

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 5, 2008

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: Janie Williams, Chairman; Ginger Childs, F. Wesley Eubank, and Eileen F. Roy, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent, and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board. Board member Tina Pinkoson was absent.

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

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

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of January 15, 2008, as presented.

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

ADOPTION
OF AGENDA

Mrs. Williams announced the following deletions to the agenda:

- Consent Agenda - READ 180 Stage B--\$26,250.00, from page 7 of Item G.7., Inventory Droppage Report..
- Action Item H.1., Application for Charter School—Gainesville Arts and Technology Academy, Inc.
- Action Item H.3., 2008-09 Extended Day Enrichment Program (EDEP) Fee Increase.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to adopt the February 5, 2008, meeting agenda as amended.

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Roy read a portion of a letter written by EHS teacher Robert Deckert and his students in response to a comment made by a citizen during a public hearing on attendance zones. The letter was published in The Gainesville Sun. Mrs. Roy applauded Mr. Deckert and his students for defending their school so eloquently.

Mrs. Williams provided information on the monument displays in the breezeway, which were made by Duval Elementary students to honor the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King. She recognized other student projects in honor of Black History Month.

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Williams expressed condolences to the family of Beth Youngren, who passed away last week. Mrs. Roy noted that Ms. Youngren was a devoted and passionate advocate for children.

PUBLIC HEARING TO
CONSIDER PROPOSED
AMENDMENT TO
SCHOOL/STUDENT
ATTENDANCE ZONE
LINES

The regular Board meeting was recessed and a Public Hearing convened.

The recommendation is to move the area bordered on the west by NW 43rd Street; on the north by NW 68th Avenue; on the east by Highway 441; and on the south by NW 53rd Avenue, from Ft. Clarke Middle School to Westwood Middle School, effective beginning the 2008-09 school year.

A Northwood Oaks homeowner spoke in opposition to this rezoning, being concerned that students may not adjust well to the larger school; that many of the affected families do not have their own transportation; and that the change will cause the students instability in preparing for the FCAT.

Mr. Eubank requested that staff study the possibility of providing several pick-up points for transportation to Ft. Clarke. He also pointed out that this zoning change would limit future zoning exceptions to Westwood, since it would bring the school closer to capacity.

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

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AMENDMENT TO
POLICY 5120
(continued)

A revised amendment will be presented at the February 19 Board meeting for a First Reading.

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

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. E-0708-04

Staff Attorney Tom Wittmer stated that an employee is charged with violation of School Board Policy 4213 and 4210, Conduct Unbecoming a School Board Employee. The employee has filed a grievance.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to suspend the employee without pay, effective February 6, 2008, pending the outcome of the grievance procedure.

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

RESCHEDULE MEETINGS

The following meeting changes were proposed:

- a. Reschedule April 8, 2008, Informal Board Meeting to April 15, 9 a.m.
- b. Reschedule April 15, 2008, Board meeting to April 22, 6 p.m.
- c. Reschedule August 5, 2008, Board meeting to July 29, 6 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to reschedule the School Board meetings as presented.

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

CONTRACT FOR
SWEETWATER BRANCH
ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the charter contract with Sweetwater Branch Academy Charter School as presented.

Mr. Eubank stated that he was not comfortable with a time period of three years between the application and when the school might actually open. If it is not opened for the 2008-09 school year, Mr. Eubank favors requiring a new application. Further, he was concerned about whether appropriate outcome measurements are stated in the original application.

Mrs. Childs concurred with authorizing only a one-year period.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to table approval of the charter contract with Sweetwater Branch Academy Charter School, to require a time limit for opening, to clarify the application's language on outcome measurements, and to present the revised agreement at the February 19 meeting.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen expressed his support for the course the Board seems to be taking regarding designating school zones for new developments.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Roy requested an update on the energy conservation consultant that was hired to reduce utility bills. She requested that the update include responses to a list of specific questions she cited. Mrs. Roy further requested this item be placed on the next regularly scheduled Board meeting agenda.

Mrs. Childs requested that Mr. Keith Birkett, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, present the Board with a summary of how the passage of Amendment One will affect the District. She further stated that she wants to be certain the requirements of the class-size amendment will be met at all schools next year.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.