

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 5, 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; Bev Carroll and Barbara Sharpe, members; Mary L. Chambers, superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board. Absent: Bill Cake, Vice-Chairman, and Jeannine Cawthon, member.

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

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the minutes of May 15, 2001, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of June 5, 2001, as presented.

Change Action item G. 6., Student Case (4), to No. 01-45-X.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Leathers recognized and commended Nick Gilliam, University of Florida Collegiate Golf Champion and former Gainesville High School graduate, on his many accomplishments.

Mrs. Carroll referred to the National Board Certification program, which helps to promote professional teaching standards, and expressed her desire for the district to continue to support and budget for this program. She encouraged teachers to take advantage of this program and contact the district office for further information.

She also attended several graduation ceremonies and recognized and commended the many teachers for their efforts and students on their excellent behavior.

Superintendent Chambers made the following announcements:

- Personal listening/amplifying devices are now available to citizens

for use in the Boardroom.

- The Board workshop scheduled June 7, 9 a.m., to discuss Capital Outlay/Strategic Planning/Legislative updates, has been cancelled and will be combined with the Budget Priorities workshop June 26.

Condolences were extended to Assistant Superintendent John Dukes and his family on the loss of his brother, Richard Dukes, retired Gainesville police officer; to the family and friends of Elizabeth Greene, retired principal of Shell Elementary School, and to retired Deputy Superintendent Tommy Tomlinson on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Bernice Tomlinson.

Superintendent Chambers requested Dr. Mel Lucas, director, Research/Evaluation, provide an update on the new school grades.

Dr. Lucas reported that this is the third year schools have been graded by the Department of Education (DOE) and each year there have been differences on how grades are awarded. The following grades were awarded to Alachua County schools: nine schools received an A, eleven schools received a B, thirteen schools received a C, five schools received a D, no schools received an F, and one school received an I, which is in the process of being changed.

Mrs. Sharpe noted that based on the many changes in the grading system that have occurred over the years, she is not convinced how reliable the tests are or how the schools are graded, but hoped that in the near future the DOE would be able to improve the process.

Chairman Leathers also expressed concern and disappointment with the inconsistencies and the way in which the DOE has changed the procedures, but feels confident that the district is solid and will continue to work together to improve the system.

Superintendent Chambers stated that she is very proud of the students and the educational opportunities taking place in the district.

RECOGNITION/
PRESENTATION—
LEGISLATIVE
LIAISON BARBARA
GALLANT

The Board recognized Ms. Barbara Gans Gallant, legislative liaison for the Board, and presented her with a plaque for her nearly 40 years of service to the school system and the community, as a teacher, Board member, and legislative liaison.

FLORIDA FOOD
SERVICE ASSO-
CIATION

Mr. Eldon Chambers, director, School Food Service, recognized Ms. Barbara Ann Smith, Spring Hill Middle School, recipient of the state School Food Service Leadership award; and Irene Durden, Irby Elementary School, recipient of the state School Food Service Nutrition award.

PRESENTATION—
MEBANE MIDDLE
SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY
REPORT

Dr. Chet Sanders, principal, Mebane Middle School, introduced teachers Vicky Johnson and Art Roundtree for a power point presentation of a computer developed program created by Mebane Middle School students in the technology program.

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

PUBLIC HEARING—
SPECIAL PROGRAMS
AND PROCEDURES FOR
EXCEPTIONAL
STUDENTS DOCUMENTS
2000-01 THROUGH 2002-03

Mrs. Gallant informed the Board that there is a special scholarship program available to exceptional students who are disabled.

The Public Hearing was adjourned and the regular board meeting reconvened.

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- A citizen noted his perception of nepotism among administrators in the school system.

Dr. Jim Scaggs, staff attorney, responded that the district follows Florida Statutes and the Code of Ethics in the selection of all employees.

- Several University of Florida faculty members and citizens expressed concern with the possibility of losing the contact person for coordinating efforts in science education among teachers and students and with the science fair.

Dr. Cliett assured the Board that the district would continue to have a science program and support the science fair and other programs.

- Mrs. Gallant thanked Superintendent Chambers for the Management and Safety study, which will help to reduce the number of administrators and improve safety and security in the district. She also encouraged Board members to review the proviso language in the Appropriations Bill in order to understand where the money is going, and suggested the Board become proactive and involve everyone in the process of reviewing what is needed and what can be deleted.
- A citizen commented on nepotism and the recent filling of a position by a relative of an administrator.

- The president of the Alachua County Education Association (ACEA), expressed concern with education funding.
- A teacher representative with ACEA provided the Board with a revised alternate proposal of the 2002-2003 School Calendar for consideration.

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC CC630—
SIDNEY LANIER
CENTER NEW
CLASSROOM
BUILDING AND MULTI-
PURPOSE FACILITY

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that bids for the construction of this project were received May 24, 2001.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration’s recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$3,999,000 and Additive Alternates #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 in the amount of \$290,000 and award a contract for construction totaling \$4,289,000 to J. A. Standridge Construction, Inc., Gainesville, Florida, with the completion of this project to be within five hundred forty (540) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the “Notice to Proceed.”

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

CHANGE ORDER
NUMBER FOUR FOR
PROJECT SBAC CB909—
EASTSIDE HIGH
SCHOOL RE-ROOFING

Mr. Gable reported that this change order adds \$160,946.90 to the contract, revising the contract to \$2,200,836.80, and represents an increase in cost for replacing 5,939 square feet of existing metal deck and insulation found to be structurally unsound. This change order adds twenty-one (21) consecutive calendar days to the contract time.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

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

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

CHANGE ORDER
NUMBER SEVEN FOR
PROJECT SBAC CB730—
ARCHER COMMUNITY
SCHOOL ADDITIONS
AND RENOVATIONS

Mr. Gable reported that this change order adds \$88,222.46 to the contract, revising the contract to \$2,790,790.27, and represents the cost of installing a fire sprinkler system. This change order adds seventy-eight (78) consecutive calendar days to the contract time.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

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

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

OASIS ENRICHMENT
ACADEMY, INC.—
SECOND READING

Mrs. Sue Griffith, director, Charter Schools, reported that the School Board approved the application for the Oasis Enrichment Academy, Inc., on March 20, 2001, and authorized contract development. A Public Hearing was held on May 15, 2001. The Oasis Enrichment Academy intends to include “at-risk” students who may benefit from a program with special emphasis on skills applied to the world of work in grades 6-8 for 60 to 80 students.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration’s recommendation to approve the five-year contract with Oasis Enrichment Academy, Inc., beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2006.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

2002 SUMMER SCHOOL
CALENDAR AND 2002-
2003 SCHOOL
CALENDAR—SECOND
READING

Mr. John Dukes, assistant superintendent, Student Support Services, reported that a Public Hearing on the 2002 Summer Calendar and the 2002-2003 School Calendar was held May 15, 2001. Based on input from the public hearing and further review of the 2002-2003 School Calendar, the administration recommends that spring break be scheduled March 31 – April 4, 2003, and the fifth six weeks will end April 14.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration’s recommendation to adopt the 2002 Summer School Calendar and 2002-2003 School Calendar as presented.

Dr. Paulson reported that ACEA’s calendar committee met last week and made the following suggestions/recommendations:

- Concurred with spring break being scheduled 3/31/03 – 4/4/03.
- Concurred with the winter holidays scheduled 12/23/02 – 1/3/03.
- Preferred teacher workdays closer to the end of the nine weeks.
- Continue to allow school faculty to decide whether semester exams should be given prior to the holidays.

Superintendent Chambers stated that ACEA representatives and teacher representatives have addressed the Board at previous Board meetings and many of their suggestions, as possible, have been incorporated into the proposed calendar, while still maintaining the consistency of the calendars. She informed the Board that principals and School Advisory Councils were surveyed and the overwhelming recommendation was to approve the proposed administration’s calendar as presented.

Mrs. Carroll pointed out that teachers desire to have workdays closer to the grading period and requested that in the future the administration make that a priority along with spring break.

Responding to Mrs. Carroll's question related to the administration not choosing to begin the school year a week earlier, Superintendent Chambers stated that after additional research it was clear that there would be no direct benefit to students and there was also an overwhelming response against moving the time period.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-36-NP

Dr. Jim Scaggs, staff attorney, reported that the student was reassigned to the alternative center. A hearing was held on May 8, 2001.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to confirm the student's assignment to the alternative center and the superintendent's recommendation to enter a Final Order adopting the hearing agent's Recommended Order.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-37-NP

Dr. Scaggs informed the Board that the parent wishes to address the Board for consideration of an exception to this case and requested the Board table this case until the end of the meeting.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-38-X

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student was charged with a Level IV violation. A hearing was held on May 14, 2001.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to expel the student through the first semester of the 2001-2002 school year and the superintendent's recommendation to enter a Final Order adopting the hearing agent's Recommended Order.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-45-X

Dr. Scaggs reported that there has not been an opportunity for a hearing.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through June 19, 2001, to allow for a hearing to be scheduled.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

NEW/REVISED JOB
DESCRITPIONS—
SECOND READING

Dr. Leila Pratt, director, Human Resources, reported that four additional job descriptions are needed. Two are for Sign Language Interpreter and Sign Language Facilitator and two are for hearing Impaired Assistant and ESE Aide. The job descriptions establish work responsibilities for career service positions.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the proposed new job descriptions as advertised.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

REAPPOINTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATORS FOR
2001-02

Dr. Pratt presented the organizational chart as information in accordance with School Board Policy 3.04, and a list of administrative reappointments for fiscal year 2001-2002.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the administration's recommendation that the organizational chart be recorded in official Board minutes and approve the administrative reappointment list for fiscal year 2001-2002 as presented. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

Mrs. Carroll expressed concern with the number of top-level administrators currently in the DROP program (two deputy superintendents and an executive director, Pre-K-Adult Programs), and the impact this will have on schools. She also pointed out that in the next two years there may be three new Board members on the Board and the superintendent's contract expires, which would affect a total of seven positions.

She urged staff to provide as many training opportunities as possible and give the current vacant positions the highest level of priority in order to replace the top-level administrators with qualified employees.

Dr. Pratt assured the Board that the district is committed in trying to maintain the continuity and strengths of programs.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that according to the management report the district

is already experiencing symptoms of financial difficulties. She felt it incumbent upon the Board, as stewards of the taxpayers' money, to redirect and reorganize in order to counteract any financial problems. She pointed out that the district has not been able to maintain the contingency funding that is necessary and must reduce staff in some kind of manner, and she feels the district is headed in the right direction.

Chairman Leathers commended staff for their efforts.

Superintendent Chambers informed the Board that the Bill has been signed into law mandating that the School Board redirect approximately 1.4 million dollars from Kirby-Smith into the classroom and she assured the community that will be accomplished. She also assured the community that the science program would not be dismantled.

Mrs. Carroll stated that she in no way felt that additional positions should be added and agreed that the 1.4 million dollars must be redirected into the classrooms. She once again urged staff to fill the vacant positions on the organizational chart with trained personnel.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

ADMINISTRATIVE
APPOINTMENT(S)

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to appoint Dr. Joan Longstreth as principal of Buchholz High School, effective July 1, 2001.

The Board congratulated Dr. Longstreth on her appointment.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-25. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

Mrs. Sharpe referred to item 11., Security Trailer for Chiles Elementary School, and requested that in the future all agreements for security trailers be made available to the Board for review due to the recent safety study that was conducted, which indicated a need for more stringent safety precautions and trained personnel.

Mr. Terry Tougaw, assistant superintendent, Facilities/Transportation,

assured Mrs. Sharpe that this particular agreement will replace the current individual with another police officer, and noted that staff reviews each contract.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Carroll made the following requests:

- Research the issue of how to make the grading scale more encouraging to students who take higher level courses, such as Honors and AP classes for the same GPA as opposed to students who take regular courses.
- Grant credit to 8th-graders that take algebra and foreign language for these courses if they pass the final exam in high school.
- Conduct a summer audit of the music, art and drama programs to identify how things have changed and what needs to be done. Concerned that these classes are diminishing due to the additional responsibilities placed on teachers and administrators to provide reading and math classes.
- Update on the After-school Program
 - Which schools have an after-school program
 - Which schools no longer have space
 - Which schools have space
 - Is there a waiting list
 - What is the cost
- In need of legal assistance to determine the governance process and jurisdiction as it pertains to the School Readiness Coalition.
- Staff respond to the student's request for assistance with the Dual Enrollment Program and the physical education requirement.
- Through the school lunch program, schedule a mid-day break during finals and provide students with healthy snack items such as energy bars and yogurt.

Mrs. Sharpe requested legal staff work with the Supervisor of Elections and the County to begin the process of reapportionment in order to complete the report by the December 30, 2001, deadline.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-37-NP

The regular Board meeting was recessed for the parent of the student to address the Board.

The regular Board meeting was reconvened.

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student was charged with a history of disruptive behavior. A hearing was held on May 8, 2001. The Hearing Agent recommends that the Board confirm the assignment of the student to the alternative center or place the student on home instruction and reassign the student to Newberry High School or Lofton High School, at the parent's option.

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation and extend the placement option for ten (10) days effective June 6, 2001.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-0

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.