

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 1, 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.

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

Moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of March 18, 2008, as presented.

Mrs. Roy requested a correction to the Informal Board meeting minutes of March 11, stating that she mentioned several schools in regard to attendance rates and did not mean to imply a special problem with Horizon. She stated that she will listen to the meeting audio tapes and have corrections made.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Mrs. Williams announced the deletion of the following agenda item:

- Consent Agenda Item I.4., Extended School Year Programs 2008.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to adopt the April 1, 2008, meeting agenda as amended.

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams congratulated Mr. Tom Ringwood, Teacher Specialist, ESE Department, on receiving an award from the UF College of Education, in recognition of his outstanding collaboration with their faculty and his dedication to infusing scientifically based research on inclusion and disability studies into the curriculum.

Mr. Eubank presented a number of proposals to advance the effort to reduce drastic consequences, as a result of the expected severe reductions in the 2008-09 state budget. They included the following:

- Freeze open positions.
- Remove funding for unfilled positions.
- Hold administrative appointments until time allowed by statute.
- Do not rehire at the end of DROP without Board approval.

- Reduce departmental budgets by at least 10%.
- Review internal efficiencies to ensure cost efficient and productive performance.
- Implement monthly reports on utility expenses compared to past consumption, with an aggressive energy reduction objective.
- Leave as much as possible of the 2 mill budget unallocated, to be available for operating budget if necessary. Review all projects to determine if they can appropriately be put on hold.
- Prepare a cost analysis report for high-cost schools, along with a plan to reduce expenses through staff or student reassignment.
- Expedite implementation of Employee Suggestion (cost reduction) Plan.

Mr. Eubank proposed that a budget meeting be scheduled as soon as possible.

PRESENTATION

'BE THERE'
CAMPAIGN

Mrs. Jackie Johnson, Public Information Officer, reported that the District is launching a public awareness, parent involvement campaign called "Be There." She reviewed the program, which is meant to inspire parents to become more involved in their children's lives and education. Mrs. Johnson announced that no District funds have been expended, due to the generosity of Bank of America, who has sponsored the program.

CITIZEN INPUT

A number of school nurses, parents and citizens addressed the Board, relating their experiences, stressing the importance of the school nurse program and advocating for its continuance.

Mrs. Childs stated that the Board and District staff do not want to lose or diminish the medical services presently available in the schools. She stressed that school nurses are valued, that it is not the Board that has cut funding, it is the federal government and the local Department of Health. She encouraged interested parties to also contact these agencies and noted that the District is working with the Department of Health on the funding issue. Mrs. Childs is also interested in pursuing the question of using CHOICES funding.

Mrs. Pinkoson reiterated the fact that the nursing program was not funded by the School Board, so the School Board cannot restore funding. She contacted a County Commissioner involved with CHOICES but did not receive an enthusiastic response. She expressed her appreciation of all that the nurses do.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, addressed the Board concerning the school nurse situation, the budget crisis in general, and the effectiveness of the Board and ACEA working together.

Ms. Sande Calkins, ACEA representative, addressed the Board regarding

problems with the Education Support Personnel (ESP) recall procedure.

Dr. Paulson cited an ACEA proposal to establish a budget task force with the Board and asked that the Board make a commitment to hold employees as harmless as possible during this difficult budget time. This was part of a request made by Ms. Calkins at the last Board meeting, and Dr. Paulson stated that he hoped the Board would accept them.

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- 11.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PROCLAMATION –

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

JAZZ APPRECIATION
MONTH

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

Mr. Scott Koons, Gainesville Friends of Jazz, invited the Board to attend an April 14 concert and presented a donation of instructional materials.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENT TO
POLICY 5120,
ASSIGNMENT
WITHIN DISTRICT—

The School Board approved this proposed policy amendment on February 19, 2008. The Notice of Intent to Amend Rule was published in *The Gainesville Sun* on February 29, 2008. A public hearing was not requested. Superintendent Boyd reviewed the changes in the amendment.

SECOND READING

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Childs

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

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to amend the motion for the last sentence of the first paragraph to read: *Toward this end, the Superintendent shall periodically review school enrollment and recommend to the Board such changes in attendance zones for the following school year as may be justified, after consideration of all the following criteria, listed in descending order of significance.*

At Mrs. Roy’s request, Mr. Eubank clarified his requested change to the amendment.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4 – 1
Yes: Childs
Eubank
Pinkoson
Williams
No: Roy

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENTS TO
BYLAW 0149.3,
BOARD-STAFF
COMMUNICATION
AND TO POLICIES 1112,
3112 AND 4112,
BOARD-STAFF
COMMUNICATIONS ---
FIRST READING

Bylaw 0149.3 and Policies 112, 3112 and 4112 were adopted by the School Board on July 17, 2007.

The amendments would require that any staff member who responds in writing or via email to a question from a Board member send a copy of the response to all the other Board members and to the Superintendent, including a copy of the original question. This process will promote open communications between staff members, the Superintendent and Board members.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the proposed amendments to Bylaw 0149.3, Board-Staff Communication and to Policies 1112, 3112 and 4112, Board-Staff Communications, as presented for advertising.

Mrs. Childs expressed hope this be used in a reasonable way and not to require forwarding of inconsequential questions.

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

INFORMATION ITEM
NEWBERRY
ELEMENTARY
FIFTH-GRADERS TO
OAK VIEW MIDDLE
SCHOOL

Mrs. Lacey Redd, principal, Newberry Elementary School, supported by their SAC and PTO, has requested a reconsideration of the decision for fifth-graders not to be moved to Oak View Middle School. She stated that the fifth grade teachers all want to go with their students, a reassuring factor to both faculty and parents.

Dr. Boyd expressed support of the request. Mrs. Pinkoson conveyed her appreciation to those involved.

CITIZEN INPUT

A number of nurses, teachers, staff and citizens expressed support for the school nurse program, related their experiences and advocated for program continuance.

Regarding Item I.3., Amendments to Bylaw 0149.3, Board-Staff Communication, a School Board employee questioned whether this includes all employees. Mrs. Pinkoson stated that this is not the intent and a clarification may need to be made before Second Reading. The employee also questioned the emergency nature of a Purchase Order for a wall on the Ft. Clarke campus and commented on textbooks being paid for in the Dual Enrollment Program during a time of budget cuts.

Mrs. Pinkoson again explained that the School Board chose to use its Medicaid Reimbursement to fund a school nurse program. That funding source has now been discontinued.

Mr. Eubank stated that the value of the school nurse program has never been in question. However, severe budget cuts will require significant reductions. After hearing the nurse's experiences, he concurs with Mrs. Childs and Mrs. Pinkoson that the question of CHOICES funding should be pursued. He proposed that Superintendent Boyd make immediate contact with the County Manager to discuss how to proceed with this request.

Mrs. Pinkoson stated that a change to Florida statute would be required.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Regarding the school nurse issue, Mrs. Roy suggested partnering with the American Medical Association, the Florida Nurses Association and any other state organizations that are stakeholders in this concern. She believes they could be important allies. She also suggested that parents of sick children contact federal legislators to let them know how they are personally affected by the budget decisions.

Mrs. Roy asked the Board to strongly consider Dr. Paulson's idea that the Board partner with the ACEA to consider how to meet the budget crisis.

Mrs. Roy reviewed her concern about energy consultant BCA not immediately implementing an incentive plan to reduce the District's utility costs, as stated in a letter dated February 20, 2007. She made a public records request for BCA's original plan and any correspondence from the District that requested revisions and clarifications or referenced specific scheduling conflicts between BCA and the District.

In order to ascertain whether headway is being made with zoning matters, Mrs. Child's requested that present zoning exemption requests be maintained, including the reasons for their approval, so they can be

compared next year to new requests.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.