

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 19, 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. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of September 5, 2006, as presented.

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

ADOPTION
OF AGENDA

The Chairman announced the following changes to the agenda:

- Attachment E, District Consultant Services: Instructional Technology Department is changed to Information Resources.
- Item H., Consent Agenda: The number of items for approval in the Recommended Action is changed from 16 to 18.
- Item I.5., Constitutional Challenge to Florida Schools of Excellence Commission: Recommended Action is changed to read: the Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the resolution to be included as a plaintiff in litigation challenging Chapter 2006-302, Laws of Florida, and appropriate the initial sum of \$2,500 toward legal fees and costs.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to adopt the September 19, 2006, meeting agenda as amended.

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

RECOGNITION

RETIREES

The Board and Superintendent recognized Linda Lavery and Joel Smith for their years of dedicated service.

FIVE-STAR
SCHOOL AWARDS

A. Quinn Jones Center and Chiles, Hidden Oak, Talbot, and Wiles Elementary Schools earned the Florida Department of Education Five-Star Award for exemplary community service.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Pinkoson congratulated Chiles Elementary Principal Ann Mullally for Citizenship Day activities. She also commended staff for the informative High School Curriculum Workshop held last week.

Mrs. Williams commended Duval Elementary on their presentation of *Proud to Be an American*. She stated that she hopes the League of Women Voters was in attendance, but if not, other opportunities will be available because all schools are involved in civic activities.

CITIZEN INPUT

- A student expressed concern over how changes at Lofton will affect her senior year.
- Retiree Linda Lavery expressed how much she has enjoyed working in the district, particularly commending A. Quinn Jones Center.
- Rose Koenig, Williams Elementary PTA President, addressed the Board regarding the inadequacies of the Williams Media Center.

PRESENTATION --
CHARITY QUILTS
FOR CLINICS

The background of the Quilters Guild of Alachua County was recounted and the group generously presented ten elementary schools with handmade quilts for their clinics. The Quilters have plans to present a quilt to each of the remaining elementary schools, as soon as they are completed.

PUBLIC HEARING --

2006 -2007 PUPIL
PROGRESSION PLAN

The regular Board meeting was recessed and a Public Hearing convened. Dr. Sandi Anusavice, Director, Secondary Curriculum, reviewed a change to the Middle School Algebra section of the 2006-2007 Pupil Progression Plan and responded to Board member questions.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs
Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in items H.1. – H.18.

Mr. Eubank stated he was pleased to see that a vehicle that is being purchased is a hybrid.

Dr. Anusavice provided verbal information on Item 18, High School Majors, and responded to Board member questions.

Mrs. Childs suggested that this information be included in the Pupil Progression Plan in the future.

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

RENEWAL OF
CONTRACTS FOR
HEALTH, LIFE AND 125
PLAN AND APPROVAL
OF DEPOSITORY FOR 125
FUNDS FOR THE 2007

Mr. Dave Hotary, Benefits Director, reviewed highlights of the Health, Life and 125 Plan and responded to Board member questions.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve renewal of

PLAN YEAR

contracts for Health/Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Life/American General and 125 Plan/Fringe Benefits Management Company and approval of depository for the 125 Plan funds with Wachovia, N.A.

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

PROPOSED POLICY 8.34,
SCHOOL WELLNESS –

A Public Hearing was held on August 15, 2006, to consider proposed Policy 8.34, School Wellness.

SECOND READING

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board adopt Policy 8.34, School Wellness, as presented.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt Policy 8.34, School Wellness, as presented.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to amend Wellness Policy Section 4.e., Beverages, to include only item 4: "Follow current American Beverage Association guidelines, (excluding flavored milk) pending availability;" and to amend Section 4.e., Snacks, by deleting numbers 1–6 and replacing them with the statement: "The guidelines of the ADA will be followed." [Note: The official name of the guidelines is: USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.]

Mrs. Roy disagreed with changing the specific guidelines that were recommended by the Wellness Committee.

Mrs. Child's agreed with a suggestion from Mr. Eubank to address the A La Carte section in her amendment by deleting "Eliminate fryers from school kitchens," and replacing it with the statement: "The guidelines of the American Dietary Association will be followed." [Note: The official name of the guidelines is: USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.]

Mrs. Roy stated that it was clarified at the last meeting that all a la carte items served to students will be held to the same criteria as listed for the snack items. She believes this clarification should be incorporated now, as her request was made previously. In response to Mrs. Roy's concern, Mrs. Childs requested that her motion be further amended to combine the categories of Snacks and A la carte. Mrs. Pinkoson, as the person who seconded the motion, agreed. Mrs. Roy felt these changes defeat the specific work of the Wellness Committee.

Mrs. Maria Eunice, Food Service Director, clarified that the USDA fat and saturated fat limitations are the same as currently specified in the snack policy.

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 4-1

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

OASIS ENRICHMENT
ACADEMY

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board terminate the charter contract with The Oasis Enrichment Academy, Inc., effective September 20, 2006.

Superintendent Boyd conducted a presentation of information on the status of The Oasis Enrichment Academy, which included:

- Enrollment July 2005–August 2006
- Comparison of Revenues and Expenditures July 2005–August 2006
- Fund Balance July 2005–August 2006
- August 2006 Financial Summary, including assets and liabilities

Accounts payable are \$54,900, not including amounts due to employees. Dr. Boyd stated that the school's financial situation has a negative impact on student education issues, such as the purchasing of instructional materials and supplies and hiring certified staff. The present operation of Oasis is substantially different from that which was proposed in its application and agreed to in the contract which was approved on June 20, 2006. With only 14 students, the nature of the Oasis program is no longer what the School Board agreed to in granting the charter contract.

The Superintendent stated that parents would be informed of student options to enroll: (1) in their zoned school, (2) in another charter school that has room and accepts them, (3) as a group in Lincoln Middle School. Enrolling as a group at Lincoln is the administration's favored option. It would allow them to return as a group to Oasis, should the State Board reverse the School Board decision and find a way to fund the school.

Questions were raised about unpaid bills to private companies. It was also noted that payrolls have not been met.

The Alachua County African American Accountability Alliance asked the Board to consider the fact that Oasis students were not doing well in traditional school and to keep the school open for the remainder of the year, or until a solid plan is in place. Also on behalf of the Alachua County African American Accountability Alliance, Mr. Rodney Long asked that the school be kept open until the community can find a way out of the financial problems.

Numerous parents and citizens supported an extension for Oasis, saying they did not want their children back in public school and citing their students' success at Oasis. They requested the Board's reconsideration.

In regard to requests for the Board to "be fair," Mrs. Pinkoson stated that this is an extremely difficult decision for the Board to have to make but reminded the parents that the situation has been ongoing. The Board has given many chances over the course of the last couple of years but must deal with its responsibility in the face of the rising debt. She also pointed out that being taught by teachers who are not certified is not in the best interest of the students. She explained that the reason school was allowed to open this year was because, at a meeting with Ms. Jones in July, the Board was assured that 40 students would be enrolled by school opening. The present enrollment of 14 is not enough to meet the financial need.

Mrs. Childs commended the parents for their commitment to their children. She explained, however, that it is not possible for the Board to pay the \$70,000 in Oasis debt. It is not legal, nor would it solve the problem, since the debt would again begin to accumulate. She also pointed out that sixth-graders have to pass every course to go on to high school. Now, in the sixth week of school and without certified teachers, the students are already behind. It is the School Board's responsibility to look out for the education of these children. Mrs. Childs further stated that the Board had requested that the Oasis Board of Directors come to the last meeting, and to this meeting, to explain from where the funds would come to keep the school open. No contact has been received from anyone on the Oasis Board. She also expressed concern about Oasis paying consultant fees to a private company. Mrs. Childs stated that during the appeal process, the community can consider whether they can raise sufficient funds for the school. In the meantime, the Board must see that the students get the education they require and deserve.

Mrs. Williams believes that Ms. Jones wants to do the very best to teach the children, but as an overseer of taxpayers' money, Mrs. Williams cannot in good conscience vote to keep Oasis open, with its overhead and liabilities. If there was a community plan, she would be more than happy to consider it.

Mrs. Roy agreed with the preceding Board member comments. Concerning the July meeting with Ms. Jones, she pointed out that Ms. Jones had said that the community was behind her, that she had

things in the works to raise the money. None of those assurances came to pass. Mrs. Roy reiterated that the Board is not able to financially bail out Oasis. Concerning community support for raising the large sum of money that would be required to keep Oasis open, she stated that she would like to see a plan. Mrs. Roy expressed that she appreciates the concerns and comments of the parents but the question remains: Where is the money going to come from?

Ms. Ouida McNeal, new member of the Oasis Board of Directors, school supporter and mentor, stated that there is an accountability plan in place, there is viable community support, and she stands by the request for another chance for the school.

Mr. Eubank pointed out that the Board has repeatedly requested a list of the Oasis Board of Director's names, to no avail. Neither have copies of meeting minutes been received, as contractually required. He pointed out that the School Board is aware of the successes at Oasis, and it was exactly for that reason, along with the sincerity of Ms. Jones, that the Board approved the opening of the school this year and paid her for 40 students. He further stated that non-certified teachers did not undergo background checks, as required by law. Mr. Eubank also commented that it did not make sense that as late as September 1, an out-of-town consultant was to be paid \$2500, in the face of a 14-student school that was going broke.

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

SCHOOL PLANNING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(SPAC)

In accordance with Section 4 of the existing Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning, adopted by the Board in November 2003, the School Board will establish a School Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC) for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations to the Superintendent regarding potential sites for new schools, proposals for significant school expansions, and potential closures of existing schools.

The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for September 28, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the assignments to the SPAC Committee, including community members and staff representatives from the local governments, as outlined in the Interlocal Agreement as presented.

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

CONSTITUTIONAL
CHALLENGE TO
FLORIDA SCHOOLS OF

House Bill 135 was enacted and created the Florida Schools of Excellence (FSE) Commission, which is an independent, state-level charter school authorizing entity, with members being appointed by the State Board of

EXCELLENCE
COMMISSION

Education. The creation of the FSE Commission raises several constitutional questions relating to the power of elected school boards throughout the state of Florida to approve the establishment of and regulation of charter schools within a school district.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the resolution to be included as a plaintiff in litigation challenging Chapter 2006-302, Laws of Florida, and appropriate the initial sum of \$2,500 toward legal fees and costs.

A separate resolution from each district has been requested by the FSBA. That resolution will be an item on the next agenda.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHEDULE WORKSHOPS

The Superintendent reviewed the dates of upcoming workshops.

Mrs. Roy pointed out that two workshops are scheduled for October 2, which is Yom Kippur.

CITIZEN INPUT

Mrs. Michelle Hanley inquired about her employee case and was informed that it was on the Consent Agenda.

The president of Williams PTA suggested that the Board look into property that she understands was set aside for a school near the Oakmont subdivision, which is across from Diamond Sports Park.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Williams commended staff on an informative and well done Human Resources brochure. Mrs. Pinkoson concurred.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Williams

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

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