

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 31, 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 and Eileen F. Roy, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent; and James F. Lang, Attorney for the Board. Tina Pinkoson was absent.

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

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of July 17, 2007, and special meeting of July 24, 2007, as presented.

Mrs. Roy requested that a specific comment made at the July 17 meeting be added to those minutes.

The question was called on the minutes as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Childs noted:

- Item F.12., Contract With the Early Learning Coalition of Alachua, Inc., is being deleted from the agenda.
- Item F. 9., 2003-2004 Classroom for Kids program: the capital outlay funds balance was changed from the estimated \$1,156,098 to the actual amount of \$1,134,376. Mrs. Roy requested that this item be pulled for clarification.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to adopt the July 31, 2007, meeting agenda as amended.

The question was called on the motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Childs announced the Back-to-School Fair on Saturday, August 11, at the Oaks Mall.

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen pointed out what he asserts are textbook errors and omissions concerning African-American History.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as described in Items 1-13, with the exception of Item 12, which was deleted; and Item 9, which will be discussed for clarification.

Discussion was held on the Classrooms for Kids funding allocations.

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

2008-09 SCHOOL
CALENDAR –
SECOND READING

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2008-09 School Calendar, as presented.

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

PURCHASE OF ON-LINE
APPLICATION/
APPLICANT
TRACKING SYSTEM

Dr. Joan Longstreth, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, reported that, after lengthy research, the SchoolStream Online Application and Applicant Tracking System is being recommended for purchase. She stated that, while it is the least expensive of the systems considered, it is extremely user-friendly.

Motion by Mrs. Roy Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the purchase of the On-Line Application/Applicant Tracking System as presented.

Mr. Eubank stated that he feels it inappropriate to contractually require a testimonial and a link to the company site, as SchoolStream does. Further, he believes that Item 12, non-disclosure of agreement terms and pricing, is not legal, because of the public records law. Attorney Lang confirmed that this agreement would be public record.

Mr. Eubank favors continuing to evaluate BiTech, over time, to see if it could meet District requirements, thereby avoiding the need to interface with other programs. He did note, however, that the SchoolStream cost is modest. In addition, Mr. Utley commented that a notice of only 90-days is required for contract termination, should the program be deemed unsatisfactory.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to amend the motion by removing from the Agreement the requirement of testimonials in Section 3, Responsibilities, ACPSFL, 1; and the whole of Section 12, Non-disclosure of Agreement, Terms, and Pricing.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Comparisons of SchoolStream and BiTech software were discussed. In response to Board member questions, Mr. Utley stated that he believes the

SchoolStream system is superior to the BiTech system, and HR staff independently confirmed that view. He pointed out that SchoolStream was designed specifically for K-12 school systems and is very streamlined and easy-to-follow for the public. It has been in use in other areas for approximately seven years. Training would be provided for HR staff and is included in the first year cost.

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

PUBLIC HEARING --
CONSIDER AND TAKE
ACTION ON THE
ADOPTION OF THE
TENTATIVE MILLAGE
AND THE TENTATIVE
BUDGET FOR THE
2007-2008 FISCAL
YEAR

Mr. Keith Birkett, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, conducted a brief presentation to explain, review and discuss rolled-back millage rates and budget items.

Mr. Ed Gable, Executive Director, Facilities, reviewed capital projects and funding information.

In response to Mrs. Williams question about grant availability for Kirby-Smith projects, Mr. Gable stated that grants have been applied for but none have been awarded at this point. Mr. Gable also responded to Mrs. Roy that the window replacement at Kirby-Smith and Finley will improve energy efficiency and make them watertight. Concerning recent bus purchases, Mr. Birkett stated that those buses are able to operate on biodiesel.

For the benefit of the public, Mrs. Roy pointed out that none of the School Board millage is actually discretionary, despite being designated as such.

There was no public input.

a. Adoption of the Tentative Millage for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt Resolution 07-05, Tentative Millage, for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year, as presented.

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

b. Adoption of the Tentative Budget for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt Resolution 07-06, Tentative Budget, for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year, as presented.

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

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

EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS Superintendent Boyd explained that, after legal review, it was not believed to be beneficial for the Board to make application for exclusive authority.

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation not to apply to the State Board of Education for exclusive authority to sponsor charter schools at this time.

Mr. Eubank believes this is the wrong message to send to the state. He believes the District should make application, using the same information as last year, thereby preventing the state from an assertion that too few districts applied.

Discussion was held on how the concept of exclusive authority relates to practical oversight. The burdensome application process, seemingly intended to discourage applicants, was discussed.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Childs gave a reminder of the Back-to-School fair.

After discussion, it was decided that the August 14 Informal Board meeting will be held as scheduled, with an executive session following.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.