

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 17, 2009

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: Tina Pinkoson, Chairman; Wes Eubank, Vice-Chairman; Ginger Childs, Barbara Sharpe, 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 Pinkoson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Moved to approve the minutes of February 3, 2009, as presented.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

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

Moved to adopt the February 17, 2009, meeting agenda as presented.

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Sharpe commended:

The team of EHS students who took top honors, medals and scholarships in the state's premier culinary competition, the Florida ProStart Invitational, sponsored by the Florida Restaurant Association.

- Teacher of the Year Finalists Robert Hyatt, Judy Masuda and Keith Watts.
- Newberry High School group PRIDE, Panthers Researching and Improving Different Environments, on numerous accomplishments, including recent cleanups of Ginnie Springs and Payne's Prairie.

Chairman Pinkoson:

Welcomed a group of Boy Scouts who were in the audience to watch local government in action.

RECOGNITION –
OUTSTANDING
SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Board recognized the District's 2008-2009 Outstanding School Volunteers as representatives of the exceptional dedication of all the volunteers in Alachua County schools:

- Jim Bigler, Talbot Elementary School – Senior Category
- Chef Bert Gill, Eastside High School – Adult Category
- Marcy Quested, Rawlings Elementary School – Youth Category

CITIZEN INPUT

Citizen comments concerning elimination of the Summer EDEP program included:

- Program was eliminated without input from participants.
- Privatize departments such as Facilities, Transportation, to save money
- Alternatives are too costly.
- Private programs do not measure up to EDEP.
- Willing to pay more to make program self sufficient.
- Petition presented to protest decision to eliminate summer EDEP.
- Private programs cannot accommodate the number of EDEP participants.
- How can the decision be changed?

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, ACEA President, announced an upcoming statewide rally in support of public education, to be held at the University of Central Florida in Orlando on February 28. On March 18, another rally will be held in Tallahassee. Dr. Paulson emphasized the importance of having as many people as possible attend these rallies.

Regarding the summer EDEP program, Mrs. Pinkoson stated that a majority of Board members agreed at a budget workshop that there is a financial need to end this program. It is a daycare program, it is not self-sustaining, and focus must be on the 180-day academic year.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that there is no gratification for Board members in making this decision. However, the program does not pay for energy use, custodial needs or maintenance. It is incumbent upon the Board to provide a quality K-12 education, and it cannot subsidize a summer daycare program in the midst of a serious financial crisis. Mrs. Sharpe also pointed out that the one-mill revenue is required to be used for specified programs.

Mr. Eubank expressed agreement with Mrs. Sharpe that the Board cannot subsidize the program. However, considering the community impact and the citizen comments that there is a willingness to pay more, he suggested that a fee structure might be developed that would be acceptable to parents and perhaps even allow some income for the schools. He suggested that staff review the possibility. He also requested a review of whether the District is subsidizing the after-school EDEP.

Mrs. Pinkoson requested that the Superintendent poll the Board members, as would normally be done in workshop session, to ascertain whether there is consensus on Mr. Eubank's suggestion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-8.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CHANGE IN 2008-09
PUPIL PROGRESSION
PLAN

The methods of calculating semester grades at middle and high school are not aligned. The proposed change will require both middle and high school semester grades to be calculated using grade points.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed amendment to the 2008-09 Pupil Progression Plan for advertising.

Mrs. Childs expressed long-time support for this change.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

Citizen input included the following comments:

- Thanks to Mr. Eubank for his suggestion.
- What percent of budget does the District subsidize?
- Consolidate programs into fewer schools.
- Eliminate the benefit of not paying for weeks that a child doesn't attend.
- Provide information to parents on the cost for a self-sustaining program.
- Let parents have input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Roy referred to a proposed commercial development near Camp Crystal, which she has informed the Superintendent about. She is in receipt of information from a hydrological survey, which concludes that there is a very real possibility that the development could adversely affect Crystal Lake and, therefore, Camp Crystal. There is a hearing scheduled for this week at the Bradford County Courthouse and it has been requested that a representative from the Camp or the School Board be in attendance to express any concerns, or a letter to be sent that would be read into the record

ADJOURNMENT

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