

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 3, 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. The Ft. Clarke Woodwind Choir performed, under the direction of Mr. Everett McConn.

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

Moved to approve the following minutes as presented:

- School Board Meeting, February 17, 2009
- Informal Board Meeting, February 10, 2009
- Budget Workshop, February 10, 2009
- Budget Workshop, December 16, 2008
- Capital Outlay Workshop, November 25, 2008
- Wellness Committee, October 15, 2008

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

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

Moved to adopt the March 3, 2009, meeting agenda as presented.

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman reported that, at the direction of a majority of Board members, proposed changes to the summer program have been developed. The changes are in response to budget needs and summer school cutbacks. Although details are not finalized, Mrs. Pinkoson noted that the program will include a math and reading curriculum, with certified teachers. She stated that the Board will discuss the issue at the March 10 Informal Board meeting.

Mrs. Sharpe :

- expressed commitment to the proposed summer program and was pleased with the educational structure and the fee structure for free and reduced lunch participants.
- commented on the success of the recent education rally in Orlando and encouraged attendance at the March 18 Tallahassee rally.

Mrs. Childs:

- expressed that she is pleased with the proposed educational component to the summer program and views it as a pilot that will require evaluation.
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- Expressed appreciation to the Teachers of the Year, to the community for their contributions, and to Jackie Johnson and staff for conducting a fine program.

Mrs. Roy:

- commended Teachers of the Year, especially Mr. Robert Hyatt, who won the District honor.

CITIZEN INPUT

A number of citizens addressed the Board, some in support of the proposed summer program and others against changes.

ACEA President Gunnar Paulson encouraged attendance at the March 18 education Rally in Tally. He also spoke about the education and economic harm that would be done to the community if the University of Florida does away with the undergraduate program at the College of Education, as is being proposed by President Machen. He emphasized the importance of the public speaking out and invited attendance at an upcoming candlelight vigil being held in protest.

Dr. Paulson paid tribute to Susan Reinheimer, a long-time teacher who recently passed away.

Mr. Eubank reported that 8% (163) of our teachers are graduates of the UF College of Education, either last year or this year. Closing of the College would have a significant impact upon the District.

He also applauded the decision to change the summer program, but stated that if he had known about the decision prior to this meeting, he would have been better able to respond to emails. He stated that the present program has always had educational content.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-10.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMEND THE 2008-209
EXTENDED SCHOOL
YEAR SCHEDULE –

The summer school program will be revised to a four-day week. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday, beginning June 10 and ending July 2, 2009.

FIRST READING

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the amended 2008-2009 Extended School Year Schedule for advertising.

Mrs. Childs was pleased with the amendment, stating that it would lower fuel consumption.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

The chairman commented that to balance the budget this year, difficult decisions have been required, despite public input, such as those that affected

art and music programs. She also stated that as soon as the summer program is fully developed, registration information will be provided to parents.

Additional citizens addressed the Board concerning the summer program.

Ms. Cheryl Poe, Friends of Alachua County Public Schools Elementary Arts Program, announced a \$50,000 gift to elementary schools, with \$1,000 going to each elementary school music program and to each art program. She also announced an upcoming benefit concert featuring Anna Moo.

Mrs. Pinkoson expressed appreciation for the gift and commended the Friends of Alachua County Public Schools Elementary Arts Program on their commitment.

Mrs. Sharpe noted that the Board is elected to make the difficult decisions. She also stated that she is pleased with staff's creative efforts in response to Board member concerns and attorney's opinion about the summer program.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank requested that staff investigate the situation of portables at under-enrolled schools. He also suggested that all Board members get a copy of the cost report by school.

Mrs. Roy felt that someone should have spoken on behalf of District interests at the February 19 Bradford County Commission meeting, regarding hydrology reports suggesting potential harm to Crystal Lake from a planned development under Commission consideration. She requested that the record reflect a lack of District involvement on this issue.

Mrs. Pinkoson stated that the value of the EDEP program has never been an issue, but the legislature has whittled away education dollars until the program as it was can no longer be offered. She noted that state funding per pupil is up less than 4% since 2004, while local funding has risen by 59%. The result is that the state makes the cuts and local Boards bear the brunt of their decisions. She suggested that the emails that the public has been sending to the Board be resent to state officials, namely Speaker of the House Larry Cretul, Representatives Debbie Boyd and Chuck Chestnut, and Senator Steve Oelrich.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.