

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 15, 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.

Mrs. Williams called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Moved to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2008, School Board Meeting, as presented.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to adopt the July 15, 2008, meeting agenda as presented.

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams thanked the community for their efforts to raise funds to restore art and music programs in elementary schools. She also thanked the Gainesville Community Foundation for collecting and maintaining the funds until they are needed.

Mrs. Williams thanked all school communities and District staff for their excellent efforts in once again earning the District an A Grade from the state, as well as bringing up their individual school grades. She announced that the District has no F schools.

As evidence of the great improvement in schools on the east side of Gainesville, Mr. Eubank pointed out that 43% of schools on the east side earned A's this year, compared to 40% in the rest of the county. One hundred percent of eastside Gainesville schools earned a C or better, compared to 87% in the rest of the county.

Mrs. Williams commented that the support that those schools have had in the past year will not be available next year, which is one reason she feels strongly that the millage referendum must be passed.

Mrs. Childs concurred with the accolades for the excellent school grades, stating that even with continued state cuts, the challenge was met. She commended all involved, particularly teachers.

CITIZEN INPUT

A leader of the community effort to restore art and music programs in elementary schools reported that a total of \$149,269 was raised. Although the goal of \$850,000 was not met, fundraising efforts will continue. Once

the goal is reached, this permanent community fund will go toward enhancing a full-time elementary arts program. Mrs. Childs expressed appreciation to the fundraising group.

A citizen stated that no Board members or administrators have visited the Inside Africa Exhibit at the Florida Museum. An invitation was extended and information was provided on 'revisionist history.'

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1 – 12.

Questions were responded to concerning Item F.8., Continuation Grant for Education for Homeless Children and Youth, and Item F.12., Interagency Agreement for Operation of the Truancy Center.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

INFORMATION –

DIAMOND SPORTS PARK
UPDATE

Mr. Charley Wise, District supervisor who oversees Diamond Sports Park (DSP), began his presentation with a brief video of the recent Babe Ruth Girls Softball Tournament held at the facility. He then provided an update on DSP, with financial data; information on capital improvements; and statistics on use of the Park, including middle school boys baseball and special events.

Mrs. Roy stated that the Board has never seen the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Newberry to run Diamond Sports Park, nor revisited the issue after the first year, as she had understood would take place. She asked whether the profits are being shared. She requested the following information:

- DSP budget from inception of Newberry Recreation management
- a record of income and expenditures, profits and losses
- funding source for managers' salary
- fees for players and spectators
- tournament fees
- concession profits
- whether profits from the Triple Crown tournament were shared
- who pays the insurance
- a copy of the interlocal agreement

Mrs. Roy stated that she wants to be sure the taxpayers who support the school district are not being shortchanged.

Dr. Boyd reminded the Board that DSP was not purchased as a business, but as a future school site. He stated that, at the time the Board purchased it for \$2.5 million, the price was at least \$100,000 under the assessed value. Mrs. Roy stated that was not correct.

Dr. Boyd reported that the agreement for the first year was that only profits over \$100,000 would be shared. This gave Newberry an incentive for increasing their staff in order to undertake this major project. He stated that it has been a very successful project.

Staff Attorney Tom Wittmer briefly reviewed various aspects of the agreement, which expires in September 2009, or at any time with 30 days notice from either party.

Mr. Richard Blalock, City of Newberry Recreation Department and manager of DSP, reported that their books are audited by City Auditors, are public record and available monthly.

At Mrs. Roy's question, Mr. Blalock stated that concessions are subcontracted with a local contractor.

Mrs. Pinkoson expressed appreciation to Mr. Blalock for what he is doing to offer opportunities for children to participate in sports. She hoped he would not feel that the Board is questioning his integrity, affirming that she is not. She stated that she had, in fact, seen the contract prior to voting; Mrs. Roy disagreed. Mrs. Pinkoson expressed to Mayor John Glanzer, her trust in the City of Newberry to maintain the value of that in which the School Board has invested.

Mr. Blalock conveyed that there are no hard feelings; he understands the concern in difficult economic times. He stated that the City of Newberry entered into this agreement because they felt it was the right thing to do. He feels many opportunities for children have been the result.

**ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES OF THE
JULY 15, 2008, SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
APPROVED AT THE JULY 29, 2008, SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

Concerning Information Item G, Diamond Sports Park Update given by Mr. Wise, several statements made by Ms. Roy were recorded in the minutes but were not factually accurate. The following is to correct the information for the record.

Statement:

Ms. Roy: "The Board has never seen a copy of the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Newberry to operate and manage the sports program at Diamond Sports Park."

Correction: The official minutes of the November 21, 2006, School Board meeting indicates that copies were provided as Ms. Roy's recorded comment at that meeting is that she had not received the contract until hours before the meeting, while the news media reported on it the night before.

Statement:

Ms. Roy: "Dr. Boyd was incorrect when he stated that the price paid for Diamond Sports Park was at least \$100,000 under the assessed value."

Correction: Prior to the purchase of the Diamond Sports Park by the School Board of Alachua County two independent appraisals were done. The Alachua County Board of Commissioners hired Mr. Andrew V. Santangini, Jr., MAI, to appraise the property. According to their Certification of Value the property was valued on September 25, 2006, at \$2,700,000 or \$200,000 over the purchase price. The School Board of Alachua County hired the Emerson Appraisal Company, Inc., to appraise the property. According to their letter to Mr. Ed Gable, dated September 28, 2006, their estimated market value was \$2,630,000 or \$130,000 over the purchase price.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank referred to IRS regulations that require changes to 403B programs. Since major decisions must be made by the Board, and with a deadline of January 1, 2009, he wants to move forward on this project.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.