

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 18, 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. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the minutes of May 4, 1999, as presented.

Dr. Leathers clarified his statement in the sixth paragraph, line 2, of page 11 to read, "He personally viewed the property and spoke with a staff member of the existing Krishna Academy who expressed to him that they would have no more problems when they got their new school."

The question was called on the minutes as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of May 18, 1999, as presented.

Delete from Action Item 2.a., Student Cases: (2) Student Case No. 99-25-X and (3) Student Case No. 99-26-HC, and add (6) Student Case 99-34-SB. Add as Action Item 2.c., Mediation—Alachua Learning Center, Inc.

Add Item B.3., Reports: a., Project PASS; b., Summer in Paris, and c., Educational Business Alliance.

Delete Information Item D., Chance Charter School Monitoring Update.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS/
DISCUSSION

Board members announced the activities and events they attended.

Due to Lt. Governor Frank Brogan visiting Duval Elementary School on Thursday, May 20, 1999, Superintendent Marazza recommended the Board cancel the scheduled budget workshop.

Board members commended everyone involved with the district's excellent test scores on the FCAT.

Mrs. Sharpe briefly reported on her recent trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee, with the Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Brashear noted a final meeting with representatives from Santa Fe Community College, UF and city and county government is scheduled to discuss improving mutual use of recreational and sports facilities on Wednesday, May 19, 1999, 8:30 a.m.

She encouraged district participation at the Career Day in Montecocha to discuss career opportunities.

She referred to a letter from Board attorney Lang in April relating to changes in the election law and suggested a future discussion item.

Mrs. Carroll commended teachers, students and parents on the excellent programs available to students.

RECOGNITION/
PRESENTATION—
BUCHHOLZ
HIGH SCHOOL BAND
AND AVIANCE

Mrs. Diana Brantley, assistant principal, Buchholz High School, recognized the Aviance Dance Team for placing second and third place at the National Drill Team competition held in San Antonio, Texas, and ranking in the top 7 of the 97 teams present.

The Buchholz High School Symphonic and Jazz bands both drew straight superior ratings at the FBA State Festival at Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, on April 26-28. The Jazz band also attended the Smokey Mountain Music Festival and received superior ratings and first place in their class.

ACCPTA—REFLEC-
TIONS AWARDS

Representatives of the Alachua County Council of PTAs recognized student winners of the *Reflections* awards for their outstanding artistic abilities. *Reflections*, which is sponsored by BellSouth through the Yellow Pages, is a national PTA program that allows students to express themselves through art.

ALACHUA COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION, INC.
ANNUAL SCHOLAR-
SHIPS

Mrs. Mary Chance, executive director, Alachua County Public Schools Foundation, reported that since 1986 the Alachua County Public Schools Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation, has worked collaboratively with the public school system to invest in the future of Alachua County students by providing scholarships for college and

vocational school. She thanked the Board for their continued support of the Foundation and reported that earlier in the evening 41 scholarships, totaling over \$62,000, were awarded.

MARCH OF DIMES

Mrs. Marilyn Tubb, honorary chair, March of Dimes, thanked the Board for their commitment to the local March of Dimes Chapter and recognized the contributions of 29 schools and their actively participating in raising money for March of Dimes. Awards were presented to the following top three schools for their fundraising efforts: Wiles Elementary School, Howard Bishop Middle School, and Eastside High School.

**ALACHUA COUNTY
RETIRED EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Mrs. Elizabeth Swanson, president, Alachua County Retired Educators Association, presented a facsimile check in the amount of \$654,368 for the 50,336 hours of volunteer service retired educators have contributed to the Alachua County public schools.

**EMPLOYEES OF THE
YEAR**

Mrs. Ellen West, principal, Loften High School, recognized the thirty-six 1999 School-Related Employees of the Year for their outstanding contributions and commitment to the Alachua County public schools. Mr. Marvin McReynolds, head custodian, Talbot Elementary School, was recognized as the district's representative to the 1999 Florida School-Related Employee of the Year Program.

BELL RINGER AWARD

Mrs. Grace White, Public Information Officer, recognized Eastside High School teacher Ann Marie Heller as the recipient of the Alachua County Bell Ringer Award for the month of May.

**THE COALITION OF
MINORITY HEALTH**

Mr. Albert White, project coordinator, Coalition of Minority Health, presented an overview of the Coalition, which is a federally funded three-year program (\$150,000/year). The goal of the program is to assist minority youth with asthma and their peers and families and to initiate early treatment and intervention thereby reducing health risks, decreasing hospital visits and increasing school attendance.

He requested the Board's assistance in reaching children in the school system who may have asthma and recommended entering into a cooperative agreement to facilitate referrals to the program without compromising confidentiality. He informed the Board that beginning in July 1999 the second phase of the program addresses diabetes while continuing the asthma components of the program.

Chairman Cake encouraged Mr. White to continue to work closely with district staff and pledged the Board's full support.

Dr. Leathers requested Superintendent Marazza and staff develop a draft agreement for Board consideration.

- CITIZEN INPUT Parents, citizens and students expressed their full support of Chance Charter School and urged the Board to allow the school to remain open.
- PRESENTATION—
GIFTED EDUCATION
IN ALACHUA COUNTY Representatives of the district’s Exceptional Student Education division, presented an extensive overview, data analysis and a showcase of the gifted programs in Alachua County.
- Superintendent Marazza thanked staff for an excellent presentation.
- Mrs. Carroll presented an example of the amount of paperwork required of teachers for the gifted and special education, which is generated at the federal level, and requested Mrs. Brashear, as the Board’s representative to the National School Boards Association, assist in lobbying for paperwork reduction. She also thanked staff for their efforts with the pilot program for LD gifted classes.
- STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-23-X Mr. Tom Wittmer, staff attorney, reported that the student was charged with possession, sale and transfer of a controlled substance. A hearing was held April 23, 1999.
- Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll
- Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to extend the student’s suspension through June 1, 1999.
- The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0
- STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-27-X Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was charged with defiance, disorderly conduct and battery on school personnel.
- Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll
- Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to extend the student’s suspension through June 1, 1999.
- The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0
- STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-28-X Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was charged with battery on another student. No hearing was requested.
- Motion by Dr. Leathers Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe
- Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to expel the student through the first semester of the 1999-2000 school year.
- The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0
- STUDENT CASE
MIN51899 Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was charged with a Level IV

NO. 99-34-SB

violation on the school bus.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension from bus riding privileges through June 1, 1999.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

REAPPOINTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATORS
1999-2000

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to reappoint administrators for the 1999-2000 school year as presented.

Mrs. Brashear requested the Board schedule a workshop as soon as possible to review the evaluation plan in preparation for next year's timelines as provided by changes in the law and new items needing to be incorporated into the plan.

Mrs. Carroll stated she supports scheduling a workshop to review the evaluation plan and suggested discussion of evaluation systems that are more reflective and sensitive of an individual's performance. She also noted a need to clearly define exemplary.

Dr. Leathers recommended extensive narratives on evaluations.

Chairman Cake informed the Board that the evaluation was not approved and the Board only approved the evaluation forms. He requested the committee present an evaluation plan to the Board for approval. He explained the Superintendent's recommendation for recommending two-year contracts as opposed to three-year contracts.

Mrs. Brashear stated that she was not aware that the Board did not adopt the evaluation plan and requested the minutes of the workshop at which the plan was presented for Board input.

Superintendent Marazza stated that the law allows the superintendent to recommend from one to three years and the recommendation stands on the basis of correlating with the performance that implementation of the procedure yielded in terms of the evaluations.

Mrs. Sharpe noted that she supports the Superintendent's recommendation.

Dr. Leathers stated he supports the Superintendent's recommendation and looks forward to providing input to improve the evaluation process.

Chairman Cake felt it important to state that he thought last year at this time that the Board had adopted an evaluation system, which was

discussed in workshop and carried one major recommendation, which is not being recommended--three-year contracts instead of two-year contracts. He will not challenge the recommendation and supports the recommendation for principals.

Mrs. Carroll feels there were holes in the system and there is room for improvement.

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

MEDIATION—THE
ALACHUA LEARNING
CENTER, INC.

Superintendent Marazza reported that the Commissioner of Education has appointed a mediator in an attempt to resolve the issues regarding the Board’s denial of the proposed charter school contract for the Alachua Learning Center, Inc.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to designate Mrs. Brashear to observe the mediation regarding the denial of the proposed charter school contract for the Alachua Learning Center, Inc., and report back to the Board.

Mrs. Brashear stated she will vote against the motion because she feels the entire School Board and the Alachua Learning Center Board should negotiate with each other and have their respective attorneys present.

Board Attorney Lang read from Florida Statutes and explained the mediation process.

Chairman Cake requested Mr. Lang check to see if Board members can individually meet with him to present their views.

Superintendent Marazza suggested the Board appoint one Board member to represent the full Board along with staff members who are aware of the Board’s concerns.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to table the motion for further research on requirements or prohibitions until the next regular meeting.

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

Mr. Lang informed the Board that the date scheduled for mediation is Monday, May 24, 1999.

Mrs. Carroll noted that she would not have tabled this item if she had known the date. She requested staff inform the Board of any other School Boards that have gone into mediation in relation to charter schools and how they dealt with mediation. She is concerned that the Board's representative be aware of each member's concerns and that all concerns are presented during mediation.

Mr. Lang stated he would request a three- to four-week postponement for mediation and recommended the Board schedule a special meeting and that it be legally advertised in the newspaper.

Mrs. Brashear preferred scheduling a special Board meeting and having an opportunity to discuss the issue with the entire Board. She felt that she was tabling the negotiation until some of the questions were answered.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that the Board is not operating in good faith by postponing the mediation. Since she voted in support of the contract, she does not feel there is a need for her to sit in on the mediation.

Dr. Leathers stated that he has very serious concerns with this charter and preferred that the full Board discuss this issue in an open special meeting.

Mrs. Carroll did not want mediation to take place until all questions have been answered such as the precedent set by other school board members, sunshine issues, and other mediation that has occurred in the state.

PROJECT PASS
PARENTS AND
STUDENTS
SUCCEEDING

Mrs. Sue Griffith, director, Elementary Curriculum, and Dr. Donna Omer, director, Project Development, presented information on Project PASS (Parents and Students Succeeding) The goal of Project PASS is to offer schools with the greatest need an opportunity to increase student achievement by creating programs and strategies for teachers and increasing parental involvement. The district is awaiting final approval of appropriations for Project PASS, which is anticipated by May 27, 1999.

Mrs. Laura Rafferty, teacher specialist, provided information on Project PASS and how it relates to school improvement. She reported that the following six schools have included strategies and activities related to Project PASS in their school improvement plans for 1999-2000: Anchor Center, Archer Community School, Metcalfe, Prairie View, Lake Forest and Williams Elementary Schools.

Mrs. Brashear commended the Superintendent and staff for their efforts.

Chairman Cake requested Superintendent Marazza address the basic

funding problems recently associated with dropout prevention programs and present recommendations to the Board to assist the programs affected by the funding cuts.

Superintendent Marazza responded that some categoricals will make up for some of the losses, and he will provide the Board with information in the near future.

EDUCATION BUSINESS
ALLIANCE COUNCIL

Mrs. Karen Novak and Mrs. Janice Yrausquin, ACCPTA representatives, and Public Information Officer Grace White reported on the first Annual Superintendent's Ball, which is scheduled for August 15, 1999, at the Oaks Mall. All proceeds from the ball will be used to support Alachua County students and the Education Business Alliance (EBA). The goal of the EBA is to increase financial resources and provide seed money for future programs intended to enhance student education. The EBA's initial plans will involve Project PASS, the Leadership Academy, Business Back-to-School Day and Strategic Planning.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

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

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.