

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

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. Childs

Moved to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2008, Wellness Committee meeting and the July 29, 2008, School Board Meeting, as presented.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA     Consent Agenda Item F.10, Credit Retrieval Contract with Educational Options, Inc., was deleted. Mrs. Roy requested that Item 7, Alachua County Comprehensive Staff Development Plan, be pulled for a question.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson                     Seconded by Mr. Eubank

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

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

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS     Having been a volunteer worker in the Zoning Department for some time, Mrs. Childs commended the staff on their professionalism in handling the tremendous influx of parents over the past few weeks.

Mrs. Williams read newspaper excerpts that point out that education systems all over the country are financially strapped. She stated that the Board is doing the best it can within their budget, particularly with the transportation system.

Mrs. Pinkoson thanked Dr. Boyd and staff on their handling of the tropical storm situation.

CITIZEN INPUT     A citizen reminded Board members of the Inside Africa exhibit at the Florida Museum.

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 – 9 and 11 - 13.

The question was called on the Consent Agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Regarding staff development, Mrs. Roy requested that this expense be reviewed to see if we might draw upon local resources, rather than using funds for travel and lodging for out-of-state presenters. In response to Mrs. Roy's question about the annual staff development budget, Assistant Superintendent Keith Birkett stated that the initial categorical is \$200,000. Deputy Superintendent Sandy Hollinger reported that only one speaker is coming from out of state this year. She acknowledged that the report to the Board may have caused some confusion, because it includes a continuation of issues from last year's presenters. Mrs. Hollinger will report back to Mrs. Roy on the exact amount that the Staff Development budget has been reduced.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson                      Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Consent Agenda item 7, Alachua County Comprehensive Staff Development Plan.

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

BID AWARD FOR  
PROJECT SBAC B0702—  
J. J. FINLEY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
AND KIRBY-SMITH  
ADMINISTRATION  
BUILDING WINDOW  
REPLACEMENT

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson                      Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$1,036,000 and additive alternate one in the amount of \$50,000 and award a contract for construction totaling \$1,086,000 to Sunryse Construction Services, Inc., Stuart, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within three hundred thirty-five (335) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

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

RENEWAL OF PROPERTY  
AND CASUALTY  
INSURANCE PROGRAM  
FOR 2008-09 FISCAL  
YEAR

It was noted that the property/casualty insurance premium has been reduced by well over a million dollars in the past year.

Motion by Mr. Eubank                      Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Property and Casualty Insurance Program with the Florida School Boards Insurance Trust (FSBIT) for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year at a cost of \$4,216,898.

Mrs. Pinkoson thanked Mr. Eubank for his service with FSBIT.

Mrs. Roy expressed concern about the cost of FSBIT, noting that many districts do not participate. It was clarified that the \$4 million is not paid to belong to FSBIT, but rather is the payment for the District's property/casualty insurance, which has a lower rate because we belong to FSBIT. Mr. Eubank further explained the role of FSBIT in holding costs down. The District's cost is \$400,000 - \$500,000, the District's share of claims processing, loss control, and administration. There is no cost for belonging to FSBIT. The District has been a member for approximately 17 years.

Dr. Boyd stated that FSBIT is a branch of the Florida School Boards Association and is efficiently administered. He commended Mr. Eubank and FSBIT, but particularly the District's HR staff, whose diligent oversight has brought the cost of claims down. He reported that, based on their analysis of FSBIT advantages, St. Johns County is becoming the newest member.

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

AMENDMENTS TO  
BOARD POLICIES AND  
ADOPTION OF NEW  
POLICY 8141,  
MANDATORY  
REPORTING OF  
MISCONDUCT –  
FIRST READING

The policy changes reflect new ethics legislation [SB 1712; Ch 2008-108, L.O.F.] requiring school boards to adopt policies regarding misconduct by employees that affects the health, safety or welfare of students.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the amendments to Board policies and adoption of new Policy 8141, *Mandatory Reporting of Misconduct*, as presented, for advertising.

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

CITIZEN INPUT

Two citizens expressed concern about a safety situation at a bus-stop. The Board assured a review of the site.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

Mrs. Williams expressed hope that all parents will review the Parent Guide that will soon be distributed. PIO Jackie Johnson thanked sponsors of the publication: Cox Communications, Santa Fe College, and Campus USA Credit Union.

Mr. Eubank requested a review to identify any building projects for which funds are available, since this may be a time to get good pricing. Also, regarding our contract with GRU, which will expire in a few years, he suggested beginning a dialogue with GRU and the City of Gainesville to see if there's a possibility of entering into an interlocal agreement for a lower rate for the future, beyond the current contract time. He would also like to work with them on alternative energy at our schools.

Mrs. Childs gave a reminder of her upcoming Muscular Dystrophy fundraiser.

Mrs. Roy agreed with Mr. Eubank's suggestions regarding GRU. She noted that in 2006, GRU wrote a white paper report on the energy efficiency of our schools, in which they expressed a desire to help the District with advice and purchasing power for energy alternatives. She offered to provide the paper again to Board members. She believes the GRU contract expires in 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.