

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 1, 2005

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: Tina Pinkoson, chairman; F. Wesley Eubank, vice-chairman; Virginia S. Childs, Eileen F. Roy and Janie S. Williams, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board.

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

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Williams                      Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the minutes of February 15, 2005, 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 March 1, 2005, as presented.

Delete Action Item H. 5., Employee Case, and add to the Consent Agenda as Item I. 13., Student Case No. 0405-17-X.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Pinkoson commended the accomplishments of seventeen (17) Alachua County students that were named National Merit Finalists.

RECOGNITION(S)

**2005 Alachua County Teacher of the Year**

Ms. Theresa Flamand, Ft. Clarke Middle School, was recognized and commended by the Board for being named Alachua County's representative to the 2005 Alachua County Teacher Recognition Program.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

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

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PUBLIC HEARING—  
REVISIONS OF THE

The calendars provide for three storm days as teacher/pupil holidays; a holiday the Wednesday before Thanksgiving; and high school graduation the first week of June, with summer programs ending the

2005-06 SCHOOL  
CALENDAR AND THE  
PROPOSED 2006-07  
SCHOOL CALENDAR

last week in June.

There was no public input.

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

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ALACHUA COUNTY  
VALUE ADJUSTMENT  
BOARD, 2005

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to elect Wes Eubank and Tina Pinkoson to serve on the 2005 Alachua County Value Adjustment Board with Ginger Childs as the alternate.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENTS TO THE  
PUPIL PROGRESSION  
PLAN—SECOND  
READING

A Public Hearing was held on February 1, 2005, to consider amended language from state statute into the Pupil Progression Plan.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to approve the Pupil Progression Plan as amended.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AGREEMENT WITH  
THE USDA FOREST  
SERVICES AND THE  
FLORIDA TRAIL  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

This agreement will establish the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) through the lands of the Camp Crystal Lake Outdoor Education Center. The FNST is one of eight in the United States. The system of trails was established to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the nation.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the agreement with the USDA Forest Services and the Florida Trail Association, Inc.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENTS TO  
POLICY 2.01,  
RESPONSIBILITIES  
AND AUTHORITY OF  
THE BOARD, AND  
POLICY 6.03,

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to schedule a public hearing 6:30 p.m., March 15, 2005, to consider amendments to Policies 2.01 and 6.03.

Mrs. Childs stated that she has no problem with Policy 2.01, but is

EMPLOYMENT OF  
PERSONNEL—FIRST  
READING

concerned that Policy 6.03 may be inappropriate because it could cause employees to be chastised due to a Board member.

Mrs. Roy believes these two policy amendments are misguided. Referring to Policy 2.01, she stated that she is willing to work with the Superintendent and bring him questions and concerns, but believes the amended language restricts Board members from accessing public records that any citizen may request—it takes away the right to public records just because an individual happens to be a Board member. She believes that the new language added to Policy 2.01, "... for consideration and appropriate disposition," implies that the Superintendent has a choice whether or not a Board member will be supplied with the requested information. She suggested the language read: "Recognize the statutory authority of the Superintendent to direct the work of staff by refraining from requesting or assigning work, or directing the activities of staff; and referring all such matters to the Superintendent."

She noted that the new language added to Policy 6.03 is redundant and severely limits Board members the right to public information, and conflicts with law that gives every citizen access to public records.

Referring to Policy 2.01, Mr. Eubank stated that he does not believe that the intent of the amended language is to restrict access to information because board members are also citizens. The intent of the amended language refers to requests or work assignments of employees and formalizes the way the Board should operate, which is consistent with state statute and the responsibility of the Superintendent.

He also believes that the new language in Policy 6.03 will make it a more formal process and suggested the new language be amended to make it clear to employees.

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, informed the Board that based on attorney opinion the amendment to Policy 2.01 conflicts with Chapter 119, Public Records, and the new language in Policy 6.03 is not necessary. He suggested the following amendment to Policy 2.01 read: "Recognize the statutory authority of the Superintendent to direct the work of staff by refraining from requesting or assigning work, or directing the activities of the staff."

Mrs. Childs stated that these amendments are intended to make Board members aware of their authority and understand that the Superintendent runs the district--board members should take their concerns and requests to the Superintendent and the Superintendent will make the decisions.

Mr. Eubank suggested deleting the words ‘consideration and’ from Policy 2.01 to read: “Recognize the statutory authority of the Superintendent to direct the work of staff by refraining from requesting or assigning work, or directing the activities of staff; and referring all such matters to the Superintendent for appropriate disposition.”

He suggested that additional clarification be added to Policy 6.03 in relation to the public records law by including a statement regarding board members having the same rights as a citizen to access public records.

Chairman Pinkoson explained that the policy amendments are a result of recent situations that have occurred on the Board. She does not believe that these amendments will in any way limit what Board members can do, but they place boundaries on how Board members are supposed to go about doing it. She pointed out that the amendments are intended to cut-down on requests for extensive reports and information from board members. Due to staff shortages, she believes it is up to the Superintendent to decide whether the information requested is necessary. The new procedure will also keep the Superintendent informed on individual Board priorities and what is happening in the district.

She noted that many other districts in the state have included similar language in their policies because they have also encountered the same problems.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-13. (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 board member requests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.