

districts to redirect between 1% and 4% of their total operating budget into direct classroom support if they are below the state median in certain performance areas. Proviso language also revamps teacher recruitment and retention strategies by \$152 million for a one-time \$850 bonus for all instructional personnel. However, these dollars are not available for regular salary increases and are not subject to collective bargaining provisions. This way a substantial portion of the budget is directly tied to new or revamped programs, categoricals and increased workload, leaving very little room in the budget for local discretion.

New legislation focuses mainly on fiscal accountability and personnel themes. New fiscal accountability legislation includes the dollars-to-the-classroom initiative mentioned above and the Sharpening of the Pencil Act, which calls for the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct best financial management practices reviews of all school districts. Among the personnel issues that received attention are teacher quality and certification, liability insurance, terminal pay, the Florida Retirement System and group health insurance.

Other significant bills addressed a variety of important subjects including local taxing authority, voucher programs, school safety, education governance, reorganization, charter schools, school construction and the high school grading scale. The district's legislative lobbyist will explain at an upcoming workshop how these and other subject areas fit into the district's budget.

Mrs. Carroll noted that she attended several informative meetings at the Florida School Boards Association conference. She congratulated Mrs. Sharpe on becoming the Association's president.

Mrs. Carroll asked that staff continue to look at the grading system and see if there is a solution for students to receive credit for the grade pluses and report back to the Board.

She reviewed research by the US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center she received while attending the FSBA conference. The question always asked is, Is school still a safe place to be? Out of 100,000 schools in the US less than one-tenth of one percent has been affected by school shootings. They list seven occurrences under how to profile children. (1) They are rarely impulsive—always planned. (2) The attacker always told someone. (3) There is no accurate profile. (4) Previously used guns. (5) Most incidences were not resolved by law enforcement. They lasted less than 20 minutes and usually school-based personnel resolved them because they were the front line. She pointed out a need to train administrators, secretaries in the offices, cafeteria staff, all the people that are right there. (6) Bullying played a key role. (7) Most attackers engaged in warning signs--poems, videos, writings, art drawings.

They highly suggested that teachers be taught to run the code, and the code is how do you deal with certain behaviors. Teachers actually practice this. This gives teachers the steps and skills to provide backup and stop an incident before it gets out of control. Training prevents a situation that may not be a threat from escalating into a threat. Each school mapped their school and any place that had a student misbehavior or a discipline violation in fighting would go on the map which helped them to deploy teachers in hallways during change of classes and maybe reroute students' travel throughout the day. They would take top offenders and rate them so that you would know not to send student C, who might be a top offender, to a hotspot alone. This did cut student referrals and incidences in the hallways. This seems to be a very sound, inexpensive and simple way to look at this.

To prevent weapon concealment, and to understand that most of the students always had access to weapons, they changed their backpack policy to a clear backpack. The Board may want to consider this during the Code of Student Conduct.

Mrs. Carroll also provided information in a handout on student internet use policy. She would like discussion on having the following in the district policy if it is not included. The student user has full rights within limits to the instructional network resources provided by the district. The student's network account provides for personal storage base, which may be treated as a locker. The user should not expect the file to be kept private. And, at random, unannounced searches will be conducted on school grounds, classrooms, hallways, lockers and/or computers.

Mrs. Sharpe stressed the importance of the Board and staff paying strict attention to education governance for the 21st century. She also noted that zero tolerance can be good and can also be a double edge. She feels it is right to take a look at the concern over backpacks, whether clear or not, but also look at the clothes.

Chairman Leathers commented on the funding for this year.

He noted that Mrs. Barbara Sharpe was sworn in during the past week as the new president of The Florida School Boards Association, and that Alachua County was well represented.

Chairman Leathers also noted that Nick Gilliam, University of Florida Collegiate Golf Champion, has become the first UF golfer to be on the All American Team.

Mr. Cake shared an article from Norfolk, VA, that emphasized four teachers that had been suspended for assisting students with test taking and many students had to retake the test. He suggested the district may need to develop a policy that would address this issue.

Responding to Mrs. Sharpe, Dr. Jim Scaggs, staff attorney, noted this

would be covered under the Code of Ethics, and it would be considered misconduct in office. In Florida there are statutory grounds where action could be taken against not just a teacher, but any staff member who assists a student in taking a test. It sometimes is good to spell that out, specifically, in policy, and he would be happy to present a policy to the Board for consideration.

Mrs. Carroll commended staff and the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce on a good job in putting together the Business Partners Breakfast, the business partners for all their help with the schools, and the Hidden Oak elementary students on their presentation.

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen respectfully requested the Board discontinue the practice of interrupting citizens while they are addressing the Board.

A parent addressed the Board regarding his daughter's withdrawal from school. The Superintendent invited the parent to meet with staff to discuss his concerns.

The School Board was invited by the City of Gainesville Recreation & Parks Department to participate as a sponsor with the second Annual Stop the Violence Rally.

Two citizens addressed the Board with regard to multicultural curriculum and their perception that the School Board is not providing adequate instruction.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to appoint Ms. Donna Kidwell as principal of Ft. Clarke Middle School, effective July 1, 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to appoint Mr. Philoron Albert Wright, Sr., as principal of Oak View Middle School, effective July 1, 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to appoint Mr. Donald Lewis as director of Charter Schools and School Improvement, effective July 1, 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CHANGE ORDER NO.
FIVE—PROJECT SBAC
CB909—EASTSIDE HIGH
SCHOOL REROOFING

Mr. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that this change order adds \$140,227.40 to the contract, revising the contract to \$2,341,064.20, and represents an increase in cost for replacing 5,069 square feet of existing metal deck and insulation found to be structurally unsound. This change order adds seventeen (17) consecutive calendar days to the contract time.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve Change Order Number Five for Project SBAC CB909 as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC CB809—
STEPHEN FOSTER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ROOFING
REPLACEMENT

Mr. Gable reported that bids for the construction of this project were received June 12, 2001.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$139,605 and award a contract for construction totaling \$139,605 to Southern Roofing, Tampa, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within forty-five (45) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC CB946—
LINCOLN MIDDLE AND
SANTA FE HIGH
SCHOOLS GYMNASIUM
AIR CONDITIONING

Mr. Gable reported that bids for construction of this project were received June 13, 2001.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$480,700 and associated Alternates #1, 2, and 3 with a net credit amount of \$8,470 and award a contract for construction totaling \$472,230 to Shine Company, Inc., Gainesville, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within one hundred eighty (180) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

REVISIONS TO THE
CODE OF STUDENT
CONDUCT—FIRST
READING

Ms. Kathy Black, director, Student Support Services, highlighted the suggested changes to the proposed Code of Student Conduct for 2001-2002.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to schedule a public hearing 7:30 p.m., July 17, 2001, to consider revisions to the Code of Student Conduct.

PROPERTY/CASUALTY
PROGRAM RENEWAL
AND ADOPTION OF SAFE
SCHOOL RESOLUTION

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Dave Hotary, director, Risk Management and Safety, informed the Board that the Property & Casualty Insurance program with the Florida School Boards' Insurance Trust (FSBIT) continues to be a very economical and comprehensive program. There is an 18% increase in cost over last year mostly due to additional properties, claims, workers comp and liability.

As part of the renewal, FSBIT is requiring the Board to adopt a Safe School Resolution.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve renewal of the Property and Casualty Insurance through FSBIT and adopt the Safe School Resolution.

The Safe School Resolution reads as follows:

The School Board of Alachua County has again committed its resources and priorities to the safety and protection of its employees, students and the public. This resolution establishes a commitment on the part of the District in providing safe public school education to the citizens of Alachua County. The District will endeavor to reduce all accident exposures in an effort to reduce workers' compensation, auto and general liability, and property claims cost by enhancing and dedicating its efforts to safety and loss control exposures and correction programs.

The School Board requests that the superintendent and staff reaffirm this commitment annually so that maximum priority attention is given to all programs designed to prevent and reduce claims cost and exposures providing for safe education environment.

Such efforts can only save tax dollars which can provide additional funds to continue improving the classroom learning environment and experience.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-45-X

Dr. Scaggs reported that the student is charged with possession of a controlled substance and weapon while at school. The parent has not requested a hearing.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the administration's recommendation to expel the student through the 2001-2002 extended school year.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENT TO
BENCOR NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT PLAN
(FICA ALTERNATIVE
PLAN)

Mr. Keith Birkett, deputy superintendent, Planning, Budgeting & Systems Accountability, noted that there are two parts to the amendment. The first part more clearly defines the employee's and School Board's liability should someone decide to withdraw benefits from the annuity. The second part is more beneficial to both parties. Under the current plan for those employees who DROP, over a five-year period 20% of the balance of their sick leave is paid to BENCOR. By the end of the five-year period the employee would have a large "balloon" payment. Under the amended proposal the percentages are progressively increased each year to be paid into BENCOR, thereby reducing the final "balloon" payment, which reduces the School Board's potential FICA payment that would be made for that individual. The proposed payout percentages will be year 1 – 20%; year 2 – 25%; year 3 – 33%; year 4 – 50%; and 100% in the final year.

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the amendments to the FICA Alternative Plan with BENCOR as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

APPROVAL OF
SCHEDULING WAIVERS

Dr. Scaggs explained that bargaining agreements with ACEA, both for teachers and career service personnel, provide for waivers of certain portions of the contract. The process to be followed for School Improvement waivers is set forth in Article 19, section 4, of the ACEA contract. Waivers should be submitted to the School Board and the ACEA executive board for approval. Waivers for seven middle schools and one high school have been submitted for approval. They are all basically a movement to block scheduling. Newberry High School is requesting continuation of its block scheduling. It is the administration's recommendation that the Board approve these waivers. ACEA will act on the waivers June 27.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the Newberry High School waiver.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the seven middle school waivers

Mrs. Carroll noted that she has several points to make about the waiver requests.

- She requested that staff please address the timeframe that waivers come before the Board. In June the SACs have all gone their separate ways.
- The waivers are requesting that a number of middle schools that are not currently on a shortened Wednesday move to a short Wednesday. She had previously requested an audit of art, music and drama programs particularly at the middle school levels. She has serious concerns as to the number of students that are not taking these programs. There is research that extracurricular activities, particularly in music, increases test scores and SAT scores. Her hope was to look at the middle schools that had regular Wednesdays and other schools move toward that.
- In the middle schools you are looking at reading and math test scores that need to be increased, the extracurricular issues, and school safety issues. The most violent time during a child's school years is in the middle school, with the increase and use of weapons on campus, sexual activity, and fighting.
- The biggest issue is that parents were aware of discussions on block scheduling but early Wednesday release was not discussed or communicated to them.

Mrs. Carroll requested that a workshop be scheduled within the next 10 days to look at procedures and determine how to deal with waivers coming in this late in the year. She feels this is a huge impact to the parents that did not have this communication.

Mrs. Sharpe noted the points brought up are important but it is also important to have input from all parents involved.

Mr. Cake confirmed his position of having more time in the classroom, however, when waivers come to the Board and the process has been followed in the schools, and SACs come to the Board with this request at this time of the year, he feels he needs to support them. There may be a need to work with principals earlier in the year by starting sooner and not make it an issue but a priority that we provide more class time, especially at the middle schools. At this time he will support the requests. You don't change time schedules and teacher schedules at this time.

Mrs. Carroll reiterated her concern of whether the people most impacted knew about the change in hours on Wednesdays.

Dr. Scaggs noted that the staff and faculty must vote to approve a waiver under the ACEA contract. Should the Board reject the waivers, specifically for Westwood and Ft. Clarke since the other schools have been in operation with their waivers, the schools must revert to 6

periods, the standard middle school schedule, unless there is an agreement they may stay with their current 5-2 schedule.

Mrs. Sharpe was informed that the district is exceeding the state requirement for student contact. While she feels a workshop is needed, she feels it is unfair to change in midstream and will support the waivers.

Mr. Cake empathizes with Westwood and Ft. Clarke on the need for additional planning time for the teachers to implement a longer class period, but he will lead the way next year to implement a full Wednesday for all middle schools.

Jim Tenbig, principal, informed the Board that Westwood elected to go to early release on Wednesdays to give teachers more planning time in order to better prepare the teachers for block scheduling this coming year. The faculty voted heavily in favor of early Wednesday and the principal voted against it.

Dr. Scaggs informed the Board that no timeline was violated. During collective bargaining, the district and ACEA will collaboratively approach this issue to make certain this confusion does not occur in the future.

Superintendent Chambers noted that the contract clearly shows that the Board shall approve the waivers. In the interest of time, the students and the faculties, she recommended that the Board go with this recommendation, know that this issue will be worked on in bargaining this year, and look at some outcomes based on these different scheduling initiatives and evaluate maybe midyear so that there will be plenty of time to decide what to do next year.

Chairman Leathers commented that he felt that the parties most involved in making this effective have done so according to the timeframe. He does support the waivers. The Board may look at others things suggested, but he is not sure that he agrees with more time in the process.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1
Yes: Mr. Cake, Mrs. Cawthon,
Dr. Leathers, Mrs. Sharpe
No: Mrs. Carroll

Mrs. Carroll noted for the record she voted against the motion not for the planning issue but because of the communication issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-20 with the removal of Item 20 to Action Item 9. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Cake requested that Mr. Wayne Olfkee, retired teacher, be allowed to speak. Mr. Olfkee addressed the Board regarding the decision to cut the science supervisor position. The community has a wide variety of talented kids. Some cannot achieve 1600 on the SAT. The programs the supervisor can deliver and cheerlead and direct and bring to the teachers along with the workshops and science fairs do help develop the talent of these kids. There is a group in the community, from the university on down, expressing concern that there is a need for someone to groom and share these things with science teachers in the community so that we can continue to do the curriculum and extracurricular activities and all these things that make science come alive for the kids. To not have someone that can come in and share and coordinate the science curriculum, you tend to lose contact with that. He noted that there are people in the community ready to do anything they can to support this Board in maintaining the continuity by having someone coordinate the science program.

Mr. Cake assured Mr. Olfkee that the science program is not going to be left out in this county and encouraged him to speak with Dr. Cliett at another time.

Responding to Mrs. Carroll, Mr. Birkett stated that the contract with the School Readiness Coalition will come to the Board at the next meeting.

Mrs. Carroll requested an update in August or September regarding the district's fire drills and how they have improved since last year.

She asked whether or not there is any interest from the Board to do anything about the clear backpack? Or should this be placed in discussion for school safety next year?

Mr. Cake feels it needs to be in policy or in the Code and at this point it might be a little late. The merchants have probably ordered the backpacks by now, and he will support it next year.

Mrs. Carroll requested this be addressed in the fall and have the merchants on board.

Chairman Leathers noted that he had received requests from different commissioners from the city and county about whether it would be beneficial to get together from time to time for general discussion on items of mutual interests.

It was decided the Board members could attend the LOGIC meetings if they are advertised by those that schedule the meetings. It was also asked if notification of the meetings could be received earlier.

Following discussion, Chairman Leathers stated he would share with the chairs of the city and county commissions that the Board will try this vehicle as its first effort for general discussion.

Superintendent Chambers noted that Dr. Scaggs is working on the redistricting and will get something to the Board on what will be needed in order to comply.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to adjourn the School Board meeting of June 19, 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.