

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 6, 2007

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: Virginia S. Childs, Chairman; Janie S. Williams, Vice-Chairman; F. Wesley Eubank, Tina Pinkoson, and Eileen F. Roy, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent; and James F. Lang, Attorney for the Board.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Childs, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of February 20, 2007; and Special Meetings of February 21 and 27, 2007, as presented.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to adopt the March 6, 2007, meeting agenda as amended.

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Dan Boyd invited the Board to attend:

- Middle School Basketball Finals at Buchholz on Wednesday, March 7.
- Diamond Sports Park Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening ceremony on Saturday, March 10.

Dr. Boyd also expressed condolences to the family of Mr. John Major, bus driver, who passed away earlier on this day, as well as to the family of Mr. Calvin Weeks, retired Property Manager, who also recently passed away.

Mrs. Williams announced and encouraged participation and support for the March of Dimes Walk America on March 24.

Mrs. Childs reviewed the advantages and academic offerings of Lofton High School. She encouraged parents of 7th and 8th graders who might do better in a smaller setting to consider Lofton.

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen representing middle school baseball expressed appreciation for the Superintendent establishing the middle school sports program. The Board, in turn, credited community efforts for making the program successful.

PRESENTATION –
MARCH OF DIMES
CHAIN REACTION AND
WALK AMERICA

March of Dimes Chain Reaction representatives expressed appreciation to the Board for their support and reported on health education projects and the upcoming Walk America, all for the purpose of saving babies.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in Items 1-10.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC A0506—
SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL
PARKING AND BUS
DRIVE

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$428,438.48 and additive alternate 1 in the amount of \$504,185.46 and award a contract for construction totaling \$932,268.94 to Curt's Construction and Hauling, White Springs, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within seventy-five (75) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ELEMENTARY MAGNET
TRANSPORTATION
PROGRAM

Deputy Superintendent Sandy Hollinger reviewed solutions that are proposed to address concerns with elementary Magnet transportation. Parents commented and Mrs. Hollinger responded to questions. Board members discussed the proposal.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the new Model for transporting elementary Magnet students, effective for the 2007-08 school year.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONTRACT RENEWAL
WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA COLLEGE OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN
PERFORMANCE

Mr. Charley Wise, curriculum supervisor, explained the reasons for the significant cost increase in the contract. Although he reported that the trainers are of extremely high caliber, the increased cost compels him to conduct thorough research of future possibilities.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the contract renewal with the University of Florida College of Health and Human Performance for the provision of athletic trainers and support services at seven (7) high schools for the sum of \$117,600, effective July 1, 2007, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CAPITAL OUTLAY
REQUEST
ENCUMBRANCE
AUTHORIZATION

The next classroom priority on the district project list is a new science classroom building at Santa Fe High School. Authorization is being requested to encumber previously unused funds from the DOE's 2004-05 Classrooms for Kids appropriation. The Santa Fe project is currently under architectural contract and in the design phase. A construction

manager has been selected and a Guaranteed Maximum Price contract and encumbrance is anticipated within six months.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Capital Outlay Request Encumbrance Authorization request (\$797,000), as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHEDULE
WORKSHOP(S)

Board Workshops were scheduled as follows:

- Instructional Technology Update – Thursday, March 22, 2007, 9 a.m.
- Code of Student Conduct – Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 9:30 a.m.
- Health Insurance Options – Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 10 a.m.

- The April 10 Informal Board meeting time was changed from 9 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Budget Work Groups were scheduled for 9 a.m. on March 20, April 24, and May 29, 2007.

DIAMOND SPORTS PARK
NAME CHANGE

The Citizens Advisory Council for Diamond Sports Park met on February 26, 2007, and unanimously recommended that the name of the park be changed to: North Central Florida Sportsplex. The new name will draw attention to the property's new ownership and operation, improve its perception among certain private sports leagues, and accordingly enhance its efficient use and enjoyment.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to change the name of the Diamond Sports Park to the North Central Florida Sportsplex, effective immediately.

Mr. Eubank supports changing the name but does not feel the proposed name adequately represents the fact that this was purchased as an educational property. Alternatively, he suggested something more like North Central Education and Sportsplex. Mrs. Childs suggested Alachua County Schools Education and Sports Complex.

The Superintendent believes the Diamond Sports Park Citizens Advisory Council was seeking a change in name as a marketing tool to attract events. He feels they will be in agreement with any name upon which the Board decides.

Mrs. Roy agrees with finding an alternative name, feeling that the one proposed is cumbersome and not distinctive.

After further discussion, the Superintendent was asked to collaborate with Mr. Charley Wise on alternative suggestions for the renaming of Diamond Sports Park.

The Board voted unanimously to table the subject of the Diamond Sports Park name change to the next General Business meeting.

CITIZEN INPUT

ACEA president Gunnar Paulson reported that a number of counties have voted down the STAR Plan. In addition, he expressed hope that the Board will carefully consider a pending employee case.

Mrs. Pinkoson recommended that Board members read information recently received by email on the subject of merit pay plans.

A teacher spoke highly of the trainers discussed in the previous item, Contract Renewal with the University of Florida College of Health and Human Performance. She felt consideration should be given to extending the contracted services to the Middle School Sports Program.

A citizen representing the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center announced plans for a Juneteenth Festival on June 16 and 17, 2007. While she has received verbal permission from Lincoln Middle School and Williams Elementary School, she requested written authorization from the District to use the property behind the schools during this event.

Several citizens spoke, advocating use of the school property, as well as in support of the Juneteenth Festival and the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center in general.

Mr. Eubank suggested the Cotton Club provide a proclamation that the Board might endorse.

The group was advised on how to proceed to secure appropriate approval and insurance certificate.

Mrs. Roy:

BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT REQUESTS

- requested information on the School Board's cost in a specific employee case.
- provided Board members with a copy of a portion of a City-sponsored report authored by David Rusk, entitled *Healthy City, Healthy Region*, which includes information concerning the school district and student performance as related to socioeconomic criteria. Mrs. Roy requested that Board members review it in preparation for discussion at the next Informal Board Meeting.

Mrs. Childs stated that she has spoken to Mr. Rusk concerning how he gathered his data. She believes his report was insufficiently researched, and she does not have confidence in it.

Mr. Eubank took exception to some conclusions in the Rusk report. He suggested review of a study conducted by Dr. Lucas, in collaboration with the University of Florida, which shows no correlation between low socioeconomic background and the school a student happens to attend.

Mr. Childs inquired whether any zoning issues for next year need to be addressed, citing the new Tiger Bay complex, as well as other subdivisions off Archer Road and in High Springs.

The Board FundFriday event will be scheduled for a date in April.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.