

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
March 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. Childs                             Seconded by Mrs. Williams

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

Mrs. Roy requested inclusion of an additional comment she made at the March 7 meeting, which expressed her hope that someone will be held accountable for the Head Start budget shortfall, so it won't happen in the future.

The question was called on the minutes as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION  
OF AGENDA

Chairman Eubank announced changes to the agenda as follows:

Pull from Consent Agenda, for discussion and separate vote as Action Item H.7.:

- Item 3, Attach D, Item D, Retail Pizza Delivery to District Schools – Annual Contract.

Pull from Consent Agenda for discussion only:

- Item 3, Attachment D, Item A, Applicant and Employee Drug and Alcohol Testing – Annual Contract
- Item 3, Attachment D, Item C, Hidden Oak Elementary School Custodial Services – Annual Contract
- Item G.10., Contract With Alachua/Bradford Regional Workforce Board
- Item G. 11., Tech Prep Articulation Agreement

Motion by Mrs. Childs                             Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to adopt the March 7, 2006, meeting agenda as amended.

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

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

RECOGNITION –  
PRAIRIE VIEW —  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
HISTORY SONG

Fourth- and fifth-grade students from Prairie View Academy, led by teacher Cynthia Mingo, sang a song that incorporated a multitude of facts about outstanding African-Americans.

EASTSIDE HIGH  
SCHOOL BOYS  
BASKETBALL TEAM

Eastside High School basketball team members, coaches and other staff members were recognized for the outstanding achievement of winning the 2006 FHSAA Class 5A State Basketball Championship.

RETIREES

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

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Roy congratulated the student musicians, dancers, poets and writers who were featured recently in the Spotlight on Youth concert at the Performing Arts Center.

Mrs. Childs congratulated all involved in the recent Middle School basketball playoffs on their talent and good sportsmanship. Lincoln was the champion for the boys' league and Westwood for the girls.

Mrs. Williams reminded everyone of the March 25 March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon.

Mr. Eubank:

- congratulated Ms. Billie Denunzio and her students in the Institute of Culinary Arts, who took first place in all three categories of a recent competition, winning nearly \$155,000 in scholarships and qualifying for the National competition in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- reported that the District's Kenya's Star project, developed by Public Information Officer Jackie Johnson, has won a first place Sunshine Medallion Award from the Sunshine State School Public Relations Association.
- reported that The Turning Hour Project, a program that combines literacy lessons with important messages about suicide prevention, has been recognized by Governor Jeb Bush. The project was developed jointly by Alachua County Public School educators, Florida author Shelley Fraser Mickle and community experts in suicide prevention.
- Americorps members were in attendance as part of a citizenship training.

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PUBLIC HEARING --  
PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO  
POLICY 6.111,  
PROHIBITION OF  
SEXUAL

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

The proposed amendment to Policy 6.111, Prohibition of Sexual Harassment By Employees, incorporates and combines provisions of current School Board Policy 6.112, Prohibition of Race/National Origin Harassment by Employees, to address all forms of prohibited harassment by employees. Current Policy 6.112 is proposed for repeal.

HARASSMENT BY  
EMPLOYEES, AND  
REPEAL OF POLICY  
6.112, PROHIBITION OF  
RACE/NATIONAL  
ORIGIN HARASSMENT  
BY EMPLOYEES.

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Mr. Wittmer responded to Board member questions about various items in the Policy document. Mrs. Roy questioned the wording of one section and inquired whether the grievance procedures referred to in item (6) include all the procedures that were eliminated in Policy 6.112. She wants to be certain that employees know how to file a complaint.

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

CITIZEN INPUT

Ms. Gail Hotaling, representing ACEA, addressed the Board concerning a rally against Effective Compensation Performance Pay Plan (E-Comp), which will be held on April 25 at Westside Park at 4 p.m. Mr. Eubank stated that concerns about E-Comp will be conveyed to legislators when Board members go to Tallahassee on March 22.

Mr. Evan Pitts, parent, addressed the Board concerning a safe environment at Idylwild and other schools, as students transition from home to school and from school to appropriate transportation home.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Childs                      Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve Consent Agenda items 1 - 2 and 4 -14. Item 3, Attachment D, Item D, Retail Pizza Delivery to District Schools – Annual Contract, was pulled for separate vote.

Pulled for discussion by Mrs. Roy:

- Attachment D, Item A, Applicant and Employee Drug and alcohol Testing – Annual Contract. Purchasing Director Wayne Hackett verified that this is only for drug and alcohol testing.
- Attachment D, Item C. Mrs. Roy asked why custodial services were being contracted at Hidden Oak, when other schools might also have a need. Assistant Superintendent Keith Birkett explained that if a school has a problem filling a custodial position, funding for that position can be used for a contracted service, which several schools are presently using. Mrs. Williams noted that it is difficult to fill custodian positions because Hidden Oak is located so far from downtown.
- Item 7, AP Examinations. Mr. Birkett stated that this cost is taken from AP funding.
- Item G. 10, Contract With Alachua/Bradford Regional Workforce Board. Funding is from a grant. Mrs. Childs wanted it to be clear that an affirmative vote of the Board in no way indicates funding beyond the grant period. She feels this should be noted in all grant projects.
- Item G. 11, Tech Prep Articulation Agreement. It was clarified that this is a magnet program, with transportation available if needed.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE  
APPOINTMENT—  
LOFTEN HIGH SCHOOL  
PRINCIPAL

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the appointment of Dr. Chet Sanders as principal of Loften High School, effective June 7, 2006.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

REASSIGNMENT OF  
STUDENTS FOR THE  
2006-07 SCHOOL YEAR—  
SECOND READING

A public hearing was held on February 21, 2006, regarding the reassignment of students who reside in the Uptown Village, Walnut Creek and Eden Park developments.

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the reassignment of students who reside in the Uptown Village, Walnut Creek and Eden Park developments for the 2006-2007 school year as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PROCLAMATION—  
APRIL AS “JAZZ  
APPRECIATION MONTH”

Ms. Christie Shaw, curriculum supervisor, read the proclamation.

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming the month of April as “Jazz Appreciation Month” in Alachua County schools.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Scott Koons, president, Gainesville Friends of Jazz and Blues, thanked the Board for adopting the proclamation and for their continuing support for arts education. He presented instructional materials for jazz education and invited a Board designee to an April 11 jazz concert.

AUTHORIZATION TO  
PROCEED WITH  
PLANNING FOR A HALF-  
CENT (0.5%) SCHOOL  
CAPITAL OUTLAY  
SURTAX

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to authorize the administration to proceed with planning for a November 2006 referendum on a half-cent (0.5%) School Capital Outlay Surtax.

Mr. Ed Gable, Executive Director, Facilities, conducted a brief overview on the half-cent sales tax plan.

Mr. Eubank spoke of the importance of communicating with the public concerning the sales tax issue. He stated that when the Certificates of Participation (COPs) were approved two years ago, the Board did a poor

job of informing the public that the focus of the COPS spending was to come in line with the state-mandated class-size amendment and to upgrade aging and deteriorating schools, particularly on the east side, where 59% of the funds were spent.

Mr. Eubank further stated that the problem of communication with the public has only grown more complicated with school concurrency and impact fees. The County CHOICES plan has further eroded public support. Stressing the importance of community involvement, he cited the example of Leon County's sales tax initiative. The school board established a task force of 76 people who looked at what the board said the needs were, observed those sites and made recommendations. Pursuant to that, an oversight committee comprised of the superintendent and 8-10 community members then ensured that the school board members lived up to the commitments made when they sold the public on the sales tax initiative. Mr. Eubank believes these are the types of things needed before this Board moves forward. He wants to find out what the community will support and then take action.

Mr. Eubank believes there will be only one opportunity for the sales tax referendum and hopes that the motion will be amended to remove the November timeframe. This would allow time to get the community involved. In the meanwhile, the Board can authorize the Superintendent and staff to start planning.

Mrs. Childs believes that community awareness is growing and pointed out that costs and issues will only increase if the timeline is extended.

Mrs. Roy stated that she cannot support a sales tax initiative without an impact fee, since impact fees place a greater responsibility for the cost of new construction on new homeowners in high-growth areas. Further, she believes some items can be cut from the needs assessment, the new high school, for example. The 20-year timeline is also of concern to her.

Mrs. Childs pointed out that the Board has not yet established either a timeline or the amount of money to be raised. The proposed plan will be reviewed by schools, go to schoolwide committees and then come back to the Board. Decisions on the timeline and dollar amount would then be decided upon.

Mr. Evan Pitts, citizen, favors setting a date, believes there are other matters to explore on this issue, and feels it is inadvisable to address sales tax and impact fees simultaneously.

Mr. Dwight Adams, citizen, believes that impact fees should be promoted along with a sales tax and a November date would be too soon.

Mr. Peter Rebbman, citizen, concurred with Mr. Eubank's suggestion to eliminate a date for the referendum.

Mrs. Pinkoson read a statement outlining her support for the tax. While she has no problem with impact fees for water, sewage and roads, she included the following in stating her opposition to impact fees for schools:

- The 25 counties that have enacted impact fee ordinances to help with school construction are large-student-growth counties. Alachua County enrollment is declining; student population is shifting.
- The State Constitution declares it a paramount duty to provide for the education of all children. Impact fees would, in effect, require parents in new developments to pay a user charge for educational facilities, while parents of other children in the district would not, although all receive the same benefits from the facility. Families who move into existing homes would not pay, but those children also impact capacity.

Motion by: Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to amend the original motion to read: Moved to authorize the administration to proceed with planning for a referendum on a half-cent (0.5%) School Capital Outlay Surtax.

Hearing no second, Chairman Eubank passed the gavel to Vice-Chairman Childs.

Seconded by: Mr. Eubank

Mrs. Williams stated that she favors continuation of the planning process, with a date recommendation coming back to the Board later.

Mr. Adams addressed the Board again to state that if impact fees are not included, there will be a very determined opposition to the tax.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1

Yes: Mrs. Childs  
Mr. Eubank  
Mrs. Pinkoson  
Mrs. Williams

No: Mrs. Roy

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

**\*[Mrs. Roy's vote was later changed; therefore, the original motion as amended actually passed 4-1, rather than 5-0.]**

BID AWARD FOR  
PROJECT SBAC G0410—  
BUCHHOLZ AND  
EASTSIDE HIGH  
SCHOOLS BOILER  
REPLACEMENT

Bids for the construction of Project SBAC G0410, Buchholz and Eastside High Schools Boiler Replacement, were received on March 7, 2006.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson                      Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board reject the low-base bid for failure to comply with the specified prior experience requirements. Therefore, it is recommended that Board accept the second low-base bid of \$398,715 and award a contract for construction to W. W. Gay Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Gainesville. Completion shall be within one hundred twenty (120) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

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

CHANGE ORDER  
NUMBER THREE FOR  
PROJECT SBAC E0432—  
WILES ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL NEW  
CLASSROOM BUILDING

This change order adds \$58,912.56 to the contract, revising the contract to \$1,823,451.39 and represents costs for removal and replacement of existing unsuitable soils. This change order adds forty-one (41) consecutive calendar days to the contract time.

Motion by Mrs. Roy                                      Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize execution of this change order as presented.

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

RETAIL PIZZA  
DELIVERY TO  
DISTRICT SCHOOLS -  
ANNUAL CONTRACT

This bid establishes fixed rates for pizza and scheduled pizza delivery to District schools.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson                      Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that bids with M. F. Pizza Co. (dba Five Star Pizza), Bryant & Bryant Inc., (dba Godfather's Pizza), Greater Gainesville Pizza Hut, LLC, and Hungry Howie's Pizza and Subs be renewed for the period beginning July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2007. The estimated annual contract amount is \$360,000.

Mrs. Roy questioned whether this contract should be entered into prior to a recommendation from the Superintendent's Wellness Committee. Mr. Hackett stated that if the Wellness Committee's recommendation in any way conflicts with the contract, the contract could be terminated.

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

\* **Regarding Item H.4., Authorization to Proceed With Planning for a Half-Cent (0.5%) School Capital Outlay Surtax, Mrs. Roy requested that her vote be changed, as she is not in favor of the motion as amended. (The vote was originally recorded as a 5-0 because there was**

CITIZEN INPUT	<b>no negative vote.)</b> There was no citizen input.
BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT REQUESTS	Mrs. Roy requested that Board recognition for National Merit Finalists be scheduled.
ADJOURNMENT	Upon a motion by Mrs. Williams, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.