

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 19, 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 Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the minutes of October 5, 1999, as presented.

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 October 19, 1999, as presented.

Add as Action Item B.2.b., Student Case No. 99-64-X, and change the explanation for Attachment B – Page 4, fifth line, from Resignation to DROP.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board members announced events activities and meetings attended.

Mrs. Sharpe congratulated the Santa Fe High School marching band for being awarded a distinguished superior rating and winning their first grand championship at a recent marching band competition.

Mrs. Carroll commended those involved with College Night and also thanked Superintendent Marazza and the facilities staff for their assistance with facility concerns.

Mrs. Brashear and Dr. Leathers were very encouraged by the process of the Action Team meetings and commended the participants and facilitators.

ALACHUA COUNTY
CHARTER REVIEW
COMMISSION

A representative from the Alachua County Charter Review Commission (CRC) addressed the Board regarding a request by the County Commission to determine whether any proposed amendments should be placed on the 2000 general election ballot. The CRC is in the process of obtaining input from elected officials and citizens on any proposed study issues. The School Board and community are encouraged to participate.

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- A Pro-Kids consultant complimented Superintendent Marazza on the strategic planning process and expressed concern with Board members attending Action Team meetings as it discourages team members from speaking freely.

Superintendent Marazza encouraged Board members to exclude themselves from active participation on Action Teams.

REPORT—CRISIS AND
EMERGENCY PLAN

The finalized Crisis and Emergency Plan was presented to the Board, which will standardize procedures throughout the district. It was noted that training would begin in schools with all Resource Officers within a few weeks.

The Board commended the committee and staff on a user-friendly document and urged the committee to continually update the plan as needed.

Mrs. Brashear suggested the plan be shared and made available to parents.

REQUEST TO
COMMISSIONER OF
EDUCATION

Superintendent Marazza reported that due to the emergency declared by the Governor because of the approach of Hurricane Floyd, schools were closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 14 and 15, 1999. State law requires that, in order to receive full funding, schools operate for the normal 180-day term, but permits the Commissioner of Education to alter the number of days in case of an emergency (s.236.02, F.S.).

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to authorize a request to the Commissioner of Education that the 1999-2000 school year in this district be reduced from 180 to 178 days, with no reduction in state funding.

	The question was called.	<u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0
STUDENT CASE NO.	Mr. Tom Wittmer, staff attorney, reported that the student is charged with battery on another student.	
	<u>Motion by</u> Mrs. Sharpe	<u>Seconded by</u> Mrs. Brashear
	<u>Moved the</u> superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through November 2, 1999.	
	The question was called.	<u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0
PRESENTATIONS— FCAT OVERVIEW	An extensive overview of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) was presented by the curriculum division showcasing efforts to support teachers as they work toward student achievement and also helping parents and the community have a better understanding of the FCAT.	
	Mrs. Brashear expressed concern with communication with the community and suggested offering parents and the business community an opportunity to take a sample test.	
	Mrs. Sharpe urged staff to devise way to include participation of parents that cannot read or understand these tests.	
	Mrs. Ginger Childs, assistant superintendent, Curriculum, informed the Board that the district is currently working in conjunction with Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) with students that require remediation and are developing a course for them to acquire the skills necessary before entering SFCC.	
SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM REVIEW	The curriculum division presented an exciting overview of the science education program and the comprehensive science initiative.	
CONSENT AGENDA	<u>Motion by</u> Mrs. Sharpe	<u>Seconded by</u> Dr. Leathers
	<u>Moved to</u> approve the consent agenda as described in items 1.-2. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)	
	The question was called.	<u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0
INFORMATION ITEM— SCHOOL UNIFORMS UPDATE	Mrs. Childs reported that principals and School Advisory Councils have been polled and the results indicate that there is a split over the issue of mandatory school uniforms. Several concerns were presented as follows: - mobility rate	

- what to do with parents who feel they cannot afford uniforms
- will there be a subsidy
- enforcement rules for students or parents who do not conform

Mrs. Sharpe stated that the district currently enforces a dress code and informed the Board that she supports holding public hearings in the outlying areas as well as within Gainesville. She stated she is willing to risk her tenure on the Board for something she strongly believes is in the best interest of the students. She noted that Superintendent Marazza has indicated staff will continue to collect data on this issue and a recommendation will be presented to the Board in the near future to make the final decision.

DISCUSSION ITEM—
BOARD MEMBER
CONCERNS/REQUESTS

There were no requests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.