

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 18, 2008

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in regular session duly called at 6:20 p.m., immediately following the reorganization meeting, in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Tina Pinkoson, Chairman; F. Wesley Eubank, Vice-Chairman; Ginger Childs, Eileen F. Roy; and Barbara Sharpe, members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent; and James F. Lang, Board attorney.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pinkoson.

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

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

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Mrs. Pinkoson announced that Item H.4., Bid Award for Project SBAC A0701 – Westwood Middle School Student Service Addition and Renovations, has been deleted from the agenda.

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

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Roy commended the Buchholz Band for an outstanding performance at their Veterans Day concert at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Mrs. Sharpe commended the vocational students' Dignity Project and announced that they welcome donations of automobiles. Mrs. Roy added that it was heartwarming to see the response of Horizon Center student mechanics, when recipients were so appreciative of cars they worked on.

CITIZENS FOR STRONG
SCHOOLS ADVOCACY
COMMITTEE

Appreciation was expressed and certificates awarded to members of the Citizens for Strong School Advocacy Committee: Sande Calkins, Kevin Griffin, Mike Griffis, Tony Jones, Barbara Lutz, Mark McGriff, Noel McGriff, Perry McGriff, Carol Oyenarte, Gunnar Paulson, Melanie Saxon, John Schroepfer, Shariq Siraj, Jim Stringfellow, Heather Surrency, Lillian Swanger, Sharon Surrency, Marilyn Tubb, Rosa B. Williams, and Ted Wilson. Appreciation was also extended to local businessmen Nick DeCarlis, DECA Design, Inc., and Jim Harrison, Meta Visual, Inc., who designed the logo, signs and other materials for the initiative.

Special recognition was extended to Mr. Mark McGriff, committee chair; Dr. Gunnar Paulson, ACEA president; and Jackie Johnson, Alachua County

Public Schools PIO.

Mrs. Pinkoson also expressed appreciation to Dr. Boyd.

PUBLIC HEARING --
POLICY 5517.01,
INTIMIDATING
BEHAVIOR TOWARD
STUDENTS

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

Representatives of the Human Rights Council of North Central Florida, the Pride Community Center of North Central Florida, and several citizens supported adding a paragraph to the policy that would enumerate specific traits that cannot be the basis for bullying and harassment, especially including sexual orientation and gender expression.

Mrs. Sharpe specified a number of areas that she wanted to be sure were considered in the policy development, including federal policy, definitions, reporting and recordkeeping.

Mrs. Childs commented on the importance of the Cyber-bullying section, suggested changes to timely reporting requirements, Unsafe Schools language, and felt a specific list is not necessary or advisable.

Mrs. Roy favored adding language proposed by the agency representatives who spoke, including the list of specific traits. Noting that the list could not be exhaustive, she noted the wording of the proposed language already states the wording "including, but not limited to . . ." prior to listing many traits.

Mr. Eubank suggested several wording modifications to make the policy align more closely with Florida Statute. He also expressed concern about whether the required timing of parent notification is realistic.

Mrs. Pinkoson remarked that tolerance of the differences in others is rooted in the home and should also be taught and demonstrated in schools. She noted that the final vote will be at the December 16 meeting.

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

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to adopt the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-9.

Responding to a question from Mrs. Roy, Mr. Ed Gable, Executive Director, Facilities, stated that the Alachua Elementary Classroom project

was started prior to ventures into LEED construction, so would not qualify for certification. It is, however, an energy efficient building with advanced hurricane protection. Mrs. Roy hopes that LEED construction will be the standard for future projects.

At Mrs. Childs' request, Mr. Jim Sumner, Risk Management, pointed out that a new feature for employee's Medical Flexible Spending Account Plans allows the opportunity to incur and submit claims for two and one-half months after the end of the plan year.

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

APPOINTMENT OF
2009-2013 CITIZENS
OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following citizens are recommended to serve on the Citizens Oversight Committee for the one mill property tax increase for schools: Mr. Roland Daniels, Mr. Eric Godet, Mr. Sam Goforth, Mr. Mike Kline, Mr. Perry McGriff, Ms. Lillian Swanger, Ms. Penny Wheat, and Mr. Albert White.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board appoint the 2009-2013 Oversight Committee members for the one mill property tax increase for schools as presented.

Mr. Eubank emphasized the importance of this millage and the Board's oversight and therefore requested that each Board member nominate a person for the committee, in addition to those appointed at this meeting.

Mrs. Roy expressed appreciation to those who have agreed to serve, citing that the stature of these citizens will bring assurance to the public that budget matters will be transparent.

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

PROPOSED REVISIONS
TO THE 2008-09 PUPIL
PROGRESSION PLAN –
SECOND READING

A Public Hearing was held on October 21, 2008, to consider the proposed revisions to the 2008-09 Pupil Progression Plan.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2008-2009 Pupil Progression Plan as presented.

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

PROPOSED POLICIES
1419.03, 3419.03 AND
4419.03, *CERTIFIED*
DOMESTIC PARTNERS –

The policy will provide for coverage under the Board's health insurance for the certified domestic partners of Board employees and their dependents.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Childs

FIRST READING

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve proposed Policies 1419.03, 3419.03 and 4419.03, Certified Domestic Partners, as presented, for advertising.

Mr. Eubank questioned whether the wording in line 3 should be revised, since it might be interpreted that the Board will actually pay for the health insurance benefits.

A citizen voiced her support for the policy, as did the representative of the Human Rights Council of North Central Florida, who also pointed out that the policy must be adopted by December 1, in order to be eligible for grants from the state.

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC R0802—
SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA ROOF
REPLACEMENT

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0
Bids for the construction of this project were received on November 6, 2008.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the low-base bid of \$97,000 and additive alternate number one in the amount of \$12,000 and award a contract for construction totaling \$109,000 to J. Register Company, Inc., of Orange Park, Florida. Completion of this project will be within 60 consecutive calendar days from the indicated in the Notice to Proceed.

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

DISCUSSION ITEM—
SCHEDULE BUDGET
WORK GROUP MEETING

Having received notice of further budget cuts from the state, the Board scheduled a Budget Work Group meeting for 3 p.m. on December 16, 2008.

DISCUSSION ITEM—
BOARD MEMBER
COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS

After discussion, the following changes to Board member Committee Assignments were made:

- Mrs. Roy will serve on the Library Governing Board.
- Mrs. Sharpe will serve on the FSBA Advocacy Committee

Participation is no longer needed for the following committees:

- Chamber Education Advisory Task Force
- Healthy Community Initiative
- Alachua County Recreation Coordinating Council
- School Readiness Coalition
- ESE Advisory Council

It was pointed out that if matters concerning the School Board are not part

of an agencies meeting agenda, it is not necessary for a Board member to attend.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Roy made a statement of thanks to the public for their vote of confidence in her reelection; expressed thanks to staff for patience and willingness to assist her, commented on her past four-years' service and stated that she looks forward to the task ahead.

Mrs. Sharpe feels that she made a difference in her previous twelve years of service on the Board and looks forward to contributing in the challenging matters ahead. Her focus is on the children of Alachua County, and she joins the Board with no other agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.