

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 6, 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: F. Wesley Eubank, chairman; Virginia S. Childs, vice-chairman; Tina Pinkoson, 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 Eubank, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by FFA members from Santa Fe High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion by Mrs. Williams Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the minutes of November 1 and November 22, 2005, as presented.

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

ADOPTION
OF AGENDA

Chairman Eubank announced that, pursuant to Administrative Code 120. 525, action item H.18., Adjustment to the Winter Holiday Schedule, is being added to the agenda. Also, consent agenda items I.7. and I.10. will be discussed, at the request of Ms. Williams and Ms. Roy, respectively.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to adopt the December 6, 2005, meeting agenda as amended.

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

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Childs thanked the community for their support of the Altrusa International's *Stuff the Bus* campaign, which raised over \$20,000 in clothing, school supplies and personal care items for homeless children attending Alachua County Schools. She also commented that she hopes that the Board will further discuss matters of interest from the recent Florida School Boards Association conference.

Mrs. Roy commended the creativity and hard work of High Springs teachers Judith Weaver, Brian Moody, and Cindy Gallup in their production of a 2006 calendar, which involved students in literature, history, writing, interviewing, and art through photography. The calendar highlights historical and other perspectives of the High Springs community. She also spoke highly of the recent *Healthy Lifestyles in the Public Schools* conference.

Mrs. Pinkoson reported that the United Way Success by Six program is off to a great start in the City of Alachua, where an after-school tutorial program has been organized. She also announced that Principals Gladys Wright and Susan Arnold were in the Hawthorne Holiday Parade, Mrs. Wright being the Grand Master. She commented on the high esteem the Hawthorne community has for these principals.

Mrs. Williams commended Metcalfe Elementary School’s efforts toward teaching healthy eating.

Mr. Eubank reported that twenty-five teachers recently earned certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the highest credential in the teaching profession. This brings the number of nationally certified teachers in Alachua County to 97. Newly certified teachers will be recognized in February.

RETIREES RECOGNITION Retiree recognition has been postponed until the January 17 meeting.

CITIZEN INPUT Mr. Kali Blount addressed the Board concerning the Voluntary Prekindergarten program and provided information on Black history.

PRESENTATION – KENYA’S STAR SAFETY CAMPAIGN Mrs. Jackie Johnson, Public Information Officer, reviewed the Kenya’s Star Campaign, and presented Kenya’s mother, Mrs. Rhonda Cook, with a framed memento of Kenya, a GHS student who was hit by a truck and killed on her way to school. A duplicate of the memento will be hung in the Kirby-Smith building as a reminder of the impact Kenya has had on the lives of students.

APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FEES Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Williams
The Superintendent recommends that the School Board reappoint Mr. James F. Lang as attorney for the School Board at the current hourly rate of \$160.00 per hour.
Chairman Eubank does not disagree with approving Mr. Lang’s appointment, but favors developing a more formal agreement. He cited Volusia County’s as an example.

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

ADOPTION OF THE 2005-2006 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER SALARY (\$33,527), PURSUANT TO SECTION 1001.395, F.S. Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs
Moved the Florida School Boards Association recommendation that the School Board adopt the salary (\$33,527) calculated in accordance with the formula for compensation of elected county constitutional officers established in Chapter 145, F.S.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to amend the motion to adopt a more easily calculated salary in the amount of \$33,500.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADMINISTRATIVE
APPOINTMENT—
DIRECTOR OF
TRANSPORTATION

The Superintendent reviewed the background of Mr. Steven Githens.

Motion by Mrs. Williams Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Mr. Steven Githens as Director of Transportation, effective November 14, 2005.

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

Chairman Eubank welcomed Mr. Githens.

PRESENTATION FOR
PROJECT SBAC CA834—
HIGH SPRINGS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
MASTER PLAN

Mr. Ed Gable, Facilities Director; Mr. Jeffery Means, High Springs Principal; and Mr. Les Long, Long and Associates; addressed the Board concerning the High Springs Community School Master Plan.

Mrs. Pinkoson commented on the parking problems at the site and welcomed any request for Board assistance.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the Site Master Plan prepared by Long & Associates, Inc., Tampa, Florida, as presented.

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

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES RANKING AND
FEES FOR PROJECT SBAC
S0505—EMERGENCY
SHELTERS RETROFIT

Interviews for this project were held on November 29, 2005. Ranking of firms and fee negotiations were presented.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to enter into a contract with the firm of fci Structural Engineers, Inc., Winter Park, Florida, as the design engineer for this project, including a professional services lump sum fee not to exceed \$101,760.

Mr. Ed Gable, Facilities Director, responded to Board member questions:

- The cost will be reimbursed through grant funds.
- The project was advertised, with only fci showing interest.
- Mechanical and electrical engineering services are not anticipated and will cost extra if they are needed.
- It does not cover animal shelter needs, but these needs are being considered in other ways.
- Correspondence from the County Fire Chief delineated some concerns and referred to possible legal action. The concerns are being addressed.
- All possible will be done to ensure that costs are not all at the expense of the School Board, but rather shared with other appropriate agencies.

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

PROCLAMATION –
NATIONAL INCLUSIVE
SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. Tom Ringwood, Teacher Specialist, read the National Inclusive Schools Week Proclamation, which confirms a commitment to providing students’ education in schools and classrooms that are welcoming and capable of educating all of the communities’ children.

Motion by Mrs. Williams Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to proclaim December 5-9, 2005, as National Inclusive Schools Week.

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

AMENDMENTS TO
SPECIAL PROGRAMS
AND PROCEDURES
FOR EXCEPTIONAL
STUDENTS DOCUMENT
FOR 2004-2005 THROUGH
2006-2007

A public hearing was held October 18, 2005, to consider amendments to the Special Programs and Procedures for Exceptional Students Document for 2004-2005 through 2006-2007.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the amendments to the Special Programs and Procedures for Exceptional Students Document for 2004-2005 through 2006-2007 as presented.

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE
2005-2006 PUPIL
PROGRESSION PLAN –
SECOND READING

A public hearing was held November 1, 2005, to consider amendments to the 2005-2006 Pupil Progression Plan. Language was added to ensure parent notification of students’ graduation status.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the amendments to the 2005-2006 Pupil Progression Plan as amended.

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

CAMP CRYSTAL
SUMMER FEE INCREASE

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the 20% increase in summer camp fees as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

2006 LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the 2006 Legislative Priorities as presented.

Minor format changes were agreed upon.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. E-0405-11

In July 2005, a teacher and the Board signed a Return to Work Agreement. The teacher has requested a hearing on a charge of violation of the Agreement.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to suspend the teacher with pay, effective December 7, 2005, pending the outcome of the hearing.

Mr. Gunnar Paulson, ACEA President, addressed the Board, stating that the Board does not have complete information. He requested any arbitration be postponed until the new information can be reviewed and considered.

Mrs. Roy expressed concern about the documentation and does not want to take action against the employee until it can be determined if the employee’s problem has been corrected.

Superintendent Boyd reiterated his recommendation, stating that if arbitration finds the Agreement was violated, he will recommend dismissal and a hearing will be held where the full three years of documentation will be provided to the Board.

At a question from Chairman Eubank, Staff Attorney Tom Wittmer stated that the employee’s benefits through the Florida Retirement System would not be in jeopardy if the Board goes forward with the suspension with pay.

While expressing regret that the employee did not get help sooner, Mrs. Childs felt the concern must be for the students. They have been without their regular teacher 20% of the time in the first few months of the school year.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1
Yes: Mrs. Childs
Mr. Eubank
Mrs. Pinkoson
Mrs. Williams
No: Mrs. Roy

AMENDMENTS TO THE
2005-2006 SALARY
SCHEDULE, OTHER
COMPENSATION

A 21st Century Grant Tutor must be added to the Salary Schedule for the duration of the grant.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the changes to the 2005-2006 Salary Schedule, Other Compensation, as presented.

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

QUALIFIED ZONE
ACADEMY BONDS
RESOLUTION NO. COP-
QZAB-05-10

Motion by Mrs. Roy Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation that the School Board adopt Resolution No. COP-QZAB-05-10. “A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance on behalf of the School Board of Alachua County, Florida, of not Exceeding \$1,794,000 Taxable Certificates of Participation. Series 2005-QZAB, for the purpose of Lease-Purchase Financing of Educational Facilities for the School Board of Alachua County, Florida; Approving the Major Financing Documents; Approving a Negotiated Sale of the Certificates to the Purchaser, Subject to Certain Conditions; and Providing an Effective Date.”

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

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A correction was noted on the dates of the budget amendments: September 6, 2005, was corrected to October 1, 2005.

Budget Amendment No. 3 – General Fund; Budget Amendment No. 4 – Debt Service Funds; Budget Amendment No. 5 – Capital Projects Funds; and Budget Amendment No. 6 – Special Revenue Funds, including all budget changes for the period of October 1, 2005, through October 31, 2005.

Motion by Mrs. Roy Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve Budget Amendments Nos 3, 4, 5, and 6 as presented.

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

ANNUAL AUDIT REPORTS
FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS,
FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2005

Mr. Scott Ward reviewed auditors' comments.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board approve the annual audit reports for the charter schools and the Alachua County Public Schools Foundation, Inc., for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, and be filed as part of the public records of the School Board.

It was explained that Mr. Ward will be in contact with the schools regarding their intent in responding to audit findings.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CLASS-SIZE REDUCTION
LAWSUIT

Superintendent Boyd reviewed the background of the Florida School Boards Association lawsuit.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to join the Florida School Boards Association in their lawsuit opposing the Department of Education's interpretation that co-teaching cannot be used in calculating class-size reduction.

Mrs. Pinkoson stated for the public's information that the amount of the School Board's contribution to the lawsuit will be a maximum of \$4,000. At a question from Mrs. Roy, it was clarified that there is a possibility of the matter being settled out of court, thereby avoiding the expenditure entirely.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
FOR THE GUARD AND
RESERVE

A statement of support for the National Guard and Reserve was read by the Superintendent.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the statement of support for the Guard and Reserve as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADJUSTMENT TO THE
WINTER HOLIDAY
SCHEDULE

Superintendent Boyd reviewed the proposed storm day change, which would move the scheduled February 17, 2006, storm day to January 2, 2006. Students do not attend on storm days and ten-month employees do not work. Twelve-month employees may apply for vacation or personal leave.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to change the February 17, 2006, storm day to January 2, 2006, with 12-month employees having the option to apply for vacation or personal leave on January 2.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-13, with the understanding that discussion has been requested for items 7 and 10.

Staff responded to Mrs. Williams questions concerning item I.7., School Improvement Guide.

Brief discussion was held on item I. 10, Technical Assistance Grant for the Early Completion of the Update to the Public Schools Interlocal Agreement, as requested by Mrs. Roy. She expressed concern that the Board not be pressured into any decisions that are not in the best interest of Alachua County Public Schools. Chairman Eubank concurred, agreeing that all input is welcome but that the final decision will be that which the Board members believe is correct.

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

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

DISCUSSION ITEMS--

COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS FOR
BOARD MEMBERS

Proposed committee assignments were discussed and agreed upon.

SCHEDULE
FOCUS ON THE
FUTURE WORKSHOP

Jan 10, 2006, 1:30 p.m., was agreed upon for a Focus on the Future Workshop, where the strategic plan will be revisited.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

There were no Board member requests.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Williams Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.