

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 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; Sandy Hollinger, deputy superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board. W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent, was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pinkoson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by the AFJROTC cadets from Buchholz High School.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the minutes of October 18, 2005, as presented.

Mrs. Roy stated that Mr. Eubank's comment at the last Board meeting was incorrect when he said: *when Board members attend meetings with staff and outside agencies, the meeting should be publicly noticed, to ensure Sunshine laws are not violated.* She further stated that the Board attorney had confirmed to her that it is not a violation of the Sunshine law if a Board member meets with a representative of an outside agency and a district staff member. Mr. Eubank stated that his comment referred to the possibility of more than one Board member attending an outside meeting, and he stood by his comment.

In response to the chairman's request for clarification, Board Attorney Jim Lang stated that if two Board members attend a meeting concerning a matter on which there might be foreseeable action, the meeting should be noticed in accordance with the Sunshine law. If only one is in attendance, public notice is not required.

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to amend Mr. Eubank's comments in the minutes to state that 'when *two or more* Board members attend meetings with staff and outside agencies. . .'

Mr. Eubank stated that if a Board member plans to attend a meeting of an outside agency, other Board members should be informed, as a courtesy. They might then attend and notice would be required.

Mrs. Childs requested clarification on the amendment to the motion. She thought Mr. Eubank's point was that Board members should not attend meetings with staff or outside agencies without notifying other Board members, in order to prevent the possibility of violating the Sunshine law by having more than one member there.

Mr. Lang recommended that public notice be provided if there is a possibility of two or more Board members attending the same meeting. At a question from Gunnar Paulson, ACEA President, Mr. Lang clarified that this would not include social events, only meetings where subjects might be discussed on which the Board might later take action.

Chairman Pinkoson stated that an important aspect of this matter is that a Board member attending an outside agency meeting may provide input on an issue, while other Board members do not have the opportunity.

Mrs. Roy believes a Board member may attend any meeting or meet with any individual to get information needed to make policy. Mrs. Childs differentiated information-gathering meetings from agency meetings. When a Board member speaks at a public meeting, she believes it would be presumed that the comments are on behalf of the School Board. She feels that members should not attend meetings of organizations to which they are not assigned, unless it is an informal meeting with an individual to gather information. That way, no one is speaking for the Board, even unintentionally.

Chairman Pinkoson paraphrased the amendment to the motion: ‘if more than one Board member attends . . .’

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote: Motion failed 3-2

- Yes: Mrs. Roy
Mrs. Williams
- No: Mrs. Childs
Mr. Eubank
Mrs. Pinkoson

The question was called on the original motion.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1

- Yes: Mrs. Childs
Mr. Eubank
Mrs. Pinkoson
Mrs. Williams
- No: Mrs. Roy

ADOPTION
OF AGENDA

Chairman Pinkoson announced that action item H.6., Employee Case No. 0405-11, and consent agenda item I.6., Student Case(s), Nos. 0506-18-RHC and 0506-19-RHC, are being removed from the agenda. It was also announced that an update of page 6, Attachment B, has been provided.

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to adopt the November 1, 2005, meeting agenda as amended.

Mrs. Roy requested discussion prior to vote on Consent Agenda item 5, Inventory Droppage Report January 15, through October 20, 2005.

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

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Childs reminded the Board about *Stuff the Bus*, an Altrusa International project designed to provide clothing, school supplies and personal care items to homeless children attending Alachua County Schools. *Stuff the Bus* weekend is November 19-20, and it is hoped that the school bus (located next to the Ale House on Archer Road) will be filled with items that homeless children can use.

On behalf of Superintendent Boyd, Deputy Superintendent Hollinger publicly thanked Mrs. Pinkoson for her year as Chairman of the School Board, commending her for her upbeat, positive attitude, and her caring for children and families.

Chairman Pinkoson announced that Zak Ponton, an Eastside High School junior in the Institute of Culinary Arts, was named one of the ten finalists in the National High School Culinary Challenge. He has already won a \$4,000 scholarship, and next week he and Chef Billie Denunzio will travel to Miami where he will compete for a top prize of \$20,000. She extended congratulations and the Board's best wishes.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

PRESENTATION--
HEAD START POLICY
COUNCIL

Head Start Director Ann Crowell addressed the Board concerning the values and vision of the Head Start program and presented awards to the members of the 2005-2006 Head Start Policy Council.

RECOGNITION—
FLORIDA COUNCIL
FOR THE SOCIAL
STUDIES TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

Debbie Gallagher, Teacher Specialist, recognized Melanie Rae Murray, Lake Forest Elementary third-grade teacher, for being honored as Alachua County's Outstanding Social Studies Teacher of the Year by the Florida Council for the Social Studies.

REVISIONS TO THE
2005-2006 PUPIL
PROGRESSION PLAN

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

A public hearing was held beginning at 6:30 p.m. to consider revisions

to the 2005-2006 Pupil Progression Plan. This document reflects statutory and rule changes that govern the provision of services for exceptional students that became effective last fall in Florida. The changes are minimal.

Mrs. Williams has heard reports that, until the time of graduation, parents are unaware that their child will not graduate. Therefore, she requested that a procedure be implemented to inform all parents and guardians of the academic status of their students at the beginning of their senior year. Mrs. Hollinger stated that this is an excellent suggestion and she will work with principals and guidance departments to establish it.

Mrs. Roy pointed out two typographical errors and one omission, all of which Mrs. Hollinger indicated will be changed.

There were no public comments.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE
APPOINTMENT—
STAFF ATTORNEY

The Superintendent recommends the appointment of Mr. Tom Wittmer as Staff Attorney, effective November 14, 2005.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Mr. Paulson welcomed the return of Mr. Wittmer. Mrs. Child's also expressed that she is pleased to see Mr. Wittmer's return.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

2005 EDUCATIONAL
PLANT SURVEY

Mr. Ed Gable, Executive Director, Facilities, presented and reviewed the 2005 Educational Plant Survey, which is based on a template prepared by the Department of Education. It is a comprehensive look at all the facility needs in the district. No financial feasibility information or funding is attached.

Mrs. Roy pointed out instances where renovation is more costly than new construction. She then compared Buchholz and Eastside science labs, stating that she would like to see something added that would deal with the lack of science facilities at Eastside. Mr. Gable noted that this was not identified strongly during the Master Planning process. He stated that Eastside does not need a lot of additional stations, so science facilities would have to replace something else or present facilities would have to be renovated, which would be more costly.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the 2005 Educational Plant Survey as presented for submission to the Department of Education.

Mr. Eubank requested assurance that schools’ expectations have not been unduly raised, since approval of the Educational Plant Survey does not mean that funds are available. Mrs. Childs concurred, noting further that even if funds became available, projects would not necessarily be conducted exactly to the Survey specifications.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SBAC B0246—
BUCHHOLZ AND
EASTSIDE HIGH
SCHOOLS GYMNASIUM
AIR CONDITIONING

Bids for Project B0246, Buchholz and Eastside High Schools gymnasium air conditioning, were received on October 27, 2005. Mr. Gable presented the recommendations.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to reject the low-base bid, due to an incomplete bid submission. Therefore, it is recommended that the School Board accept the base bid of \$544,600 and Additive Alternates One and Two in the amount of \$37,400 and award a contract for construction totaling \$582,000 to RHCI, Gainesville, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within one hundred eighty consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in “The Notice to Proceed.”

The annual operating cost of these air conditioning units is approximately \$7,000 per year, which includes heating and cooling. Brief discussion on bidding instructions and procedure compliance was prompted because of the rejected low bid.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

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

The Public Hearing to consider revisions to Policy 6.164, Employment of Substitutes, Temporary, and Part-Time Instructional Staff, was held on October 4, 2005. The revisions comply with changes in the law.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the revisions to Policy 6.164, Employment of Substitutes, Temporary, and Part-Time Instructional Staff, as presented.

Dr. Joan Longstreth, Assistant Superintendent, explained that the term *highly qualified* means meeting the provision of law, which requires a

bachelor's degree, certified, and in-field.

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE 2005-2006 SALARY SCHEDULES FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS (BARGAINING UNIT MEMBERS) AND PROFESSIONAL/ TECHNICAL PERSONNEL (NON-BARGAINING UNIT MEMBERS)

Assistant Superintendent Keith Birkett reviewed the amendments to the 2005-2006 salary schedules for education support professionals (bargaining unit members) and professional/technical personnel (non-bargaining unit members).

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board approve changes to the 2005-2005 salary schedules for education support professionals (bargaining unit members) and professional/ technical personnel (non-bargaining unit members), as presented.

Several clarifications were noted.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-11, with item 5 being pulled for discussion at the request of Mrs. Roy.

Questions concerning obsolescence of computers were responded to, including how surplus is handled and how monies are returned to the budget.

Mrs. Williams posed a question concerning Item I.8, Use of E-Rate Funds to Upgrade Technology Infrastructure at Duval and Williams Elementary Schools. In response, Mr. Jim Utley, Chief Technical and Information Services Officer, explained that only two of seven eligible schools were selected for this upgrade because the project is very complicated and somewhat high risk. Once correct procedures are in place and they are comfortable with the success of the project, upgrades in the other five eligible schools will be undertaken.

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

DISCUSSION ITEM -- 2006 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Discussion was held on the proposed 2006 Legislative Priorities, which includes items from the 2005 program and from the 2005 and 2006 platforms of the Florida School Boards Association and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

Mr. Paulson presented information and ideas on tax structure, funding for advanced degrees and millage requests. Chairman Pinkoson

requested that the information be provided in written form. Mr. Eubank suggested that when the next school calendar is developed, storm days be scheduled at the end of the year. Concerning the ½ cent sales tax item, he felt there may be some confusion with the wording, since it refers to board-imposed when it would actually be voter-imposed. He supported Dr. Paulson’s advocacy of funding for advanced degrees.

Mrs. Williams strongly supported the requirement that Charter school students achieve at levels comparable to public school students.

Mrs. Roy read from a recent letter from FADSS concerning the FAIR amendment. She stated that the Board should move on this issue, which is bipartisan and supported by all who are interested in education. Chairman Pinkoson agreed and stated that this will be addressed at next week’s informal Board meeting.

Mrs. Child’s felt the priority list needs to be made more concise to ensure items will be read and considered. She also favors adding the FAIR Amendment. She felt Board members may need information on the degree of financial impact of each item, prior to making decisions on paring the list.

Board members will provide feedback to the Superintendent and Mrs. Jackie Johnson, PIO, who will revise the list.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank thanked the ACEA and expressed appreciation to Mr. Dave Hotary and his staff for developing excellent options for health insurance. He also stated that the consultants did an outstanding job.

Mrs. Roy expressed concern for the state of Math and Science programs and requested that Mr. Ricky Quintana, Science Supervisor, take an inventory of the equipment available in each school and return a report to the Board so that needs can be appropriately prioritized. Mrs. Childs and Mrs. Pinkoson shared the concern for deficiencies in math and science programs.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pinkoson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.