

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 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 led by the Color Guard from the Gainesville High School Navy Junior ROTC.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the minutes of September 6, 2005, 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 September 20, 2005, as presented.

The following Consent Agenda Items were pulled for discussion and separate vote:

- I.6 Amendment to Agreement with the University of Florida College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry
- I.8 AmeriCorps—Alachua County Reads!
- I.10 Boys and Girls Club of Alachua County

The question was called on approval of the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Eubank commented that a recent Gainesville Sun article regarding the Jessica Lundsford Act included Alachua County in a statement that said Florida counties refuse to share employee screening information with each other. He believed that at the August 16 Board meeting, Superintendent Boyd said that this information would be shared.

Superintendent Boyd extended sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Ben Samuels, two-term Alachua County School Board member. In 1977, the League of Women Voters selected him as the Outstanding Elected Public Official. The Superintendent indicated great personal respect and admiration for Dr. Samuels and stated that he had assisted in bringing the Board through some very difficult times.

PRESENTATION—
RED CROSS “HELP
MAKE CHANGE DAY”
FUNDRAISER

Mrs. Jackie Johnson, Public Information Officer, reported on the success of the recent districtwide “Help Make Change Day” fundraiser for Hurricane Katrina relief. A check for \$37,044.43 was presented to the Red Cross. Students and staff continue in many other efforts to assist storm victims.

RECOGNITION -
RETIREEES

Employees who have retired since July 1, 2005, were recognized by the Superintendent and Board for their service and commitment to the school district. This begins a regular monthly recognition of retiring employees.

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen requested that consideration be given to expanding the Citizen Input section at the beginning of the meeting.

A Duval Elementary School parent posed questions regarding school dismissal procedures and was referred to Deputy Superintendent Hollinger for assistance.

PROJECT SBAC CA940 –
LOFTEN HIGH SCHOOL
MASTER PLAN
PRESENTATION

A brief overview of Loften High School’s Master Plan was presented.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve the Site Master Plan prepared by Long & Associates, Inc., Tampa, Florida, as presented.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

In response to a question from Mrs. Williams, it was clarified that the child care center was moved to make room for the new building and placed where it won’t have to be moved again, until such time as there might be a permanent facility.

Ms. Roy expressed appreciation that Loften’s longtime desire for a gymnasium is being realized in the Master Plan.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

REVISIONS TO
POLICY 6.164,
EMPLOYMENT OF
SUBSTITUTES,
TEMPORARY AND
PART-TIME

Dr. Joan Longstreth, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided an overview of revisions to Policy 6.164, Employment of Substitutes, Temporary, and Part-Time. She explained that they have been made to comply with changes in the law.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the administration’s recommendation that the School Board schedule a public hearing for 6:30 p.m., October 4, 2005, to consider revisions to Policy 6.164, as presented.

ACEA President Gunnar Paulson pointed out that the proposed policy amendment does not specify compensation for long-term substitute teachers, whereas the present policy states that compensation will be at the daily rate of pay for a teacher who holds a bachelor's degree with no prior teaching experience. Dr. Longstreth indicated that the compensation rate is in the salary schedule. She then responded to Board member questions.

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER
05-09—DESIGNATING
AND COMMISSIONING
SCHOOL SAFETY
OFFICER

Resolution 05-09 designates Alexandra Branaman, a licensed law enforcement officer, as a School Safety Officer.

Mr. Eubank suggested that the performance criteria be reevaluated, keeping in mind that the security of students, staff and facilities is the number one responsibility of this position. He further suggested that the reporting structure should be changed to the Superintendent only.

Mrs. Childs expressed concern that the Safety Officer will not be readily identifiable to students and the public.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt Resolution No. 05-09 as presented.

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

REPORT NO. 2006-013 –
REPORT ON
SIGNIFICANT
FINDINGS AND
FINANCIAL TRENDS IN
AUDITS OF DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARDS FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

Mr. Scott Ward, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report on significant Findings and Financial Trends in Audits of District School Boards. Mr. Ward expressed disagreement with the reporting method in various findings.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the administration's recommendation that the School Board file Report No. 2006-013 as part of the public records of the School Board.

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

SCHEDULE/CANCEL
WORKSHOPS AND
MEETINGS

Chairman Pinkoson announced the following proposed meetings:

- a. Schedule Growth and Development Workshop for November 8, 2005, 10 a.m.
- b. Cancel November 15, 2005, School Board Meeting.
- c. Schedule School Board Reorganization Meeting for November 22, 2005, 9 a.m.
- d. Schedule School Board Meeting for November 22, 2005, immediately following Reorganization Meeting.

e. Cancel December 20, 2005, and January 3, 2006, Board meetings.
Motion by Mrs. Williams Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the administration's recommendation that the School Board schedule/cancel the above referenced workshops and meetings as presented.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The administration recommends approval of Consent Agenda items 1-5, 7, 9, and 11-14 as presented.

Motion by Mrs. Williams Seconded by Mrs. Childs

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

Consent Agenda Item 6: Mrs. Williams questioned what would happen if the \$8,000 budget was depleted prior to all schools being served. Staff stated that alternative services would be found to serve the students, but it was noted that this budget is normally not depleted.

Consent Agenda Item 8: In response to Mrs. Williams' question about which schools are served by Americorps' Alachua County Reads!, staff responded that the schools include Lake Forest, Idylwild, Prairie View, Rawlings and Metcalfe Elementary Schools.

Consent Agenda Item 10: Mrs. Williams inquired whether there is verification that the students are being taught the skills that are listed in the at-risk student mentoring contract with the Boys and Girls Club. Staff stated that this is the sixth year of the program and good progress is being made.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve Consent Agenda items 6, 8, and 10. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS--

CONCERNS WITH BOARD REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank referred to the procedure for making individual Board member requests but felt a recent discussion may have settled the issue.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Chairman Pinkoson feels the Board must decide whether it wants to pursue the Focus on the Future program. If so, she feels that a more concise vision statement and priorities must be developed. It was suggested that the committee be comprised of no more than 12-15 individuals, who are all well acquainted with the school system.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank reviewed the School Board's history of being progressive in matters of computer systems. He then referred to Deputy Superintendent Hollinger's ideas to increase teachers' capabilities to monitor student performance. He feels this goal may be hampered by the fact that the number of support staff has not kept pace with the expansion of computer/software in the schools. He believes an increase in staff will be an issue of importance in the near future and hopes the Board will view it favorably.

Mrs. Childs requested that Mrs. Ramos begin to track the number of times that citizens are asked to continue their comments to the latter part of the meeting. It was felt that there have been a very few times that this has occurred in the past.

Chairman Pinkoson asked the members to mark their calendars for a joint School Concurrency meeting with the County Commission on Tuesday, November 15, from 3:30 – 5 p.m. It was decided that the School Board meeting room should be offered as a preferable meeting site to the presently scheduled Health Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to adjourn the meeting.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.