

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 16, 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. In recognition of Proud to Be an American Month, Glen Springs Elementary School fourth-grader Jan De Los Santos performed a vocal rendition of *God Bless America*.

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

Moved to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2008, School Board meeting and the September 9, 2008, Informal School Board meeting, as presented.

Mrs. Roy made a correction to her comments as made at the September 2, 2008, meeting.

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 September 16, 2008, meeting agenda as presented.

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Board member or Superintendent announcements.

RECOGNITION

Mrs. Liz Stark, Volunteer Coordinator, reviewed the Five-Star School Award criteria and announced the award winners: Wiles Elementary and A. Quinn Jones Center.

FIVE STAR SCHOOLS
AND ACPS

FOUNDATION UPDATE

Taal Hasak-Lowy, recently hired Executive Director, Alachua County Public Schools Foundation, introduced herself and invited Board members to the contract signing of Take Stock in Children scholars.

CITIZEN INPUT

A parent addressed the Board with a request to change what she described as an unsafe bus stop. She was asked to email the information.

A citizen invited Board members and interested others to the showing of the film, *Evolution on Trial*.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1 – 16.

Concerning Item 14, Paperwork Reduction Act, Mrs. Childs suggested that a page could be eliminated from the presently used NCR leave form.

The question was called on the Consent Agenda as presented.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CANCELLATION OF
THE DECEMBER 2, 2008,
SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING

The Annual FSBA/FADSS Joint Conference is scheduled in Tampa, Florida, December 2 through December 5, 2008. The Conference conflicts with the December 2, 2008, School Board meeting.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to cancel the December 2, 2008, School Board meeting.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SELECTION OF
403(b) VENDORS

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 403(b) providers recommended by the Independent Benefits Council (IBC) and include the following vendors: ING Retirement Plans, Fidelity Investments, Great American Life Insurance and Legend (Teachers Sharing Answers), and a three-year review cycle of all providers.

Noting recent developments in the financial markets, Mr. Eubank proposed an amendment to the motion:

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Pinkoson

Moved to amend the motion to authorize the Superintendent to suspend deductions for any vendor for whom, at any point in time, he has concern about financial stability, in order to protect employees; and that the final offerings from each vendor will be approved by the Superintendent.

Mr. Eubank stated that the clause stating that final offerings will be approved by the Superintendent is based on concerns about whether some of the added vendors complied with IBC requirements.

The discussion was suspended by the Chairman, in order to convene a public hearing at the scheduled time.

PUBLIC HEARING --
ADOPTION OF THE
MILLAGE
RESOLUTIONS
FOR THE 2008-2009
FISCAL YEAR AND
THE 2008-2009
BUDGET

The regular Board meeting was recessed and a Public Hearing convened.

Mr. Keith Birkett, Assistant Superintendent, Planning and Budget, explained the procedure for adoption of the resolutions. He commended Business Services staff who prepared this budget, particularly expressing appreciation for the dedication and excellent work of Alex Rella, Senior Accountant.

Mr. Scott Ward, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed details of the millage being levied.

A citizen expressed his feeling that schools should be funded by the parents, not by taxpayers who have no children. Mr. Eubank informed him that the state legislature is responsible for the funding process.

Resolution No. 08-06--Adoption of the Millage Levy for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Millage Resolution No. 08-06 as presented.

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

Resolution No. 08-07--Adoption of the 2008-2009 Budget.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Budget Resolution No. 08-07 as presented.

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

Proposed 2009-2010 School Calendar

PROPOSED 2009-2010
SCHOOL CALENDAR

Deputy Superintendent Sandy Hollinger reviewed the proposed 2009-2010 school calendar, to which additional flex days have been added, as well as priority order of their use. She noted that changes were made in collaboration with the ACEA.

Mrs. Childs requested that flex days be monitored this year to ascertain whether they are being used appropriately.

Mrs. Pinkoson noted that the state restricts the starting dates of school.

The Public Hearing was adjourned and the regular Board meeting was reconvened.

SELECTION OF

Mr. Eubank explained the rationale behind his amended motion.

403(b) VENDORS
(continued)

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Chairman Williams passed the gavel to Vice-Chairman Pinkoson.

Seconded by Mrs. Williams

Moved to amend the motion to require that the companies that have not been vetted by IBC be identified to employees.

Mrs. Childs favors a broader disclaimer, such as: *“We approve the following vendors for payroll deduction for your 403(b) plan, but in no way do we endorse or recommend these or any other company. Each employee should discuss their individual situation with a personal advisor and make their own decisions accordingly.”*

Mr. Jim Sumner, Interim Risk Management Director, stated that an even stronger disclaimer than Mrs. Childs suggests will be part of a letter that will go to all employees.

There was extensive input from Board members, staff, and Dr. Gunnar Paulson, ACEA president, on the IBC Committee process, companies selected, plans approved, legalities and potential liabilities involved.

The question was called on Mrs. Roy’s amendment.

Upon Vote: Motion failed 4-1
Yes: Roy
No: Childs
Eubank
Pinkoson
Williams

The question was called on Mr. Eubank’s amendment.

Upon Vote: Motion failed 4-1
Yes: Eubank
No: Childs
Pinkoson
Roy
Williams

The question was called on the original motion.

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

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. E0809-01

The employee is charged with violation of Board Policies 4130: Assignments; 4430.01: Absence Without Leave; 8670: Automotive Equipment; 4210: Code of Ethics; and 4120: Employment of Support Staff. The basis for this action is that during the months of July and August 2008, the employee misused the School Board vehicle assigned to him and willfully failed to be present at assigned work locations and perform the responsibilities of his position.

Motion by Mrs. Pinkoson

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to suspend the employee without pay effective September 17, 2008, pending conclusion of the appeal process.

The employee addressed the Board, disputing the charges against him and requesting reconsideration of his suspension.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1

Yes: Childs
Eubank
Pinkoson
Williams

No: Roy

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen hoped that more School Board meetings would be televised, and was referred to Cox Communications. He commented on remedial classes at the college level and suggested that more school choice might benefit students. Mrs. Childs and Mrs. Roy responded.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Roy requested that the oversight committee members for the millage referendum be named before the time of the vote, to help instill voter confidence in the handling of funds.

Mr. Eubank:

- Requested a report at the next Board meeting on how the unencumbered funds of a recently closed charter school were expended.
- Suggested adding the position of energy educator/manager oversee energy reduction matters.
- Favors looking into possible vehicle conversion to CNG (compressed natural gas).

Mrs. Roy agreed with Mr. Eubank's suggestion of creating an energy manager position. She also inquired about follow-up to an earlier request concerning school energy report cards. Mr. Gable responded.

Mrs. Pinkoson stated her position that with the art/music cutbacks and no salary increases, she will not support adding any new positions.

ADJOURNMENT

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