja on being named finalists in the Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science and Technology, the nation's leading research-based science competition for high school students.
- Congratulated Sidney Lanier Guidance Counselor Mary Anne Smith, for being selected as Florida's School Counselor of the Year.

RECOGNITION(S)

Social Studies Teachers of the Year

Each year the Florida Council for the Social Studies honors elementary, middle and high school social studies teachers in each county as outstanding social studies teachers of the year. The following teachers were recognized as Alachua County's Social Studies Teachers of the Year: Georgia Browning, Newberry Elementary School; Bradley Phillips, A. Quinn Jones Center; and Laura Thomley, Loften High School.

CITIZEN INPUT

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, addressed the Board regarding the proposed Healthy Learning Academy Charter School, and requested the Board not approve this charter school for the following reasons: (1) no specific need for this school, (2) not being formed to benefit kids, and (3) inappropriate for current Girls Club Board members to serve on both the Healthy Learning Academy Board and the Girls Club Board at the same time. He suggested the Board take a closer look at charter schools.

SCHEDULED
AGENCIES—ALACHUA
COUNTY VETERANS
SERVICE ADVISORY
BOARD

Representatives from the Alachua County Veterans Service Advisory Board addressed the Board regarding their concerns with Veterans Day being used as a make-up day for students to attend school. They urged the Board to reconsider and preserve Veterans Day as a school holiday for faculty, staff and students, regardless of the forces of nature, in order to honor Alachua County veterans.

Mr. Eubank informed the veterans that the school district cannot at this time legally change the calendar due to state laws. He suggested staff look at next year's calendar and include make up days that do not include Veterans Day.

Mrs. Childs expressed her appreciation to the veterans and informed them that schools have planned activities and celebrations to recognize

the many significant contributions of veterans, and she welcomed their participation.

PRESENTATION(S)/
REPORT(S)

Budgeting/Financial Update

Mr. Keith Birkett, deputy superintendent, provided updated information regarding the Estimated Unweighted and Weighted FTE, the Estimated Impact on Funding, 2004-05 Charter Schools FTE, and Class Size Reduction.

Oasis Charter School Update

Mr. Birkett provided an update on Oasis' General Fund and Capital Outlay income, and expenses through September 30, 2004, and noted that they are improving rather than deteriorating.

PRESENTATION FOR
PROJECT SBAC A0232 –
SANTA FE HIGH
SCHOOL MASTER PLAN

Mr. Ed Gable, executive director, Facilities, introduced Mr. Billie Brame, Brame Architects, Gainesville, Florida, to present the Santa Fe High School Master Plan.

Board members thanked Mr. Brame for an excellent presentation.

Mrs. Pinkoson noted that it was a pleasure to be part of the master planning process. She pointed out that growth in the area was reviewed and the capacity number was raised to 1,509 to ensure that as the community grows there is room.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the master plan prepared by Brame Architects, Gainesville, Florida, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PROJECT SBAC A0432—
NEWBERRY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NEW CLASSROOM
BUILDING #3
DESIGN/DEVELOPME
N T/CONSTRUCTION
DOCUMENTS

Mr. Gable informed the Board that due to the cancellation of Board meetings in December and January, and in order to meet the project construction schedule, there is a need to capture the next 60 days in December and January for progress. It is anticipated that the classroom building will be occupied by the start of next school year.

Mr. Gable stated that Long & Associates, Inc., Tampa, Florida, has prepared Design Development/Construction Documents for the construction of this project.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the Design Development/Construction Documents prepared by Long & Associates, Inc., Tampa, Florida, as presented.

RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE 2003-2006 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR TEACHERS

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

Mr. Birkett expressed appreciation to all members of the bargaining teams for their efforts during negotiations.

Dr. Paulson provided the results of the vote for ratifying the Teacher contract as follows: Total votes: 1213/Yes, and 65/No. He pointed out that taking into account last year's raises, teachers received an overall average increase of 4.5%, including insurance for each year for the last two years.

Motion by Mrs. Cawthon Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the ratification of Amendments to the 2003-2006 Collective bargaining Agreement for teachers.

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

RATIFICATION OF THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS, 2004-2007

Mr. Birkett noted the new name of Education Support Professionals, formerly known as Career Service personnel, and expressed appreciation to all members of the bargaining teams for their efforts.

Ms. Sande Calkins, ACEA, provided the results of the vote for ratifying the Education Support Professionals contract as follows: Total votes: 1255—1248/Yes.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Education Support Professionals, 2004-2007.

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

ADOPTION OF THE 2004-2005 SALARY SCHEDULES

Mr. Birkett provided the Board with a revised page 41 of the Other Compensation Salary schedules.

Motion by Mrs. Cawthon Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to adopt the Teacher, Education Support Professionals (bargaining unit members), Professional/Technical (non-bargaining unit members), Administrative, and Other Compensation Salary Schedules for 2004-2005 as presented.

Mrs. Pinkoson stated that the Board is committed to continue working on salaries, but she is extremely excited that the salary schedule has

been compressed and is easier to understand.

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

ADOPTION OF
AMENDMENTS TO THE
2004-2005 SCHOOL
CALENDAR—FIRST
READING

Superintendent Boyd stated that this normal rulemaking proceeding is brought pursuant to Sec. 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, as a result of the adoption of amendments to the 2004-2005 School Calendar by emergency rulemaking on October 5, 2004.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to schedule a public hearing 6:30 p.m., November 16, 2004, on the adoption of the emergency action taken October 5, 2004.

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

THE HEALTHY
LEARNING ACADEMY,
INC., CHARTER
SCHOOL CONTRACT—
SECOND READING

A public hearing was held October 5, 2004, to consider the contract for Healthy Learning Academy, Inc., Charter School, which would serve students in grades K-2.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the contract for Healthy Learning Academy, Inc., as presented.

Mr. Eubank expressed concern over the procedural process and the difference between voting in concept vs. voting on the contract. He pointed out that there are two organizations involved—the Girls Club and Healthy Learning Academy, and would have preferred that the original request had come from the Girls Club.

Chairman Sharpe expressed concern with the conflict of interest and the perception that the Healthy Learning Academy is part of the Girls Club, which receives United Way funding and private donations.

Responding to Mrs. Childs' request for clarification, Mr. Don Lewis, director, Charter Schools, informed the Board that Mr. Jim Robinson, staff attorney, wrote the contract per the Board's specifications and the Healthy Learning Academy is accepting the district's contract verbatim.

Mr. Eubank stated that it was certainly not his impression that the Board was voting strictly on whether or not the Board liked the contract, but more on the concept. He apologized and would have spoken up during the first meeting.

Ms. Sharon Sperling, member of the Board of Directors of the Healthy Learning Academy, requested the opportunity to address the Board to allay the Board's fears and concerns. She informed the Board that the Girls Club has a 30-member Board, and there are five or six members of that Board that form the Healthy Learning Academy Board. Two additional individuals have joined the Healthy Learning Academy Board, with no affiliation to the Girls Club. The charter application states that the individuals who form the Healthy Learning Academy Board are going to transition, so that they will become more community-based. She explained that it would be misleading for the Girls Club to run the Healthy Learning Academy because they are not going to be the same entity, and parents would be misled if they thought they were bringing their children to the Girls Club to go to school. It was never the Girls Club's intention to start a school.

She pointed out the difference and purpose of the Healthy Learning Academy, aside from size, is that it will incorporate health, nutrition and physical learning into the core curriculum, which is currently not being done in other primary schools. The Healthy Learning Academy is going to have supervised physical education every single day. They believe that by giving these children this foundation in K-2, they will take it with them when they transition into another school environment, and it will be part of their everyday experience—to be physically active.

Mrs. Sperling informed the Board that there is a broad variety of funding that goes into the Girls Club--United Way, grants, direct donations from individuals, Kiwanis, Rotary, fraternities, sororities, and paying members. The Girls Club is not looking for the School Board to begin funding them, and hoped the Board would approve the contract so that the school can open. She believes they will be offering something that is unique to these children and serving a purpose that is going to be helpful to the School Board of Alachua County, in a geographic area where there is a need.

Mrs. Pinkoson noted that when she campaigned two years ago she was in favor of charter schools because she felt that they filled a niche. Each time it is harder for her to vote for a charter school, because she feels that she is saying that the school system is not offering kids a quality education. She knows that the school system is taking care of business, and does offer students a wonderful education. She voted for charter schools in the past, and intends to vote for the Healthy Learning Academy.

For the record she stated that it is going to be very difficult to convince her to do this again because the school system is continually trying to

improve, and she has a problem with continuing to open up charter schools to meet other needs. She wants the district to continue to be customer-friendly and do everything possible to make sure that the school system is meeting the needs of children in the district's own school system without having to venture out.

Mrs. Childs apologized to the Healthy Learning Academy representatives for the confusion because she believes the process would have gone smoother if the information had been clearly presented to the Board--the Healthy Learning Academy is going to rent the facility from the Girls Club, and there is no conflict of interest.

She also believes that a charter school should fill a niche that the school system is not able to meet, and she has seen some that have done an excellent job in filling that need. She suggested that the Board review the charter school policy to redefine what the School Board is looking to promote or permit. She pointed out that when a charter school is presented to the Board at the concept phase, that is the time the Board needs to approve or decline.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that she would be voting against the contract due to the location of the Healthy Learning Academy being inside the Girls Club, and the public's perception.

Mrs. Pinkoson requested the Board address the charter school contract in a workshop setting.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion failed 3-2
Yes: Mrs. Childs
Mrs. Pinkoson
No: Mrs. Cawthon
Mr. Eubank
Mrs. Sharpe

REVISIONS TO THE
PUPIL PROGRESSION
PLAN, 2004-2005—
SECOND READING

A public hearing was held October 5, 2004, on revisions to the Pupil Progression Plan that reflect changes in current law.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved to approve the revisions to the Pupil Progression Plan as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 0405-04-RHC

The student has committed a violation of the Code of Student Conduct, namely smoking marijuana. A hearing was held on October 15, 2004.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to enter a Final Order adopting and approving the Hearing Officer's Recommended Order dated October 18, 2004, which returns the student to school on probation for the remainder of the 2004-2005 school year.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 0405-07-X

The student has committed a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct, namely disorderly conduct/major campus disruption, and is currently suspended through November 2, 2004.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through November 16, 2004.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 0405-08-X

The student has committed a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct, namely disorderly conduct/major campus disruption, and is currently suspended through November 2, 2004.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through November 16, 2004.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 0405-09-X

The student has committed a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct, namely disorderly conduct/major campus disruption, and is currently suspended through November 2, 2004.

Motion by Mrs. Cawthon

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through November 16, 2004.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 0405-10-X

The student has committed a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct, namely disorderly conduct/major campus disruption, and is currently suspended through November 2, 2004.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through November 16, 2004.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Cawthon

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-7.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT (cont'd)

There was no additional citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank requested a workshop be scheduled to revisit the charter school contract in order to update the Board, and ensure that the district is doing a diligent job in fulfilling the requirements of the law.

Responding to Mrs. Childs' inquiry regarding the status of the Healthy Learning Academy contract, Mr. Robinson stated that the Board denied the Healthy Learning Academy Charter School contract without prejudice because the Board is looking for greater detail and assurances in the contract. The Healthy Learning Academy may reapply with a modified contract, if they wish.

An Informal Board meeting is scheduled November 9, 2004, 9 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.