

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 7, 1999

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in regular session duly called at 7 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Bill Cake, chairman; Barbara Sharpe, vice-chairman; Judy Brashear, Bev Carroll, and Chester Leathers, members; Lawrence L. Marazza, superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cake, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to approve the minutes of August 24, 1999, as presented.

Dr. Leathers requested that mathematics be included in paragraph 4 on page 6.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of September 7, 1999, as presented.

Move Action Item e., Report--Strategic Plan-First Reading, before Item a.; Action Item f., change the Charter School Policy number to 3.41; under Consent Agenda Item 2., Change Orders, add page 1, which includes the following Change Orders: Change Order No. 4, for Project SBAC CA210; Change Order No.5 for Project SBAC CD432; Change Order No. 1 for Project SBAC CC634; and Change Order No. 2 for Project SBAC CA712.

Attachment E, District Consultant Services, change the description of services for Nancy Harth to Consulting for Principal Preparation Program.

Add Board Member Concerns as Item D. and move adjournment to E.

Pull Consent Agenda Item 16., Second Amendment to the Love to Learn Education Center, Inc., for separate vote as Action Item i.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Board announcements.

RECOGNITION/
PRESENTATION—
CUSTODIAL
TRAINING
CERTIFICATES

The Board recognized the accomplishments of custodial staff and presented Custodial Training Certificates for participation in the Custodial Training Program.

RECOGNITION OF
SCHOOLS WITH
HIGH GAIN SCORES

Mrs. Ginger Childs, assistant superintendent, Instruction, recognized the following schools which achieved the highest gain scores for the 1998-99 school year by meeting three of five student achievement goals:

Elementary schools--Alachua, Anchor Center, High Springs, Irby, Lake Forest, Rawlings and Terwilliger Elementary schools, and Waldo Community School. Duval Elementary School received special recognition for attaining all five goals.

Middle schools--Ft. Clarke, Kanapaha, Lincoln and Mebane Middle schools.

High schools--Buchholz, Hawthorne Jr./Sr. and Newberry High schools. Hawthorne Jr./Sr. High School received special recognition for attaining all five goals.

Loften High School, Sidney Lanier and A. Quinn Jones centers were recognized for annual improvement.

Each school was presented with a certificate of achievement and a \$5,000 transfer of funds.

CITIZEN INPUT

The following suggestions/recommendations were presented to the Board for consideration:

- The president of the Alachua County Education Association briefly reviewed categorical funding, the budget process, the collaborative bargaining process and contract negotiations, which provided teachers and employees with raises at the beginning of the school year. Concern was expressed regarding inadequate state funding.

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

PUBLIC HEARING—
ADOPTION OF
MILLAGE LEVY
FOR THE 1999-2000
FISCAL YEAR

Dr. Mary Chambers, assistant superintendent, Business Services, presented a brief overview of the budget information sheets and noted that several workshops were held to discuss the budget and millage and the Board approved a tentative budget and millage on July 29, 1999.

She reviewed the millages and the differences for next year and noted that the tax millages for next year are scheduled to go down--Total millage 11.48 to 10.69 mills next year.

A citizen expressed concern that Alachua County has the highest millage in the state due to being a property poor county and suggested acquiring state impact funds.

Dr. Chambers read the resolution:

RESOLUTION DETERMINING
REVENUES AND MILLAGES LEVIED

RESOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF REVENUES TO BE PRODUCED AND THE MILLAGE TO BE LEVIED FOR THE GENERAL FUND, FOR THE DISTRICT LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, AND FOR EACH DISTRICT BOND INTEREST AND SINKING FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1999, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2000.

WHEREAS, Section 237.091, Florida Statutes, requires that upon receipt of the certificate of the property appraiser giving the assessed valuation of the county and of each of the special tax school districts, the school board shall determine by resolution the amounts necessary to be raised for the District School Fund, for the District Local Capital Improvement Fund, and for each District Bond Interest and Sinking Fund, and the millage to be levied for each such fund including the voted millage; and

WHEREAS, the certificate of the property appraiser has been received;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the District School Board that the amounts necessary to be raised as shown by the officially adopted budget and the millages necessary to be levied for each school fund of the district for the fiscal year are as follows:

1. DISTRICT SCHOOL FUND (nonvoted levy)

| a) Nonexempt assessed valuation | b) Amount to be raised | c) Millage Levy |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| \$5,649,862,933 | LRE \$31,914,381 | 5.946 Mills |
| | BASIC DIS \$ 2,737,359 | .510 Mills |
| | SUPP DIS \$ 1,341,842 | .250 Mills |

2. DISTRICT LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (nonvoted levy)

| a) Nonexempt assessed valuation | b) Amount to be raised | c) Millage Levy |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| \$5,649,862,933 | \$10,734,740 | 2.000 Mills |

4. DISTRICT INTEREST AND SINKING FUND(S) (voted)

| a) Nonexempt assessed valuation | b) Amount to be raised | c) Millage Levy |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| \$5,649,862,933 | \$3,622,975 | .675 Mills |
| \$5,649,862,933 | \$3,569,301 | .665 Mills |
| \$5,649,862,933 | \$4,884,307 | .910Mills |

5. THE TOTAL MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED IS LESS THAN THE ROLL-BACK RATE COMPUTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065(1), F.S., BY .17 PERCENT.

The administration recommends that the School Board adopt the Millage Resolution for the 1999-2000 fiscal year as read.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to adopt the Millage Resolution for the 1999-2000 fiscal year as read.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

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

ADOPTION OF
1999-2000 BUDGET

Dr. Chambers reported that minor changes to the tentative budget have been made since the Board adopted the tentative budget on July 29, 1999--Normal and customary changes occurred in ending fund balances and year-end adjustments. Also there was a change in the number of staffing, which included the deletion of the three elementary project coordinators and the funds had been put into a position (flexibility reserve). She briefly outlined the changes recommend for next year's budget.

Superintendent Marazza presented an overview of the recommended personnel changes.

Mrs. Childs updated the Board on the student enrollment and pupil teacher ratios as of the end of last week by comparisons to the same day last year and also noted that there are 295 students in charter schools at this time.

Mrs. Carroll expressed concern that the middle schools are carrying the heaviest load in comparison to elementary and high schools and recommended that next year district staff find a solution to assist middle schools.

Mrs. Childs pointed out that a solution would be to move from a seven-period day to a six-period day at the middle and high schools, which would free up dollars and lead to lower class sizes. She noted that this cannot be a school decision, but may need to be a district decision.

Mrs. Brashear suggested the district change funding from a seven-period day and leave it up to schools to decide whether to continue a seven-period day.

An education consultant does not feel sufficient time was allowed for public input on the budget process and urged the Board to allow the public the opportunity to provide input on the budget during the summer months in order to provide the Board with alternative proposals or suggestions.

Dr. Chambers read the Budget Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, HEREBY ADOPTS AS ITS FINAL BUDGET THE TENTATIVE BUDGET PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ON JULY 29, 1999, WITH THE AMENDMENTS SHOWN ON SCHEDULES I THROUGH VII APPROVED THIS MEETING, CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 1999-2000 FISCAL YEAR:

| FUND | APPROPRIATION |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| GENERAL | \$ 158,231,514.88 |
| SPECIAL REVENUE | 18,028,852.00 |
| DEBT SERVICE | 15,138,483.66 |
| CAPITAL PROJECTS | 63,865,939.64 |
| INTERNAL SERVICES | 2,390,666.52 |
| TRUST AND AGENCY | 4,302,084.61 |
| TOTAL | \$261,957,541.31 |

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to adopt the 1999-2000 Budget Resolution as read.

The education consultant also urged the Board not to support adding the new administrative positions for non-instructional personnel and supervisors based on inadequate funding for schools and suggested the Board could save \$455,000 by removing the recommended positions.

ACEA urged the Board to continue to assist with high pupil/teacher ratios and heavy class loads and help employees keep their jobs.

Dr. Leathers strongly urged the Board to approve a position for acquisition of grants and contracts to go after new money.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that she did have concerns related to the new positions, but has met with Superintendent Marazza and staff members and was provided with justification for adding certain positions and she will not stand in the way of progress. She stated that it is her duty as a school board member to research items placed on the agenda and take that information and vote for what she thinks is best for students.

She noted that at this time there is uncertainty for obtaining grant funding for Project PASS, which is a very important project for the district and parents, and if funding is not acquired, the district will need to find another way to fund the project.

In response to Mrs. Carroll's question, Mr. Terry Tougaw, assistant superintendent, Facilities/Transportation, confirmed that there is a line item of \$180,000 in the budget, which can later be revised to address facility improvements and upgrades related to school safety based on recommendations from the Crisis Management Task Force. The task force continues to work in conjunction with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Gainesville Police Department.

Superintendent Marazza informed the Board that modifications in the budget will occur throughout the year and district staff will present recommendations to the Board based on needs to redistribute dollars where they are most needed.

Mrs. Carroll expressed concern with the lack of choral/drama programs throughout the county and presented a proposal to the Board to reconsider allocating the \$20,000 line item currently budgeted for the Hippodrome to fund year-round drama/choral programs at Newberry, Santa Fe and Hawthorne Jr./Sr. high schools, and add a teacher unit.

Following discussion, Board members thanked Mrs. Carroll for her proposal, but stated they could not support it at this time due to insufficient time for consideration. The Superintendent and staff were requested to study this proposal for raising student achievement in the arts for next year and provide the Board with recommendations as soon as possible.

Chairman Cake stated that as a Board member for the past five years he

must vote against the budget for the first time. He does not support the concept of increasing pupil/teacher ratios and decreasing teachers in order to increase district staff at higher salaries. He pointed out that if the previous superintendent had recommended these positions, the Board would have advised against it and the union would be opposed to management, and noted that if this budget was driven by strategic planning, he might feel differently. He stated that he supports adding nurses, bus drivers, two bus mechanics; two air conditioning positions, but cannot support additional district staff and salaries.

He pointed out that the Sheriff requested the district support half of the School Resource Officer program and the school district is not supporting half and they may have to pull back some deputies. Other districts have settled for teacher salary increases of five to six percent in comparison to Alachua County setting 4.25% increases.

He urged the Board to look at this budget in a different way and begin immediately to make it an ongoing review.

Mrs. Sharpe informed the Board that she has previously requested information on the School Resource Officer program such as job descriptions, training and cost information.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1
Yes: Mrs. Brashear
Mrs. Carroll
Dr. Leathers
Mrs. Sharpe
No: Mr. Cake

The public hearing was adjourned and the regular Board meeting reconvened.

REPORT—STRATEGIC
PLAN—FIRST READING

Superintendent Marazza thanked the 32-member strategic planning team, which met on August 12-14, 1999, to develop a Mission, Beliefs, Parameters, Strategies and Objectives. He informed the Board that a workshop to discuss strategic planning has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 1999, 9 a.m., in Conference Room E.

Mr. Don Lewis, Strategic Planning Facilitator, introduced the members of the Strategic Planning Team and presented an overview of the strategic planning efforts. He announced that staff is currently working to form Action Teams, which will develop the Action Plans for the strategies developed by the Strategic Planning Team. Nine Action Team leaders will be selected by staff and a training session is scheduled September 23.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to schedule a public hearing on October 5, 1999, 7:30 p.m., on the Strategic Plan.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

REPORTS—
RESOLUTION
FLORIDA MISSING
CHILDREN'S DAY

Superintendent Marazza read the Resolution declaring Tuesday, September 14, 1999, "Florida Missing Children's Day" in remembrance of Florida's past and present missing children and in recognition of our state's continued efforts to protect the safety of children through prevention, education and community involvement.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the resolution declaring Tuesday, September 14, 1999, "Florida Missing Children's Day" as read. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

APPROVAL OF 1998-99
ANNUAL FINANCIAL
REPORT AND RELATED
COST REPORT

Mr. Keith Birkett, director, Finance, presented a brief overview of the financial report.

Motion by Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to approve the 1998-99 Annual Financial Report and Related Cost Report for submission to the Department of Education.

Superintendent Marazza commended staff for their efforts.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

1999 EDUCATIONAL
PLANT SURVEY

Mr. Tougaw reported that the required five year educational plant survey was conducted May 3-7, 1999. The survey recommendations and the final survey document have been prepared by district staff and consultants, School Facility Planners, P.A.

The Board commended staff for their efforts.

Responding to Mrs. Brashear, Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that site expansion is currently in negotiations for property at Archer.

Motion by Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to approve the 1999 Educational Plant Survey dated June 1999 as presented for submission to the Department of Education.

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

BID AWARDS-
PROJECT SBAC CC315-
STEPEHN FOSTER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MULTIPURPOSE
BUILDING

Mr. Gable reported that bids for the construction of this project were received August 24, 1999.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$1,645,000 and award a contract for construction to Linda Newman Construction Company, Inc., Gainesville, Florida, with completion of this project to be within two hundred seventy-three (273) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the “Notice to Proceed.”

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

PROJECT SBAC CA840-
RAWLINGS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ROOF REPLACEMENT

Mr. Gable reported that bids for the construction of this project were received August 31, 1999.

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$444,000 and additive alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$9,000 and award a contract for construction totaling \$453,000 to Cheesbro Roofing Company, Ormond Beach, Florida, with completion of this project to be within one-hundred twenty (120) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the “Notice to Proceed.”

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

AMENDMENT TO
POLICY 3.41, CHARTER
SCHOOLS—FIRST
READING

Mr. Wittmer reported that the deadline date for charter schools to submit applications is November 15 and a sentence has been added to Policy 3.41, Charter Schools, which encourages all applicants to submit their applications by November 15.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to approve for advertising the proposed amendment to Policy 3.41, Charter Schools.

An education consultant informed the Board that the Senate is holding an education meeting in Tallahassee for mandatory review of Florida charter school legislation and requested the Board to hold a public hearing.

Chairman Cake requested Mr. Wittmer and Board attorney Lang review the charter school law.

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

EMPLOYEE CASE NO.
98-100

Mr. Wittmer reported that the Administrative Hearing Officer and the Administrative Law Judge recommend that the School Board enter into a final order terminating the employee. No exceptions were filed.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Administrative Hearing Officer and the Administrative Law Judge's recommendation that the School Board enter a Final Order terminating the employee.

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

RESOLUTION--RAVE

Mrs. Brashear read the resolution requesting that the Gainesville City Commission discourage student participation in Rave activities by all possible means, including severely limiting hours of operation, and opting back into F.S. 562.14(2), which would eliminate late-night bar activity.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to approve the Rave resolution as read and district staff present the resolution to the City Commission for consideration September 13, 1999. (See Supplementary Minutes)

Mrs. Carroll will provide additional statistical information to be included with the Resolution, which relates to the Orlando and Tampa areas, which have opted back into the 2 a.m. state law and the significant decrease in crime after opting back into the state law.

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

SECOND AMENDMENT
TO THE LOVE TO
LEARN EDUCATIONAL
CENTER, INC.

Mrs. Brashear noted her concerns with the request for an extension to the charter contract to extend the beginning date to September 27, 1999, and the ending date to June 22, 2000, for the Love to Learn Educational Center, Inc., based on the following:

- Concerned that not enough planning has occurred and suggested a planning year.
- Change in location from Kennedy Homes.
- Permits have not been received.
- Concerned with the curriculum.

- Students have been attending school and concerned with the affects of disrupting students at this crucial time.
- Uniqueness of the school is gone.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to deny the second extension and move the Love to Learn Educational Center, Inc., charter contract into a planning year.

Responding to a question from Mrs. Sharpe, staff attorney Wittmer stated that based on Florida Statutes charter schools are to begin at the time as public schools, but school districts have the option of allowing for extenuating circumstances.

Ms. Lavetta Palmer, president, Love to Learn Educational Center, Inc., stated that in the original plan they were interested in opening in Kennedy Homes, but ran into difficulties in getting the lease finalized and meeting deadlines. Their new location is off of Northwest 23rd Avenue. She stated that the parents and children have put forth the extra effort and are looking forward to opening and all efforts have been made to make this school a success. She assured the Board they will have enough students to meet numbers for student enrollment.

She stated that the city of Gainesville required additional time in reviewing the architectural plans and they have all been submitted. Currently they are working on the permit, which is to be issued this week and the last item left to be reviewed is by the Fire Marshall.

Mrs. Carroll expressed concern with transportation and cost to budget.

Dr. Leathers questioned Ms. Palmer's position as both an aide and fiscal administrator.

Mrs. Brashear stated she will support the superintendent's recommendation and is willing to give them an opportunity at this late time.

Mrs. Sue Griffith, charter school coordinator, reported that she and staff have met with Ms. Palmer and discussed all the issues involved. She stated that the original agreement pledged transportation and these students will receive an additional 24 days of school and staff does not fear setting a precedent.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion failed 3-2

Yes: Dr. Leathers
Mrs. Carroll

No: Mr. Cake
Mrs. Brashear
Mrs. Sharpe

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the second amendment to the Love to Learn Educational Center, Inc., to extend the beginning date to September 27, 1999, and the ending date to June 22, 1999, 2000.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1.-20, with the deletion of item 16 for separate vote. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

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

BOARD MEMBERS
CONCERNS

Mr. Cake requested the Superintendent report in Superintendent's Notes on the status and feedback of the master planning process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m.