

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
February 19, 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; Tina Pinkoson, Vice-Chairman; Ginger Childs, F. Wesley Eubank, 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 Williams, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Chairman then introduced a flute duet performance by students from Oak View Middle School. A Spotlight Video on Technology was presented.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of February 5, 2008, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mrs. Williams announced the following changes to the agenda:

- Action Item H.4., Application for Gainesville Arts and Technology Academy Charter School: Change the recommendation to state that the application not be taken from the table.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to adopt the February 19, 2008, meeting agenda as amended.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Roy reported on a visit to Archer Community School, where she had the opportunity to visit the classroom of teacher Cherith Davenport. Mrs. Davenport was recognized at the last Board meeting for earning the 2008 Excellence in Teaching Agriculture Award. Mrs. Roy commended Mrs. Davenport's skillful incorporation of science into a cookie baking activity, thoroughly engaging the students.

Mrs. Childs congratulated the Teachers of the Year and commented favorably on the recent event held in their honor. Mrs. Williams reported that the honorees this year included a mother and daughter, with the daughter being the District's Teacher of the Year.

RECOGNITION --

DONATION—

Ms. Reagan Duplisea, Associate Registrar, Samuel P. Harn Museum of

SAMUEL P. HARN  
MUSEUM OF ART

Art, was recognized for recent donations of art, which now are permanently displayed in our schools.

2007-2008  
OUTSTANDING  
SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Board recognized the District's 2007-2008 Outstanding School Volunteers as representatives of the exceptional quality of all the volunteers in Alachua County schools:

- Sarah Hutchinson, Prairie View Academy – Senior Category
- Sean Timmons, Buchholz High School – Adult Category
- Joshua Rosenblatt, Junior at Eastside High School – Youth

NATIONAL BOARD  
CERTIFIED TEACHERS

Category

Thirteen teachers were recognized for becoming National Board-Certified. This brings the total number of active National Board-Certified teachers in Alachua County to 128.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank                      Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-15.

Mrs. Roy requested that Items G.13., Design Documents for Westwood Middle School Student Services Addition and Renovations, and G.14., Design Development/Construction Documents for Prairie View Roof Replacement, be pulled for questions.

The question was called on the Consent Agenda.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mrs. Roy inquired whether input on these projects was requested from GRU and the energy consultant. Regarding G.13, Mr. Ed Gable, Executive Director, Facilities, explained that actual systems design has not yet been done, but GRU and the energy consultant will be included in that process. Item G.14. will not require any equipment replacement.

AMENDMENTS TO  
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE  
ZONE LINES –

SECOND READING

A Public Hearing was held on February 5, 2008. The recommendation is to move the area bordered on the west by NW 43<sup>rd</sup> Street; on the north by NW 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue; on the east by Highway 441; and on the south by NW 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, from Ft. Clarke Middle School to Westwood Middle School, effective beginning the 2008-09 school year.

*Approved March 4, 2008*

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to amend School Attendance Zone Lines as presented.

Assistant Superintendent Keith Birkett reported that a bus stop can be established at the entrance to the subdivision.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1

Yes: Mrs. Childs

Mr. Eubank

Mrs. Roy

Mrs. Williams

No: Mrs. Pinkoson

AMENDMENT TO  
POLICY 5120,  
ASSIGNMENT WITHIN  
DISTRICT –  
FIRST READING

The proposed amendment to Policy 5120 was presented to the Board on February 5, 2008. The Board requested a change to address the potential school enrollment impact of students in new developments. This statement will be provided to county and appropriate local government agencies in order to facilitate communication concerning school over-capacity.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed amendment to Policy 5120, Assignment Within District, as presented for advertising.

Mr. Eubank requested wording clarification regarding whether the timeline relates to submission or approval. He hopes the Superintendent and staff will review all developments that are not currently built, and present a recommendation to the Board as to whether they should be rezoned. Mrs. Roy concurred with these concerns.

Mrs. Pinkoson did not favor eliminating the priority criteria. She also suggested replacing the word 'crowded' with 'over-crowded.'

Mr. Eubank suggested wording changes that would describe how the priority criteria is implemented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONTRACT FOR  
SWEETWATER  
BRANCH ACADEMY  
CHARTER SCHOOL

Approval of the charter contract for the NeoSprings, Inc., dba as Sweetwater Branch Academy Charter School, was tabled at the February 5, 2008, School Board meeting. The Board requested staff to revise the agreement

*Approved March 4, 2008*

to require a time limit for opening of the school and to clarify the application's language on outcome measurements. Revisions have been made as requested.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved that the Charter Contract for NeoSprings, Inc., dba as Sweetwater Branch Academy Charter School, be taken from the table.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the contract for NeoSprings, Inc., dba as Sweetwater Branch Academy Charter School.

Mr. Eubank noted that information is not provided regarding the process for appointment of Board members, other than the initial Board. He was not comfortable with approval when their future governance structure is unknown. He suggested that, in the future, applicants be requested to attend the Board meeting, so questions can be answered.

Mrs. Roy had questions about the composition and diversity of the Board.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion failed 4-1

Yes: Mrs. Roy

No: Mrs. Childs

Mr. Eubank

Mrs. Pinkoson

Mrs. Williams

APPLICATION FOR  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
GAINSVILLE ARTS  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
ACADEMY

The application for the Gainesville Arts and Technology Academy Charter School was tabled at the January 15, 2008, School Board Meeting. On February 13, 2008, the Florida Schools of Excellence (FSE) Commission approved an application submitted by the Gainesville Arts and Technology Academy, Inc. (GATA), to operate a charter school in Alachua County.

The FSE Commission operates under the Department of Education and is authorized to be the sponsoring entity for a charter school.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the charter application for the Gainesville Arts and Technology Academy, Inc., not be taken from the table.

Mr. Eubank expressed disappointment in the FSE Commission approval

of this charter application, since he believes it does not meet the state requirement of 'expected improvement.' He noted that the present application is significantly better than the original, due to the excellent work of District staff.

Mr. Jim Adelman, Gainesville Arts and Technology Academy, Inc., addressed the Board concerning the application and requested it be approved.

Mr. Eubank thinks GATA could be an excellent program and wished the school success. However, he stated that cost of District services exceeds the 5% charged to charter schools, so approval of the application is not only unnecessary, since FSE now has responsibility, but it would be an expense to the District. It is his feeling that FSE should now bear the cost of providing the services.

Mrs. Childs stated that she believes that local School Boards are the sponsoring and supervising authority for charter schools. Now that GATA has gone to the FSE, Ms. Childs' view is that the school is in a difficult position between local and state authorities.

Mrs. Pinkoson believes the Board's authority was circumvented by GATA. The authority now rests with the FSE Commission.

When Mr. Eubank inquired, no staff member supported charter approval. The Superintendent stated that he sees no reason to change his recommendation.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

#### CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

##### EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE CHARTER SCHOOLS

Each year, district school boards must apply to the Department of Education if they wish to retain authority to approve charter schools within the district. Otherwise, charter school applicants could seek approval from the district or from the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission.

Last year, 30 districts applied for Exclusive Authority and only three were approved. Each of the approved districts received a review rating of 100% from the Department of Education. The DOE has said they expect only districts with perfect review scores will be recommended again.

If the Board wishes to apply for Exclusive Authority, a resolution stating their intent must be received by the Department of Education no later than March 1, 2008.

Discussion was held on whether or not to submit an application. Mr. Eubank felt that submitting an application might open an opportunity to join other districts in litigation against the state in the matter of Exclusive Authority. The detriment is a projected 100 hours of staff time to prepare the application and the DOE's statement that the Commissioner will only recommend those districts receiving a perfect score.

This matter was for information only and no action was taken.

Mr. Birkett conducted a presentation of the District impact of the recently passed Property Tax Reform. The main impact is the loss of a potential \$17 million in millage dollars, estimated through 2013.

IMPACT OF  
AMENDMENT ONE

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

Mrs. Pinkoson requested an update on any land negotiations and class size.

Mrs. Roy expressed disappointment in the energy update she received, and in the fact that it was not presented at this Board meeting, as she had requested. She asked that this be placed as an information item on the next meeting agenda, so the public has an opportunity for questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.