

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 15, 2001

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: Chester Leathers, chairman; Bill Cake, vice-chairman; Jeannine Cawthon and Barbara Sharpe, members; Mary L. Chambers, superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board. Board member Bev Carroll was absent

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

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved to approve the minutes of May 5, 2001, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of May 15, 2001, as presented.

Add Student Case No. 01-40-X, as Action Item H.4.j.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Chambers announced the site analyses scheduled for Fort Clarke Middle School and Buchholz High School principal vacancies.

She requested Dr. Mel Lucas, director, Research/Development and Testing, share a recap of the FCAT scores.

Dr. Lucas shared results in a handout that show Alachua County students continue to score higher than state average due to the hard work of the leadership, teachers and students. He will be sharing at a later date analyses comparing Alachua County with other districts. He noted that the FCAT doesn't measure the full spectrum of what the district is trying to accomplish with its students. There is a good measure of the reading, writing and arithmetic areas. He reported that the state scored the Sunshine State Standards multiple-choice portion of the test only and for grade levels where performance items are contained, those results will not be reported back to the state until sometime this summer. The district will receive an additional report for students in grade 4 for reading, grade 5 for mathematics and grades 8 and 10 for reading and mathematics.

Chairman Leathers noted the many events and activities he has recently attended and commended those involved in the community that provide so much for the school district.

Mrs. Sharpe also noted that she attended the *Stars of Tomorrow Extravaganza* at Duval and commended the third grade students and the music and dance teachers on their first dance recital. She expressed concern with so many activities and events being scheduled on the same day around the same time, thus, not allowing the opportunity to attend many of the events. She wishes for a way of coordinating calendars.

Superintendent Chambers pointed out that there is a school district events calendar. She encouraged school personnel that schedule these events to make sure the district gets a notice for placement on the calendar.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES
MARCH OF DIMES

Ms. Linda Knight, director, March of Dimes, reported that this year \$510, 000 was raised with over \$100,000 being raised by students in grades K-12. She recognized the top three schools that supported the March of Dimes Walk America campaign.

Chiles Elementary School raised \$6,040 with the top student Alex Roundtree, 3rd grade, raising over \$200.

Bishop Middle School with top student Donald Mickey raised \$4,173.

Gainesville High School raised \$10,629. The number three overall team in the county was the Chain Reaction Youth Leadership team (34 high school students) that raised \$26,425.

RECOGNITION—2001
EMPLOYEE OF THE
YEAR HONOREES

Mrs. Grace White, supervisor, Community Involvement, introduced the forty-six School-Related Employee Honorees for 2001 and recognized Mrs. Nettie Maguire, Littlewood Elementary School, as Alachua County's School-Related Employee of the Year.

The Regular Board Meeting was recessed and a Public Hearing convened.

PUBLIC HEARING—
SUMMER SCHOOL
2002 AND 2002-2003
SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mr. John Dukes, assistant superintendent, Student Services, reported that the 2002 summer school and 2002-2003 school calendars were distributed at the previous Board meeting and copies were available in the Boardroom for review.

Ms. Jean Robinson, counselor, SFHS, reported there has been a move

among high school teachers for the first semester to end at the winter holidays. She suggested the Board look at this as a possibility. High school teachers want to get the exams over with prior to the winter holidays. She has discussed this with a couple of faculties, a few folks in the union and presented it to some elementary school personnel.

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, met with the calendar committee and noted the following points he has heard from those he has talked with: most like the earlier starting date; have spring break earlier, last week in March or first week in April; suggested teacher workday be Monday, October 28; and most agreed with winter break. As a high school teacher, he agrees with testing prior to the holidays at the high school level.

Mr. Darnell Rhea, citizen, supports the first semester ending prior to the winter holidays.

Mr. Hank Cauthron, Ft. Clarke Middle School SAC chairman, as a parent supports exams prior to winter holidays. He has also met with a few high school students that prefer getting exams over before the break.

A parent spoke in support of exams staying as they are--after the winter holidays. Students are involved in many activities, concerts and recitals, prior to and during winter break—not much going on in January, vacations are planned during the summer, and teachers use the summer months to attend workshops around the country. If the purpose is for the FCAT, he doesn't feel one week will make a difference.

OASIS ENRICH-
MENT ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL
CONTRACT

Mrs. Sue Griffith, director, Charter Schools, reported that on March 20, 2001, the School Board approved in concept the application for the Oasis Enrichment Academy Charter School, directed staff to develop a contract for the charter school, and scheduled a public hearing for tonight.

Ms. Patricia West, administrator for the charter school, thanked the Board for the opportunity of providing a new charter school to the public school system. She reported that the initial enrollment has begun pending approval of the contract. They have received an overwhelming response from individuals interested in the school, and they look forward to working with the School Board.

Chairman Leathers noted his concern with two major areas--the educational process which the application supports fully, and the administrative fiscal accounting responsibilities, which is the most vulnerable area for charter schools.

Ms. West stated that as the administrator, she will be responsible and will supervise an administrator, an assistant and a bookkeeper as well. Preliminarily, they have contracted with an auditor/accounting firm.

A member of the Board for the charter school noted that she has been an educator with SFCC approximately ten years and is looking forward to working with the kids targeted who have been missed in the main stream educational system. Her background is science education and she is currently in a graduate education program. They are excited about keeping and enhancing the regular curriculum. It's a small school and they feel they can do some things with these kids that will benefit the community.

Mrs. Sharpe referred to the accountability and program assessment in the contract and noticed that the academic schedule is not included but it tells how the program will be measured and assessed. She noted that House Bill 269 with a Senate amendment will establish a new form of accountability for charter schools. It will require the measurement of learning outcomes, create innovative measurement tools and make the school the unit for improvement. She asked if the amendment becomes law, does the district go back and adjust other charter contracts.

Attorney Jim Lang noted that if it does become law, the district will look at the intent of the legislature. Some laws when passed only operate prospectively in the future, if not, then the district may have to do something different with all the charter contracts.

With regard to the Oasis Enrichment Academy Charter School, if it is going to be something the charter school would have to be governed by, then that provision can be inserted into the contract.

Ms. West stated that they are working with the city of Gainesville to comply with code enforcement and inspections by the Health Department in order to locate the school at 908 SE Williston Road.

Mr. Cake expressed the importance of getting everything done legally with the city prior to the beginning of school.

The Public Hearing was adjourned and the Regular Board Meeting reconvened

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen requested the following information about the school district debt. How much does the district owe? How much are the annual payments? When will the district be out of debt?

A citizen addressed the Board with regard to multicultural curriculum and referred to 2000 Florida Statutes, chapter 233.061, Required Instruction. He does not feel the district is addressing the requirements related to African-American history as mandated by law.

It was noted that a report is being prepared on how the district is complying with this law.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that staff has sent out a survey to the schools on what is being offered. Some of the history and social studies books are outdated, but there are things going on and when the information is compiled there will be a report.

Dr. Jeff Smith, citizen, expressed excitement about many of the programs that have been developed and the excellent staff at every level. Being informed about the legislature, in response to certain statistics, he is aware change must be effected but would strongly urge the Board not to reinvent the wheel. Since serving as a member of the strategic planning team, he has been involved with many of the different curriculum leaders and is very impressed with their efforts and accomplishments and would like to pledge his support for each and every person. He expressed hope that change can be made in the best interest of, first of all, the students, and second, respect the teachers, administrators and the staff. If we decentralize our curriculum, we will add a larger burden to our teachers. Dr. Smith informed the Board that in July or August, the Commissioner of Education will be coming to our district to participate in a town hall meeting atmosphere. He supports making it a nice day for the teachers, an opportunity to showcase the things they do, perhaps with lunch. With the wealth of resources we have available to our district, we could serve as a model for the state. He feels that being positive in ones attitude and approach is most important. Do what you can to help guide the district, urge the public to add a positive hand in support, we can make some very positive changes.

Dr. Smith reported that he is currently working with folks at the Brain Institute and Elaine Taylor, director of Science curriculum, with the human simulator scan, targeting a program for eighth graders to provide a window into the field of science and medicine. He shared this with Commissioner Crist in a meeting and a couple of weeks later he was invited to join the Commissioner's Advisory Council. He is a facilitator not an expert educator. Whether its looking for grant monies or bond issues, we have to assist the education system and he hopes to open a line of communication and promises to represent the Board well.

A citizen noted that meetings for school advisory councils have to be duly noticed. Some schools did put their notice in the paper.

Fort Clarke SAC chairman suggested when removing a principal that the school faculty be informed, and (1) consider involving SAC in annual evaluation of leaders; (2) consider consulting with SAC before making changes (They will be going to block scheduling next year--substantial turn over.); (3) reexamine selection process; and (4) look at the internal cultural. There are major communication problems inside this school.

PROCLAMATION—
PLEDGE OF CIVILITY
IN THE MONTH OF
MAY

Superintendent Chambers noted that the City, County and Local Government Law Section of the Florida Bar has asked Florida's district school boards to join all cities and counties in the state of Florida to offer a pledge of public conduct and proclaim the month of May as Civility Month.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming May as Civility Month and acknowledge and support the pledge of civility.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

The Superintendent noted that next year as part of the character program there will be a student art contest on the definition of the character components, which will be hung in the Boardroom along with the civility sign.

CHANGE ORDER NO. 3
PROJECT SBAC CB632—
WESTWOOD MIDDLE
SCHOOL ADDITIONS
AND RENOVATION

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that this change order adds \$51,817.20 to the contract, revising the contract to \$2,201,769.78, and represents an increase in cost for fireproofing of new and existing construction as required by Code. This change order adds thirty-three (33) consecutive calendar days to the contract time.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the administration's recommendation to authorize execution of this change order as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
AND PROCEDURES FOR
EXCEPTIONAL
STUDENTS
DOCUMENTS—FIRST
READING

Dr. Renee Speisman, director, Exceptional Student Education, stated that Section 230.23(4)(m)4., F.S., requires each school board to submit to the Department of Education its proposed procedures for the provision of special instruction and services for exceptional students. She highlighted changes to the Special Programs and Procedures for Exceptional Students document.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the administration's recommendation to schedule a public hearing 7:30 p.m., June 5, 2001, to consider the Special Programs and Procedures for Exceptional Students Documents for 2000-2001 through 2002-2003.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-19-HC

Dr. Jim Scaggs, staff attorney, reported that the student was reassigned to the alternative center as a result of a history of disruptive behavior. The parent objected to the reassignment. A hearing was held on April 4, 2001. The Hearing Agent recommends that the Board confirm the assignment of the student to the alternative center.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to enter a final order adopting the Hearing Agent's Recommended Order.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-29-SB

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student is charged with persistent misconduct while riding the school bus. The parent has not requested a hearing.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to suspend the student from the bus through June 1, 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-30-SB

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student is charged with a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct while riding the school bus. The parent has not requested a hearing.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to suspend the student from the bus through June 1, 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-31-X

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student is charged with disorderly conduct (a major campus disruption).

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through June 5, 2001, pending completion of the investigation. The student's IEP provides for home instruction.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-32-X

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student is charged with disorderly conduct (a major campus disruption).

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through June 5, 2001, pending completion of the investigation. The student's IEP provides for home instruction.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-34-X

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student is charged with possession of a controlled substance while on school property.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation that the student's suspension be extended through June 5, 2001.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-35-X

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student is charged with a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through June 5, 2001, pending completion of the investigation. The student's IEP provides for home instruction.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-38-x

The student is charged with sale of a prescription drug. A hearing was held for May 14, 2001.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's

suspension through June 5, 2001, to permit parents the appropriate time to appeal the order of the Hearing Officer.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-39-X

The student is charged with possession and sale of a controlled substance.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through June 5, 2001, pending completion of the investigation. Home instruction services will be provided through the IEP process.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-40-X

The student is charged with a Level IV violation of the Code of Student Conduct

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through June 5, 2001, to permit completion of the investigation.

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

2001-2002
REAPPOINTMENT OF
INSTRUCTIONAL
PERSONNEL (ANNUAL
AND PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES CONTRACT

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the reappointment of instructional personnel for the 2001-2002 school year as presented on Attachment F.

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

2001-2002
REAPPOINTMENT OF
PRINCIPALS AND
SUPERVISORS

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the reappointment of principals and supervisors as presented.

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

SCHEDULE
WORKSHOPS

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to schedule two workshops May 29, 2001, to receive the report

of the safety and security review and the report of the organizational study, starting as early as possible.

Mrs. Sharpe suggested 8 a.m., or 9 a.m. if there is a problem with the earlier time for the consultant.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Cake Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-26. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

Chairman Leathers commented on the Audit Reports of Schools and Special Centers Activities Funds for the 1999-2000 School Year. He noted that the district probably has the most sophisticated document in the state.

Mr. Andy Andiric, internal auditor, noted that \$6.3 million was actually processed through internal accounts the past fiscal year.

Chairman Leathers commended the staff on computerizing the system for the after school extended day enrichment program valued at \$1.9 million and also commended staff on the comprehensive document presented.

Chairman Leathers noted his support of the recommendation that the booster organization financial report should be audited annually by an outside auditor and a complete audit report should be submitted to the principal and the internal auditor, otherwise, the district does not have any assurance of the best interest of the system being represented.

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

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Superintendent Chambers requested an executive session June 19, 2001, prior to the Board meeting (6 p.m.).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.