

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 18, 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.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order and introduced a performance of the Gainesville High School trombone quartet. The students then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of March 4, 2008, as presented.

Mrs. Roy requested that her specific energy report concerns be included in the minutes. She provided a copy of her statement from that meeting.

The question was called on the minutes as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Mrs. Williams announced the following changes to the agenda:

- Delete Consent Agenda Item G.7., Agreement with the Department of Health.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to adopt the March 18, 2008, meeting agenda as amended.

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regarding an article in *The Gainesville Sun* on school nurse funding, Mrs. Childs made clear that the Board highly values school nurses and a plan is in place to work with the Department of Health on funding for next year.

Mr. Eubank congratulated the Facilities staff on some recent work at Wiles Elementary School.

Superintendent Boyd extended condolences to the family of Hugh Noe, teacher, coach and principal at Waldo for 31 years.

RECOGNITION –
ROTARY READING
SAFARI

The Board enjoyed a video presentation on the Rotary Reading Safari, an after-school program conducted by the Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) Teaching Zoo. This program is a partnership of Rotary, Santa Fe Community College and the School Board of Alachua County.

CITIZEN INPUT

Ms. Sande Calkins, Alachua County Education Association (ACEA) representative, addressed the Board with three ideas that the ACEA hopes the Board will consider.

- Send a survey to all employees, asking how the District might save money. The ACEA would incur the cost of printing and packaging the survey.
- Recreate a Budget Task Force, such as was active in 1990-91, to include School Board employees of all levels, members of the public, and business representatives.
- Hold employees harmless so jobs are not lost during the budget crisis.

Ms. Calkins asked that the Board consider and respond in a timely manner.

A citizen addressed the Board concerning what he feels is a lack of compliance with F.S. 1003.42, dealing with African American history.

A parent reported that the athletic field near Williams Elementary School needs to be filled and leveled, to solve a problem of standing water. If budget issues are a problem, he offered to pay half the cost.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1- 6.

Concerning the transportation agreements, Mr. Eubank stated that with the cost of diesel fuel, he hopes there has been a reevaluation of pricing.

The question was called on approval of the Consent Agenda.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC A0702—
KIRBY-SMITH
ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING ROOF
REPLACEMENT

Bids for the construction of this project were received on February 21, 2008.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$195,750 and award a contract for construction to Quality Roofing of Florida, Tampa, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within one hundred twenty (120) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the “Notice to Proceed.”

In response to a question from Mr. Eubank, Mr. Gable reported that the recent air conditioner replacements at Kirby resulted in \$21,000 in GRU rebates. The upcoming windows replacement and the thermal insulation project will also be eligible for rebates and, in addition, should result in a \$5000 energy savings annually.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen addressed the Board to advocate a proactive response to the school nurse budgetary situation. She urged the Board to look into a Senate Bill that may allow moving capital outlay dollars into the general operating fund.

A citizen felt that local companies should be selected for School Board construction projects. The Board cited statutory restrictions in the bid process, but reported that in the case of ties, the Board selects local businesses.

Two citizens addressed the Board regarding the importance of school nurses. Mrs. Pinkoson responded that it has never been the intent of the Board to end the school nurse program. The Board is working toward maintaining it.

Mrs. Roy commented that the recent Gainesville Sun article contained a misconception that the Board was making a decision to end the school nurse program. While this is not the case, she explained that it would cost the district one million dollars to fund the twenty-nine nurse positions that are presently covered through Medicaid reimbursement. With \$255 million in state budget cuts now, and a projected \$800 million for next year, Mrs. Roy stated that there is no room for the Board to replace this million dollars in lost Medicaid revenue. She suggested that the public contact their legislators regarding the issue.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Childs requested that staff investigate the drainage situation at the athletic field between Williams Elementary and Lincoln Middle Schools.

Mrs. Pinkoson thanked the Superintendent's office for developing the master calendar and workflow chart that were requested by the Board.

Regarding the high cost of diesel fuel, Mr. Eubank brought up the possibility of moving from three bus routes to two, in both the morning and afternoon. He suggested this previously, citing savings in other counties that have done so.

Regarding his previous suggestion that students in recently rezoned neighborhoods be offered transportation, Mr. Eubank clarified that his suggestion was only if there was an existing bus with space available. He did not intend that busing be provided if there was a significant cost.

Mr. Eubank believes the Board might have to reconsider their recent decision to continue Buchholz Magnet busing for three years. Further, he feels it is time to seriously address the entire busing structure.

ADJOURNMENT

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