

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 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, Eileen F. Roy, and Barbara Sharpe, members; and Susan Seigle, Board attorney. Deputy Superintendent Sandy Hollinger substituted for W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent, in his absence.

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 following minutes, as presented:

- June 9, 2009, Informal Board Meeting
- June 16, 2009, School Board Meeting

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Chairman Pinkoson stated that Attachment B, Item G., Interior Renovations at Glen Springs and Rawlings Elementary Schools, is being deleted from the agenda.

Mr. Eubank requested that Items 9-14 on the Consent Agenda be pulled for discussion.

Motion by Mrs. Childs Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to adopt the July 21, 2009, meeting agenda, as amended.

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

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Roy:

- Apologized for a comment made at a prior meeting.
- Thanked Mr. Everett Caudle, Project Development, and his staff for all their hard work, especially for setting up a Website to allow the Board and public to check the status of grants for which they have applied.
- Recognized and congratulated Joshua Masra, 2008 graduate of the Buchholz Academy of Entrepreneurship. Joshua had his picture on the cover of a nationally circulated magazine, *Future CEO Stars*, for starting his own computer consulting business in Atlanta, Georgia, which is helping to put him through college.

Mrs. Sharpe:

- Thanked The Reverend Kevin Thorpe, Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Gainesville, for a recent televised message of encouragement to parents regarding helping their children succeed in school. Mrs. Sharpe appealed to all churches to consider similar messages to their members.

Mrs. Hollinger:

- ACPS has been accepted as an SES District Private Provider, meaning the District will run their own tutoring program at all Title I schools, for students that are on free and reduced lunch. She extended thanks to Mr. Caudle and staff for submitting an excellent application.

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen, small business owner, and involved parent, expressed hope that the Board will keep parents and community involved in the budget and decision-making process at Duval Elementary.

A citizen expressed that she felt the community should have an explanation for the drastic drop in the grade of Duval Elementary.

A parent hoped that the new Duval administration will build off the strengths of the school.

A citizen disagreed with staffing decisions being made at Duval without citizen input.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-27, with the deletion of Attachment B., Item G., and with Items 9-14 being pulled for discussion.

Mr. Eubank noted that Items 9-14 (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding), involve approximately \$45 million. He expressed concern about a large part of the budget being comprised of One-Mill money, and federal and state funds. Assistant Superintendent Keith Birkett confirmed that without these funds, drastic reductions would have had to have been made in programs and staff.

Mrs. Childs seconded Mrs. Roy's commendation of Mr. Everett Caudle and his Project Development staff, on their excellent work in securing grant funding, as well as providing grant information to the public. Mrs. Sharpe concurred.

Mrs. Pinkoson expressed her belief that there is no false sense of security among Board members concerning funding matters.

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, ACEA President, commented that there are two years ahead in which to work on changing funding methods at the state level. He emphasized the importance of citizen involvement, stating that neither the Board nor the ACEA can accomplish this alone.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

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

PUBLIC HEARING --
PROPOSED REVISIONS
TO THE 2009-2010
ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY CODE OF
STUDENT CONDUCT

Ms. Kathy Black, Director, Student Services, noted that two changes were made after the First Reading:

- Dress Code – The wording was reordered grammatically and to allow for more fluid reading.
- Wireless Communication Devices – The section defining use was replaced with the purpose for which cell phones are allowed on campus: contact and communication with parents.

A parent and her elementary student requested that tank-tops not be prohibited for elementary-age students.

Board discussion was held.

Mrs. Sharpe again stated her position of favoring uniforms, as a safety issue and as a means of leveling the playing field for all students. She feels the present Code is not generally being enforced by principals and teachers, that the new Code should be stronger, and that there are no real consequences for infractions.

Mrs. Roy does not favor prohibiting tank-tops in the dress code. She also has heard many comments questioning the wisdom/practicability of enforcing prohibition of ‘saggy pants.’

Mrs. Childs stated that if students do not take this opportunity to comply with the Dress Code, she will support Board action to establish a uniform policy (standardized form of dress). She stated that a focus on learning is the most important student need and it is negatively impacted by inappropriate dress.

Mr. Eubank believes there will be a lot of student referrals in the first few weeks, but consistency will have a good result.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that policies should be written for maximum safety and security for all students and be conducive to learning. The debate over uniforms should be whether they work, not whether or not students want to wear them.

Mrs. Pinkoson stated that the Board is attempting to avoid displays of undergarments and body parts that should be covered. She felt there should not be specific prohibition of tank tops. She suggested that Board members attend the Back-to-School Administrator’s meeting to encourage Dress Code enforcement, because she, too, feels a uniform policy should be the next step.

Mr. Eubank expressed his concern about student use of cell phone cameras and confidentiality issues that could be involved in the event that photos and/or videos are uploaded to computers. Mrs. Pinkoson concurred.

Discussion was held on the seriousness of factors related to students possessing cell phones during the instructional day, from camera use to cheating through text messages. It seemed to be generally agreed that the *instructional day*, as referred to on page 19, should be more clearly defined.

Mrs. Roy stated that she agrees with the Dress Code (except for tank tops), as well as Wireless Communication as stated in the Code of Student Conduct. She is concerned, however, about a teacher comment that students are so militant about their cell phones that they would rather be suspended than surrender them. The teacher suggested a system of impounding phones rather than suspending students. Considering the Board's long-term goal of reducing out-of-school suspensions, Mrs. Roy felt that might be an appropriate alternative. Mrs. Black commented on the enforcement issues involved and possibilities for tracking dress code and cell phone infractions.

Mr. Eubank suggested that attorneys look at feasibility of phone confiscation.

Mrs. Pinkoson reported that the emails she had received were almost entirely concerned that enforcement would interfere with instructional time.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. and the regular Board meeting was reconvened.

REAPPOINTMENTS OF
SCHOOL-BASED AND
DISTRICT-LEVEL
ADMINISTRATORS FOR
2009/10-ATTACHMENT D

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the reappointment of School-Based and District Level Administrators for 2009-10 as presented in Attachment D.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADVERTISEMENT OF
THE 2009-2010
PROPOSED TENTATIVE
MILLAGE AND BUDGET

Mr. Keith Birkett, Assistant Superintendent, Planning and Budget, stated that this budget is the most complicated budget the District has ever put together. He credited Mr. Alex Rella, Senior Accountant, for excellent work in putting the documents together. Principals and Department Heads were also thanked for their stringent budget practices this year.

Mr. Birkett made a presentation to the Board on the Tentative Millage and Budget information. It included eight schedules, showing proposed millage rates, millage comparisons, and budget hearing notices as required by law:

- Schedule I - Notice of Proposed Tax Increase
- Schedule II - Percent Change Over Rolled Back Rate
- Schedule III - Comparison of Proposed 2009-2010 to the 2008-2009 Actual Millage Rates
- Schedule IV - Budget Summary Notice
- Schedule V - Budget Ad Percent Decrease Over Prior Year Expenditures
- Schedule VI - Historical Summary of Financial & Demographic Data
- Schedule VII - Notice of Tax for School Capital Outlay
- Schedule VIII - Budget Appropriations Approved for Advertisement, with a total budget of \$337,223,744.

A Public Hearing is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 28, 2009, for adoption of the 2009-2010 proposed Tentative Millage and Budget.

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the additional .25 Discretionary Critical Needs Operating Millage for advertising.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mr. Eubank

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2009-2010 proposed Tentative Millage and Budget for advertising.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT
EDUCATION POLICIES
AND PROCEDURES
2009-2010 THROUGH
2011-2012 –
FIRST READING

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures 2009-2010 through 2011-2012 for advertising.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank presented Deputy Superintendent Hollinger and Mr. Birkett. a written request for information to be available at the July 28, 2009, Budget Hearing.

At a request from Mrs. Roy, Staff Attorney Tom Wittmer stated that he will provide Board members with the student discipline information that has been sent to the NAACP, per the group's public information request.

The Chairman gave reminders of upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

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