

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 21, 2006

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.

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

Moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2006, as presented.

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

ADOPTION
OF AGENDA

Chairman Eubank announced changes to the agenda as follows:
Delete Item D.1., Sunshine Regional Scholar; modify Action Item I.3. to remove the reference to the 2007-2008 School Calendar; renumber High Springs Community School Waiver Request from 3 to 4; Change Consent Agenda Item 4 to number 5.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to adopt the February 21, 2006, meeting agenda as amended.

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

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

RETIREE RECOGNITION

Retirees were greeted by Board members and Superintendent Boyd and presented with certificates and lapel pins. They were commended for their service and wished well in their retirement.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Boyd noted that a packet of information on School Concurrence was provided to Board members for the upcoming Public Workshop scheduled for 5 p.m., February 22, Kirby-Smith Boardroom.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES--
MARCH OF DIMES
WALK-AMERICA

Katie Harris, Chairman, March of Dimes Chain Reaction Walk America team, welcomed participation in Gainesville's Walk America on Saturday, March 25.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to approve Consent Agenda items 1-12, with item 4 being pulled for separate discussion and vote.

February 21, 2006

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ALACHUA COUNTY
VALUE ADJUSTMENT
BOARD, 2006

As provided for in Chapter 194, Florida Statutes, the Value Adjustment Board is comprised of three County Commissioners and two School Board members. It is requested that two School Board members and one alternate be elected to serve on the 2006 Alachua County Value Adjustment Board.

At the December 6, 2005, Board meeting, Wes Eubank and Tina Pinkoson agreed to serve on the Alachua County Value Adjustment Board, with Ginger Childs as alternate.

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board elect Wes Eubank and Tina Pinkoson to serve on the Alachua County Value Adjustment Board, with Ginger Childs as alternate.

At a question from Mrs. Roy, Chairman Eubank explained the function of the Value Adjustment Board.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SBAC PROJECT
NUMBERS B0432,
C0432, D0432, E0432,
AND A0433—
CHANGE ORDERS
NUMBER TWO FOR 2004
NEW CLASSROOM
ADDITIONS

These five change orders are for the elementary classroom additions at Hidden Oak, Norton, Talbot, Wiles, and Chiles. They add a total of \$32,800 to the construction contracts for reimbursement costs related to the background checks required by the Jessica Lunsford Act. They add no calendar days.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Change Orders as presented.

Mr. Ed Gable, Executive Director, Facilities, explained that the Jessica Lunsford Act requires fingerprinting of workers on campus. This Act was instituted after the workers were under contract for these projects, and the change Orders will cover the fingerprinting cost. In the future, the fingerprinting requirement will be cited in all bid specifications, so contractors will be aware and can include the cost in their proposal.

Discussion was held on whether such payment was the Board's intent, as understood by Mr. Gable.

The discussion was suspended so as to proceed to a Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

CONSIDER PROPOSED
REASSIGNMENT OF

This Public Hearing was scheduled to consider the proposed reassignment of students living in the Uptown village, Walnut Creek

STUDENTS

and Eden Park developments for the 2006-2007 school year. On May 4, 2004, the School Board approved the reassignment of students in three new developments to schools other than their zoned schools, due to the projected enrollments approaching or exceeding capacities at Glen Springs and Rawlings Elementary schools. After a recent review of this situation, it appears that the zoned schools can now accommodate the 59 students coming from these neighborhoods.

Letters have been sent to parents of all affected students, informing them that approval will be granted for their children to stay at the reassigned school, if they so desire. Transportation arrangements are being worked on for that situation.

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

SBAC PROJECT
NUMBERS B0432,
C0432,D0432, E0432,
AND A0433—
CHANGE ORDERS
NUMBER TWO FOR 2004
NEW CLASSROOM
ADDITIONS (continued)

Concerning project Change Orders, it was noted that litigation is possible, should the Board not approve them.

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE
2006-2007 SCHOOL
CALENDAR – FIRST
READING

A revised calendar for the 2006-2007 school year was presented, which changes the January 16, 2007, Storm Day to January 2, and the November 22, 2007, Holiday to a Teacher/Pupil Holiday. It is also recommended that Storm Days henceforth be called Flex Days, as it more accurately reflects their use.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to schedule a public hearing for March 7, 2006, at 6:30 p.m., to consider amendments to the 2006-2007 School Calendar.

Brief discussion was held on the difficulties of coordinating Spring break with UF. There was no public input.

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

HIGH SPRINGS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
WAIVER REQUEST

In order for all grades (K-8) at High Springs Community School to follow the same weekly schedule, they are requesting a waiver of Article IX, Section 12(c) of the Collective Bargaining Agreement governing daily contact minutes for middle school teachers. Teachers in grades 6-8 will teach 262 minutes four days per week and 205 minutes one day per week. The waiver request has been signed and approved by ACEA representatives.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board approve High Springs Community School's contract waiver request as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE

Mr. Tom Wittmer, staff attorney, reported that a student was expelled from Levy County for the remainder of this school year and, if the Board determines, the 2006-07 school year. The student violated Levy County School Board Policy by repeated misconduct of a serious nature. The student wishes to enroll in Alachua County.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board enter a Final Order permitting the student to enroll in this district and assigning the student to the Horizon Center, effective February 22, 2006, for the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year, and the first semester of the 2006-07 school year.

Moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to permit the student to enroll in the Horizon Center.

Board members expressed serious concerns with this recommendation:

- A precedent may be set by accepting an expelled student from a surrounding county.
- The case did not go through the Board's Hearing Officer.
- The student has an excessive number of absences, based on disciplinary problems.
- Lack of interest has been demonstrated by parents & student.
- There is a lack of information related to the student's GPA.
- Horizon is near capacity and an out-of-county student would fill a spot that might be needed for an in-county student.
- No funding is received for an out-of-county student.
- Need to hear from Levy County officials if this family is serious about getting this student into school.
- The student should be provided with information on Camp Challenge as an alternative.

Superintendent Boyd agreed with the Board's concerns and apologized for presenting the case in this manner.

The motion to assign the student to the Horizon Center was defeated.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

The following Board member requests were made:

Mrs. Roy:

- Look into a geothermal system for the Finley AC and heating system that needs replacement. She has forwarded an article to Mr. Gable about the efficiency of these systems. While more costly to install, she stated that the cost is recouped very quickly in saved energy. It has the longest life of any system and is adaptable to retrofit. She requested this be considered for all replacements.
- During student hearings, provide parents with complete alternative placement information, not just Horizon Center.
- Have the Superintendent contact appropriate parties in High Springs to apprise them of any potential for building a school there.

Mr. Eubank noted that the possibility of holding meetings in interested outlying communities is being considered.

Mrs. Pinkoson:

- Because of inquiries she has received from citizens, she requested information on how much money has been spent on the Williams Media Center, as well as a list of the renovation projects.

Mrs. Childs:

- Email her the NEOLA information for the February 24 workshop.

Mr. Eubank:

- Received vehicle insurance information at a recent Florida School Boards Insurance Trust meeting. He requested that, beginning with the 2006-07 school year, the cost of a vehicle's first year of insurance be placed into the department/school budget. Subsequent insurance costs will be the responsibility of the department/school.
- Expressed concern about School Board meeting telecasts being regularly preempted by other agency committee meetings and would like to work with Cox Cable on a possible alternative.
- Expressed interest in establishing a program whereby the community would be able to visit classrooms to see what is happening in the school system. He referred to the County's ACCESS program as an example. He is also interested in looking at the possibility of a joint-use elementary school facility in the Jonesville area. He will bring the matter up at the March 20 Joint Meeting with the City and County.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.