

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
August 18, 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 W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent. Board Attorney Susan Seigle was absent.

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:

- July 28, 2009, Health Insurance Workshop
- July 28, 2009, Special Board Meeting (Budget) and Public Hearing
- August 4, 2009, School Board Meeting

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

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

Moved to adopt the August 18, 2009, meeting agenda, as presented.

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

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Childs commended all involved in the Back-to-School events for Administrators and Beginning Teachers, which she felt were very positive meetings. Mrs. Sharpe concurred.

OTHER AGENCIES --  
ALACHUA COUNTY  
EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION (ACEA)

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, ACEA President, provided a brief report on the status of insurance matters. Mrs. Pinkoson commended Dr. Paulson on the effort that went into preparing for the recent Insurance Workshop.

Dr. Paulson also addressed the Board regarding recent discussions surrounding DROP and DES. He pointed out aspects that have proven beneficial and commented on some of the misunderstandings. His greatest concern is that the controversy is resulting in unintended negative consequences to our children, District and community.

Ms. Karen McCann, GHS Counselor, gave examples of exceptional teachers with longevity in the District, who make great contributions to their students and bring significant AP funding to the District. She pointed out the wisdom of retaining such teachers through DROP extensions.

Concerning the Insurance discussion, Mrs. Childs commented on the need to condense the information so it is as easily understood as possible, for all employees. She also expressed agreement with the comments of Dr. Paulson and Ms. McCann.

Mrs. Sharpe commented on the value of Dr. Paulson and Dr. Boyd being in one accord on the necessity of ongoing community support for the District, as demonstrated through the one-mill referendum. She suggested it might be advantageous to advertise their collaboration in The Gainesville Sun. Concerning the negative hype surrounding DES and the DROP program, she stated that, in her opinion, it seems like “a solution looking for a problem.”

CITIZEN INPUT

A school employee commented on various issues that are part of Policies presented at the July 28 Policy Workshop, including:

- Prohibition of political attire/buttons, and whether this is contradictory to the free speech clause.
- Definition of ‘political issues.’
- Problem with SACs compositions not all being as mandated, or information being inadequate.
- Problem with employees being coerced to work in a principal’s outside business.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-7.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHEDULE A CAPITAL  
OUTLAY WORKSHOP

Motion by Mrs. Childs

Seconded by Mr. Eubank

Moved to schedule a Capital Outlay Workshop for September 29 at 2 p.m.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

Mr. Eubank requested that head-count information be provided to the Board, as the new school year progresses. He also requested data concerning the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Choice Option.

The Chairman gave reminders of upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.