

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
April 17, 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, led by Rawlings Elementary students. A drum and dance production was then presented by the students, and directed by David Ottenburg, music teacher.

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

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of March 20, 2007, as presented.

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

ADOPTION  
OF AGENDA

Item H.1., Scheduled Agencies was deleted, due to a cancellation by Commissioner Rodney Long. An unrelated date was removed from Consent Agenda Item I.7. An item was added to the list of upcoming meetings: Instructional Policy Workshop, Tuesday, May 1, 9 a.m.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson      Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to adopt the April 17, 2007, meeting agenda as amended.

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

RETIREEES

Retirees were recognized, and the Board wished them well in their retirement.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Pinkoson:

- Thanked Ben & Jerry's for their recent fundraising event, which benefited the schools.

Mrs. Childs:

- Commented on the fine article by Lofton student Juliun Kinsey, in the March 28 issue of *The Gainesville Sun*.
- The Board and staff are saddened by the tragic events at Virginia Tech.

PRESENTATIONS

- Mr. Ed Gable, Facilities Executive Director, commented on a lighting retrofit project at Ft. Clarke Middle School, which resulted in a \$24,584.54 Gainesville Regional Utilities Rebate. Similar projects are planned or in progress.
- Representatives of the Professional Association of Media Specialists addressed the Board.

CITIZEN INPUT

ACEA President Gunnar Paulson invited the Board to the ACEA retirement dinner on May 16. He then addressed the Board in support of a Waiver Request for Lofton High School, an item that the Board will take action on later in the meeting.

Other citizen comments included

- Congratulations to the Board on the GRU Rebate; suggested other conservation measures.
- The Board is in compliance with F.S. 1003.42, concerning public input, because there is no enforcement clause.
- Issues of Black male students being encouraged in school.
- Request for Board member participation on specific community boards.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in Items 1-13, with the understanding that the language “on April 28, 2007” has been removed from Item 7, Bus Use Agreement with the University of Florida .

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mrs. Pinkoson requested that it be conveyed to the Horizon Center principal that the Board is unlikely to oppose student expulsions, if he so recommends.

PROCLAMATION –

APRIL AS  
LIBRARY  
APPRECIATION  
MONTH

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to adopt the proclamation declaring the month of April as *Library Appreciation Month* in Alachua County Schools.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Budget Amendment No. 9 – General Fund; Budget Amendment No. 10 – Special Revenue Funds; and Budget Amendment No. 11 – Capital Projects Funds, include changes for the period of January 1, 2007, through February 28, 2007.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve Budget Amendment Nos. 9, 10 and 11 as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

WAIVER REQUEST FOR  
LOFTEN HIGH SCHOOL

Loften High School is requesting a waiver to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article IX, Section 12(c), Contact Time, in order to implement block scheduling. The waiver has been approved by the faculty and the School Advisory Council of Loften High School and has been submitted to ACEA for their approval.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson                      Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the waiver request for Loften High School as submitted.

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

BID AWARD FOR  
PROJECT SBAC A0331 –  
HAWTHORNE HIGH  
SCHOOL CLASSROOM  
RENOVATIONS AND  
REMODELING

Bids for the construction of this project were received on March 20, 2007. The low bid has been rejected for failure to provide the required list of subcontractors.

Motion by Mr. Eubank                      Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to accept the base bid of \$985,000 and Additive Alternates 2, 3, 7, and 8 in the amount of \$536,000 and award a contract for construction totaling \$1,521,000 to BBI Construction Management, Inc., Gainesville, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within two hundred fifteen (215) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the “Notice to Proceed.”

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

ANNUAL CHARTER  
SCHOOL AUDIT  
REPORTS

Annual Audit reports for the District’s 14 Charter Schools and the Alachua County Public Schools Foundation have been prepared. These entities are considered component units of our District and their audit reports are required to be approved by the Board and entered into Public Record.

Audits from all Charter Schools have been received except that of Oasis. The audit reports for Desoto High and Micanopy Middle contain comments in regard to meeting the state’s criteria for financial emergency. Desoto’s situation has improved, but Micanopy’s has not. They will continue to be closely monitored.

Motion by Mr. Eubank                      Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the audit reports for the charter schools and the Alachua County Public Schools Foundation for the year ended June 30, 2006, as presented and that they be filed as part of the public records of the School Board.

Mrs. Childs noted that Micanopy has been approved for expansion and asked that the school be informed that the Board hopes for rapid financial improvement.

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

CITIZEN INPUT

A teacher expressed concern for the shortage of technology staff. Mrs. Childs stated that the need for staff was made clear during the recent Technology Workshop. The teacher also asked that the Board look into reported problems with the CROP program.

A citizen was informed that County Commissioner Rodney Long had cancelled his presentation for this meeting and will instead be at the School Board's May 15 meeting. [Another option was discussed by Board members later in the meeting.]

DISCUSSION –

FIRE/RESCUE  
SERVICE FEES

Dr. Boyd reported that he recently met with the County Attorney, Chief of Fire Rescue and representatives from two legal firms to discuss a Fire/Rescue service fee that the County Commission is considering for homeowners and for the School District. The annual District cost would be approximately \$850,000, based on the square footage of buildings located in the unincorporated areas of the County. The County has no authority to collect this from the School Board.

Mr. Eubank pointed out that the School Board cannot charge fees and has no way of making up this money. He stated that he would never support this unfunded mandate.

Mrs. Roy posed questions and expressed doubt that the plan would succeed.

Mrs. Childs sees this as double-taxing for taxpayers.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

Dr. Boyd expressed sympathy to the family of L. B. Gravely, long-time School Board Internal Accounts Auditor and respected community member.

Mr. Eubank suggested that the Board meet with Commissioner Long apart from a regular Board meeting, since the discussion may be lengthy. The other Board members concurred. Mrs. Childs asked Ms. Ramos to have this meeting rescheduled.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the City Commission prior to Mr. Long's presentation to them, stating that the School Board does not agree with all the information submitted by Mr. Long.

Mrs. Roy requested that sometime during an elementary principals' meeting, Talbot Elementary present information on their Morning Mile program. She also suggested that schools share information on other Health/Wellness activities in which they are involved.

Mrs. Williams commented on excellent fitness activities at Foster and Hidden Oak.

Mrs. Childs suggested visiting the new wing at Westwood Middle School. She then reviewed upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

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