

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

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in regular session duly called at 6:16 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Ginger Childs, Chairman; F. Wesley Eubank, Tina Pinkoson, and Eileen F. Roy, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board. Vice-Chair Janie S. Williams was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Childs, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by members of the Reichert House Academy. Certificates were awarded.

Superintendent Boyd introduced the three newly reelected Board members: Mrs. Childs, Mr. Eubank and Mrs. Pinkoson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of November 7, 2006, as presented.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mr. Eubank

The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Consent Agenda Item G.1., Employment of Personnel, was pulled for separate vote.

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

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

RECOGNITION –

RED RIBBON WEEK CONTEST WINNERS Awards were presented to Red Ribbon Week Essay and Poster Contest winners.

COMMENDATION Mrs. Rosa B. Williams, active citizen of the community, Black on Black Crime Task Force Chairperson, and strong supporter of youth in our community, thanked Superintendent Boyd for his support of the Reichert House. At Mrs. Williams' request, Captain Tony Jones, Gainesville Police Department, mentioned some of the results of this support, including computers and tutors through the 21st Century Learning Grant. He emphasized that this is an investment in the young men of the Reichert House and thanked the Superintendent and Board.

BOARD MEMBER/SUPERINTENDENT Chairman Childs reported that Mrs. Williams is away for the Thanksgiving holidays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Roy reported on what she feels is a huge step forward for the community: Partnership for Strong Families is bringing together all the community agencies that help children. Sheriff Sadie Darnell is leading this newly established group. Mrs. Roy also announced an upcoming Stop Children’s Cancer concert.

Mrs. Childs thanked Mr. Eubank for his service as chairman this past year.

CITIZEN INPUT

- A parent distributed information to Board members on what she feels is an unjust situation.
- An employee reported on an accident that resulted in unpaid medical bills. She was referred to appropriate staff members.
- An employee noted job difficulties and stated she will provide written information at the next Board meeting.
- A citizen commented on various aspects of African American history and what he believes is a failure to upgrade the curriculum.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve the amended Consent Agenda as described in items 2-13.

Mrs. Pinkoson and Mrs. Roy commended the Instructional Technology Department’s initiative to establish an industrial biotechnology course at Santa Fe High School.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

ITEM G.1.,
EMPLOYMENT OF
PERSONNEL

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve Item G.1., Employment of Personnel, Attachments A & B.

Mr. Eubank reported a conflict of interest as defined by Florida Statute and stated that he therefore will abstain from the vote.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0
with Mr. Eubank abstaining.

APPOINTMENT OF
SCHOOL BOARD
ATTORNEY AND
ESTABLISHMENT
OF FEES

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to reappoint Mr. James F. Lang as attorney for the School Board at the hourly rate of \$165 per hour.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

ADOPTION OF THE 2006-
2007 PROPOSED SCHOOL
BOARD MEMBER
SALARY (\$34,765)

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the recommendation of the Florida School Boards Association to adopt the annual salary (\$34,765) calculated in accordance with the formula for compensation of elected county constitutional officers established in

Chapter 145, F.S.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to amend the motion to change the salary amount to \$34,752.

A citizen commented that the Board should consider lower salaries until all teachers are at a salary rate near the top for the state of Florida.

Mrs. Roy stated that she will not vote for a raise until teachers are at least at the middle of the state average.

Mr. Eubank suggested the possibility of different rates for individual Board members. The Board attorney will investigate the possibility.

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-1

Yes: Mrs. Childs

Mr. Eubank

Mrs. Pinkoson

No: Mrs. Roy

PROPOSED 2007-2008
SCHOOL CALENDAR –
SECOND READING

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to adopt the proposed 2007-2008 School Calendar as presented.

This calendar is aligned with the new state law that says school cannot start any sooner than 14 days before Labor Day.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

INTERLOCAL
AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF
NEWBERRY AND THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF
ALACHUA COUNTY

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Newberry to operate and manage the sports program at Diamond Sports Park as presented.

The agreement provides for sharing net revenue and is for a period of three years. The contract may be terminated by either party, with thirty-days notice.

Mrs. Pinkoson believes this is an exciting partnership of agencies to provide for needed community recreation.

Mrs. Roy hopes that Diamond Sports Park will be a financial success and has nothing against the City of Newberry, but she will vote against the contract because it did not go through a bid process. She also commented on not receiving the contract until hours before the meeting, while the news media reported on it the night before. Mrs. Roy objected to the School Board being responsible for capital improvements.

The Superintendent explained that, as property owner, it would be the Board's decision whether or not to add any structure in the future. He also reported that a Citizen Advisory Council is being formed to provide input regarding community needs. There is also some citizen interest in making contributions toward enhancing the property. If that happens, the contributions would go through the Advisory Council and the recommendation would come back to the Board and the City of Newberry as to how the funds would be expended to benefit the public.

Brief discussion was held on Mrs. Roy's concern for:

- who would assume the expense if something go wrong that is beyond the general maintenance costs.
- accountability for proper upkeep of the Park.

Superintendent Boyd clarified that Newberry was specifically selected to be Diamond Sports Park managers because of the qualifications of Richard Blalock, who managed the park successfully for seven or eight years under private ownership. Dr. Boyd provided assurance that a quality presentation will be made to the public, as it is in the best interest of both the School Board and Newberry to do so.

Mr. Blalock affirmed his intent and that of Newberry Parks and Recreation, to operate and improve the Park to best serve children and adults of the community. He reported on national tournaments scheduled to come to Diamond Sports Park, which will have significant economic impact to the community. To continue to host such events will require facility excellence and they are so committed. He thanked the Board for their support.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-1

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

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC H0603—
J. J. FINLEY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AIR CONDITIONING
REPLACEMENT,
BUILDINGS 1, 3 AND 4
(PHASE II)

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$1,388,000 and award a contract for construction to J. A. Standridge Construction, Newberry, Florida. Completion of the project shall be stated and the final Stage V shall be Substantially Complete on or before November 16, 2007.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

APPLICATION FOR
SWEETWATER BRANCH

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

ACADEMY CHARTER
SCHOOL

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Sweetwater Branch Academy Charter School Application as revised.

Mrs. Childs expressed concern for whether the school can provide all of the required subjects for the students.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

MICANOPY CHARTER
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the expansion of Micanopy Charter Middle School to add the ninth grade as requested.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

DISCUSSION --

After discussion, the following changes to Board member Committee Assignments were made:

COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS FOR
BOARD MEMBERS

- Mr. Eubank will serve on the Newberry Planning Board.
- Mrs. Roy will serve on the recently established Children's Alliance. She will also serve as Alternate for the Value Adjustment Board and the Wellness Committee.
- It was noted that the name of the School Readiness Coalition has been changed to the Early Learning Coalition.
- Mrs. Pinkoson will look into possible need for someone to serve on the Success by Six initiative.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Childs noted that the County requested setting up periodic meetings with the School Board.

Clarification was made by Deputy Superintendent Hollinger that legislation concerning a career preparation course may have prompted a rumor that band would be discontinued. There is no such intent.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.