

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 21, 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: Barbara Sharpe, vice-chairman; Judy Brashear, Bev Carroll, and Chester Leathers, members; Lawrence Marazza, superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board. Absent: Bill Cake, Chairman.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-chairman Barbara Sharpe, 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 September 7, 1999, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of September 21, 1999, as presented.

Attachment A was pulled from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board members announced their school visits and activities attended.

Mrs. Carroll encouraged everyone to attend and participate in the scheduled strategic planning community meetings. She also commended the many volunteers assisting in the schools and urged continued participation at all schools.

Superintendent Marazza invited everyone to attend the 4th Annual Back to School Conference on Saturday at Lincoln Middle School.

He informed the Board that the October 5th workshop to discuss Core Beliefs will need to be rescheduled.

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- An education consultant commended the Board on its strategic

planning process and the effort made to involve the entire community. The Board was urged to explain the rulemaking and public hearing process to the public in order to allow the public the opportunity to provide input to the Board and that copies of related materials be provided to the public at the time of the first reading.

Mrs. Brashear requested the Board attorney advise the Board on the necessity of scheduling public hearings.

- A citizen presented statistical data on the large number of graduates requiring remedial education due to deficiencies in reading, writing and math.
- A reporter and member of the community coalition against poverty requested clarification on student spending and the district's budget.

PRESENTATIONS--
TITLE I – MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Mrs. Anne Bishop, director, Elementary Curriculum, and Mr. Ed Smith, director, Compensatory Education, presented a brief overview on Title I, a federally funded program that provides supplemental academic support in reading, math and writing to educationally disadvantaged children. The program fosters partnership that is interactive among schools, families, and communities. In Alachua County, 17 schoolwide programs are supported by Title 1, with programs tailored to individual student needs.

Mrs. Carroll expressed concern that the Board was not able to provide input on the Title 1 budget to recommend distribution of funds.

Mrs. Carroll stated that she understands the “D” school issue and the need to provide extra resources to those schools, but she did not agree with penalizing the “B” and “C” schools. She suggested a future discussion on the Board determining the distribution of Title 1 funds, keeping in mind schools at 75 and above.

Mrs. Brashear acknowledged the tremendous gains in Title 1 schools and the affect that the programs are having on students. She requested the Title 1 program be a subject of strategic planning and have an Action Plan.

Superintendent Marazza stated that there is an interaction with Project Pass and Title 1 schools are benefiting from Project Pass and stated that that strategic planning provides an opportunity to explore Title 1.

ESOL

Mrs. Mary Anne Wagner, Supervisor, Language Arts and ESOL, presented an overview of the ESOL program, which helps students become proficient in English while continuing their growth in basic

academic areas. There are currently over 300 ESOL students enrolled in Alachua County.

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to appoint Mr. Richard Trainor, as Director of Finance, effective October 18, 1999.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in item 1. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

Mrs. Brashear referred to Attachment A, Employment of Personnel, and expressed concern with the number of out-of-field and special permits. She requested Superintendent Marazza and staff ensure that these assignments are in the best interest of students.

Superintendent Marazza stated that a vast majority of out-of-field assignments are within a course or two within completion of their certification and assured the Board that these appointments are in the best interest of the students. He noted that an alternative would be to hire substitutes.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

BOARD MEMBER/ CONCERNS/ REQUESTS

Mrs. Carroll noted that at the recent Master Board Training meeting it was suggested the Board begin meeting bi-weekly with the Superintendent and staff to discuss items and issues of concern.

Mr. Brashear made the following requests:

- Schedule a workshop as soon as possible to discuss School Advisory Councils (SACs), policy dealing with School Improvement Plans, the Board's expectations, gain scores in light of A+ Plan, and election of SAC members.
- Summer school
- Canceling second meeting in December and first meeting in January.

Mrs. Sharpe requested Superintendent Marazza meet with Chairman Cake and review the Board's requests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.