

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 21, 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, and introduced the Eastside High School Sax Quartet, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Moved to approve the following minutes as presented:

- March 10, 2009, Informal School Board Meeting
- March 17, 2009, School Board Meeting
- March 24, 2009, Budget Workshop

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

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

Moved to adopt the March 17, 2009, meeting agenda as amended.

Mrs. Pinkoson pulled Item F.4., *Purchased Products/Services between \$12,500 and \$24,999*, for a separate vote. Since she is employed as a consultant by the FSBA, she will recuse herself from the vote on Attachment D, PO 149426, Florida School Boards Association.

Mr. Eubank stated he will have a comment on Item F.1., Attachment A, Employment of Personnel; and Mrs. Roy will comment on Item F.9., Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant.

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Childs announced the Fifth Annual World's Greatest Baby Shower, to be held on April 25 at Lincoln Middle School, sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Gainesville and other community groups.

Mrs. Sharpe recognized Lyndon White, Sidney Lanier Senior, who recently won the Yes I Can! award from the Council for Exceptional Children.

CITIZEN INPUT

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, ACEA President, updated the Board on efforts to contact legislators regarding legislative funding decisions. Mrs. Pinkoson asked Dr. Paulson for updates at future Board meetings about which representatives respond.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-18, with Item 4 being pulled for separate vote.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to approve Item F.4., *Purchased Products/Services between \$12,500 and \$24,999.*

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0
(Mrs. Pinkoson abstaining)

Staff Attorney Tom Wittmer responded to a question from Mr. Eubank concerning referenced employees in Policy 8141, Mandatory Reporting of Misconduct.

Mrs. Roy commented on how impressed she is with the Safe Schools Healthy Students grant proposal (Item F.9.) and commended Mr. Everett Caudle, Supervisor, Project Development. Mr. Caudle gave credit to staff members and other involved agencies.

PROCLAMATION –

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

APRIL AS LIBRARY
APPRECIATION MONTH

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming the month of April as *Library Appreciation Month* in Alachua County Public Schools.

Mrs. Roy, School Board representative to the Library District, acclaimed its many programs and commented on ones particularly designed for preschoolers and teens.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PROCLAMATION –

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

APRIL AS JAZZ
APPRECIATION MONTH

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming the month of April as *Jazz Appreciation Month* in Alachua County Public Schools.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

WAIVER REQUEST FOR
EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Eastside High School is requesting a waiver to Article IX, Section 12(c) of the collective bargaining agreement, in order to provide a block schedule for 9th grade students in the major program. The block schedule involves 200 students and 11 teachers. The remainder of the school will be unaffected and will continue to follow the traditional six-period schedule. Eastside High will only use the block schedule if they can implement it with no additional allocation from the District and maintain class size. The waiver request has

been approved by the School Advisory Council, the faculty and Executive Board of the ACEA.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the waiver request for Eastside High School as presented.

Eastside Principal Jeff Charbonnet responded to Board member questions about the program. He assured Mr. Eubank that core academic class size will not exceed 28 students.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

WAIVER REQUEST FOR
FORT CLARKE MIDDLE
SCHOOL

Fort Clarke Middle School is requesting a waiver to Article IX, Section 12(c) of the collective bargaining agreement in order to provide an extended Academic Advisement period once each week. The waiver request has been approved by the School Advisory Council, a majority of the faculty, and the Executive Board of the ACEA.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the waiver request for Fort Clarke Middle School as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

WAIVER REQUEST FOR
HIGH SPRINGS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

High Springs Community School requests the renewal of a waiver to Article IX, Section 12(c) of the collective bargaining agreement, in order to allow for early release on Wednesdays for middle school teachers. The waiver is necessary to allow for effective busing and cohesive scheduling. Middle school teachers will actually exceed the required number of contact minutes per week. The waiver request has been approved by the School Advisory Council, a majority of the faculty, and the Executive Board of the ACEA.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the waiver request for High Springs Community School as presented.

Mrs. Childs stated that she will vote against this waiver because she feels the transportation schedule should accommodate the instructional program. Mrs. Sharpe and Mr. Eubank concurred.

It was noted that the waiver has been in place for the past two years.

Mrs. Roy believes the Board should trust the judgment of the School Advisory Council, the majority of the faculty, and the Executive Board of the ACEA, who all feel this is the best solution for the school.

Principal Jeff Means stated that the issue is not so much about transportation

as it is about the challenges of combining a middle school and an elementary school. He noted particularly the matter of uniting faculties that have a disparity in contracts.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion fails 3-2

Yes: Pinkoson

Roy

No: Childs

Eubank

Sharpe

WAIVER REQUEST FOR
PROFESSIONAL
ACADEMIES MAGNET
AT LOFTEN HIGH
SCHOOL

The Professional Academies Magnet at Loften High School is requesting a waiver to Article IX, Section 12(c) of the collective bargaining agreement to continue using a 4 x 4 block schedule. The waiver has been approved by the School Advisory Council, and the Executive Board of the ACEA. The waiver is contingent upon the school meeting mandated class size requirements within their allocated instructional units.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the waiver request for The Professional Academies Magnet at Loften High School as presented.

Mr. Sanders assured Mr. Eubank that core academic class size will not exceed 28 students.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENT TO THE
2008-2009 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.

SECOND READING

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the amendment to the 2008-09 Pupil Progression Plan as presented.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the amendment to the 2008-09 Pupil Progression Plan as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENT TO THE
2008-2009 EXTENDED
SCHOOL YEAR
SCHEDULE –

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

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

SECOND READING

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

It was noted that the only exception to this schedule will be the week of July 4, when there will be three-day week, Wednesday through Friday.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PROPOSED REVISIONS
TO POLICY 5111.01,
HOMELESS EDUCATION
AND ENROLLMENT –

The proposed revisions provide definitions and a dispute resolution process, in compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. §§11431-11436).

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

FIRST READING

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve proposed revisions to Policy 5111.01, *Homeless Education and Enrollment*, for advertising.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CONTRACT WITH DES
OF FLORIDA, LLC

The current contract with DES of Florida, LLC, provides a means for administrators and professional/technical employees to be subcontracted by the School Board after they complete DROP. Each person recommended for a DES contract must be selected and pre-approved by the Superintendent. The current contract with DES ends June 30, 2009. The proposed new contract would begin July 1, 2009, and continue in effect until June 30, 2010.

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve continuation of the contract with DES of Florida, LLC, which allows administrators and professional/technical employees to retire when they complete DROP and be subcontracted by the School Board, if pre-approved by the Superintendent.

In response to Mr. Eubank's question of why a local business is not solicited to handle these contracts, Purchasing Agent Wayne Hackett reported that other companies could not provide letters from FRS stating that the relationship between the employer and the employee did not violate any rules and regulations. Mr. Eubank felt if DES contracts are legal, they should be legal for other companies as well.

Mr. Eubank also inquired as to the number of Professional/Technical employees who have been brought back, with Joan Longstreth, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, stating that two were invited, but for differing reasons, neither accepted.

Mr. Eubank expressed that he opposes the DES program because he feels it is not limited to critical situations, it inhibits promotion of other employees, and is too costly. He cautioned about upcoming budget cuts.

Mrs. Roy also expressed reservations about the legalities and salary issues associated with DES contracts. She suggested that either (1) salaries be set at mid-point of the salary schedule or (2) the combination of salary and retirement income should not exceed the salary the employee was earning when DROP was completed.

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to amend the motion to continue the contract with DES, by adding a stipulation that salaries be set at mid-point of the salary schedule.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote: Motion fails 3-2

Yes: Eubank

Roy

No: Childs

Pinkoson

Sharpe

The Superintendent responded to questions from Mrs. Sharpe, stating that the principal is the most important position at a school and he is pleased with the quality leadership that has been maintained through DES contracts. Concerning salary levels, Dr. Boyd stated that principals should not be considered with any less deference than teachers.

In response to Mrs. Childs' question regarding whether DES contract approval would allow the Superintendent to better manage the schools, Dr. Boyd stated that it gives him complete flexibility to use all available resources. Mrs. Childs stated she would vote in favor of the contract.

Mr. Eubank read a portion of a required form for DROP that states the employee has 'resigned employment.' He noted that it could be said the system is not fair because ESPs are not included, and also commented that the state has made the distinction for teachers because of a potential shortage. He again emphasized cost concerns and the need to have administrators prepared to move into principalships.

Dr. Longstreth responded to Board member concerns by stating that there are letters on file from both FRS and the Ethics Commission that approve the use of DES services. The Staff Attorney has verified the legality, and many other school districts around the state have DES contracts.

The question was called on the original motion.

Upon Vote: Motion passes 3-2

Yes: Childs

Pinkoson

Sharpe

No: Eubank

Roy

CERTIFICATES OF
PARTICIPATION –
RESOLUTION COP-09-01

Mr. Keith Birkett, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Budget, reported that this Resolution is expected to result in a savings of \$60,000 per year for the next five years.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt Resolution COP-09-01, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, OF NOT EXCEEDING \$5,350,000 REFUNDING CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION, SERIES 2009a, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFINANCING CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES LEASED TO THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA; APPROVING THE MAJOR FINANCING DOCUMENTS; APPROVING A NEGOTIATED SALE OF THE CERTIFICATES TO THE PURCHASER, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

FINANCIAL AND
FEDERAL SINGLE AUDIT
OF THE ALACHUA
COUNTY DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD, FOR
FISCAL YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 2008

A Financial, Federal and Single Audit report has been prepared for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for School Board approval.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants prepared by Purvis Gray and Company, for the year ended June 30, 2008, and accompanying Management Letter be filed as part of the public records of the School Board.

In response to questions from Mrs. Childs, Mr. Scott Ward, Chief Financial Officer, explained the issues that delayed presentation of this audit. Mrs. Childs expressed concern that untimely Charter School audits could potentially delay recognition of problems. Mr. Eubank explained that staff is informed of potential areas of concern prior to receipt of final audit reports.

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

INTERNAL ACCOUNT
AUDITOR'S REPORT—
FISCAL YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 2008

An Internal Account Auditor's Report has been prepared for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for School Board approval. One material deficiency was noted across the board: not having proper segregation of duties in the schools. Other individual comments will be passed along to Deputy Superintendent Sandy Hollinger.

Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Independent Auditor's Report prepared by Purvis Gray and Company for the School Board of Alachua County Internal Accounts, for the year ended June 30, 2008, as presented, and that it be filed as part of the public records of the School Board.

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

ANNUAL CHARTER
SCHOOL AUDIT
REPORTS

Annual Audit reports for the District's 13 Charter Schools have been prepared. These entities are considered component units of our District and their audit reports are required to be approved by the Board and entered into public record. Mr. Ward noted declining finances for Desoto High School (which has since closed) and Hoggetowne Middle School.

Charter Schools:

Alachua Learning Center, Inc.	Hoggetowne Middle School
Caring and Sharing Learning School	Love to Learn Educational Center
DeSoto High School	Micanopy Area Cooperative School
Einstein Montessori School	Micanopy Middle Charter School
Expressions Learning Arts Academy, Inc.	One Room School House Project, Inc.
Genesis Preparatory School of GV, Inc.	Fla. School for Integrated Academics/Technology
Healthy Learning Academy	

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board approve the audit reports for the charter schools for the year ended June 30, 2008, as presented, and that they be filed as part of the public records of the School Board.

Mrs. Sharpe felt that her review of some of the audit documents indicated cause for concern.

Mr. Ward noted some audit procedure changes that may have caused difficulties for the schools this year. He also commented that Hoggetowne has implemented proactive measures to overcome their financial problems.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Sharpe requested that the Superintendent look into any benefits that might be available through the Florida Education Purchasing Consortium.

Mr. Eubank reported that a bill has been introduced in the legislature concerning purchase of local food for schools' Food Service programs. He noted that the Board's previously expressed interest in local purchases should allow this District to get ahead of that issue.

Mrs. Pinkoson reminded Board members about upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.