

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Attorney Presentation Process
April 14, 2009

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in Special Session duly called at 1:45 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; and W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent.

This special meeting was scheduled to review the proposals received for School Board Attorney Services (RFQ #09-16) and to plan the process for selecting a School Board attorney.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pinkoson.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Mr. Eubank Seconded by Mrs. Childs

Moved to adopt the April 14, 2009, meeting agenda as presented.

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

SUPERINTENDENT
INTRODUCTORY
REMARKS

Superintendent Boyd thanked Mr. Jim Lang, School Board attorney, for his many years of dedicated service and wished him well in his retirement. Dr. Boyd then requested that Staff Attorney Tom Wittmer direct the Board as to appropriate procedure for the interview and selection process for a new Board attorney.

OVERVIEW OF
SELECTION PROCESS

Mr. Wittmer reviewed the process up to this point, noting that four proposals have been received [Carla D. Franklin, Attorney at Law; Dell Graham, P.A.; Scruggs & Carmichael, P.A., designated attorney Frank P. Saier, ESQ.; and Vernis & Bowling, Attorney at Law.] Mr. Wittmer reviewed appropriate procedure and Board options.

BOARD DISCUSSION –
REVIEW PROPOSALS
AND SCHEDULE
INTERVIEWS/
PRESENTATIONS

Since there are only four candidates, Mrs. Childs prefers they all be interviewed. Mrs. Sharpe concurred.

Mr. Eubank commented on the need for a method of ranking. He also stated that an Attorney General's opinion indicates that Sunshine Law requirements are met if Board members meet individually with an applicant. Based on that, Mr. Eubank felt such meetings may be beneficial to the interview process.

Mrs. Childs suggested that each applicant conduct a short presentation to the entire Board, followed by a Board interview of each applicant, addressing the same questions to each applicant. Each Board member would then rank their preferences and, based on that, the Chairman could begin negotiations.

Concerning the idea of competing applicants not being present for the others' interviews, Mr. Wittmer stated that the decision is up to each applicant.

TIMELINE

After discussion, it was decided that each Board member will be allotted a ten-minute questioning period and will be required to ask the same questions of each applicant. Upon completion of interviews, Board members will submit their rankings to the Chairman. Mr. Wittmer confirmed that the Board can make their decision at that time, if the meeting is advertised for that purpose.

The meeting for presentations, interviews and selection was scheduled for Friday, April 24, 8:15 a.m. Applicant interviews will be conducted in alphabetical order and were scheduled for 8:30 and 10 a.m., 1:30 and 3 p.m.. The decision process will begin at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.