

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 20, 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; Bev Carroll, Jeannine Cawthon and Barbara Sharpe, members; Mary L. Chambers, superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board.

With Dr. Mary Chambers, superintendent, presiding, the meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Following the Pledge, Mrs. Lori Van Riper, president, PTA, Hidden Oak Elementary, shared a Veterans Day celebration video presentation in tribute to America and the Veterans.

Addressing the Board, Dr. Chambers stated that the chair and vice-chair positions are very, very important, particularly this year. The chair sets direction and the pace for the meetings. We are functioning in difficult times and a strong, committed chairman is of the utmost importance to our school district.

She thanked Dr. Leathers for his leadership and commitment as Board chairman the past year. She thanked the Board also for its sacrifices and commitment to children. We have done a lot for students this past year. Every day we celebrate the successes.

We came from a time last year of cultural uncertainty and challenges and pulled together and worked with the community, staff and the union and got strategic planning approved and implemented. Our Strategic Plan has provided guidance and framework in which to function. When we started our strategic planning process, we were cautioned that it would be difficult. The strategic planning process creates expectations, some of which, in some cases, are unreasonable. Our strategic planning process has created change, and in some cases, has even created chaos. But this Board believed enough in the school district to proceed with the strategic planning process and make the district better.

We were already functioning with challenges, challenges as they relate to change, a slowing economy, and then came September 11. There are a few among us who would like to try to create controversy out of the current economic crisis, but with the commitment of this Board and the staff, parents, teachers, and the folks who work diligently in our schools, we are using these challenges as an opportunity to strengthen and realign our efforts for children.

While we do have a few detractors who have been working on their own agenda, we have been working with the Board developing a plan to maintain the integrity of our classrooms while positioning ourselves to provide for our employees as intended. I am so proud to work with a Board that's committed to students and that also recognizes the

importance of adequately trained and compensated employees. This Board has not given up to try to find an opportunity and a way to be able to pay our employees what they are worth, and we will work to every effort to provide for not only our students but our employees as well.

I realize we are working with both short-term and long-term solutions and people are getting nervous, maybe collectively we will have the answers. We are looking at long-term challenges at this point, and we all have to work together, the staff, the teachers, the union, the community and our Board to help ensure that we not only work in a more efficient way, but a more balanced way and at the same time enhance our educational opportunities for our children.

I applaud the efforts of our Board, I am very proud to work with this Board, and I very much appreciate your leadership over the past year. Next year is not going to be any easier. Being chairman of the Board in this tumultuous time is going to be a difficult challenge, but I know any of you will be up to the challenge and will look at the challenge as an opportunity to do great things for the students, and I appreciate being a part of this great organization.

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| REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD | Dr. Chambers opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of The School Board of Alachua County, Florida. |
| ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN | Mrs. Sharpe nominated Mr. Cake to serve as Chairman.

There being no other nominations, Mr. Cake was declared Chairman of The School Board of Alachua County, Florida by acclamation. |
| ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN | Dr. Chambers opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman of The School Board of Alachua County, Florida.

Mr. Cake nominated Mrs. Jeannine Cawthon to serve as Vice-Chairman.

There being no other nominations, Mrs. Cawthon was declared Vice-Chairman of The School Board of Alachua County, Florida by acclamation. |
| ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD MEETING DATES AND TIMES | Superintendent Chambers recommended that the Board establish School Board meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month through November 19, 2002, except for the December and February meetings.

She noted that there has been a reallocation of staff and as we reduce staff, particularly at Kirby-Smith, we need to utilize resources as closely to the classroom as possible. By reducing one School Board |

meeting a month, thereby reducing the amount of paper, printing, staff time, and secretarial time, we can save several thousand dollars. Workshop settings would provide a user-friendly environment to more readily accommodate discussion and dialogue. Along with the cost savings mentioned above, we would also have cost avoidance in that staff currently assigned to do those tasks would be available to do other things.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved to establish School Board meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month through November 19, 2002, except for the December and February meetings.

Mrs. Cawthon noted that 24 counties in Florida currently have one meeting a month and 41 counties have two meetings a month. She was told by FSBA that quite a few counties are talking about going to one meeting a month because of savings. She asked if it would be possible to do this until the end of the fiscal year and see what the savings would be.

Superintendent Chambers noted that Florida Statutes 230 states that at the time of reorganization, regular meeting dates and times are established. This could be revisited during the year and possibly send an amended schedule to the Department of Education.

Mrs. Sharpe clarified that Florida Statutes dictate that the Board hold one regular meeting a month.

Mrs. Carroll stated that the Board meetings are watched on TV and if we moved to workshops and one Board meeting a month, we will lose the ability for the public to follow what we are doing. This Board is paid for this job and the job encompasses more than just two Board meetings and more than a few workshops, and she feels the Board needs to be accessible to the public and showing that it is doing business more than once a month. She is concerned that during this time in the history of what's going down in education, with the legislature, with the impact on the economy, that we are going to be invisible with only one meeting a month. We need to show that we are working, on top of what we are doing, listening, and searching, and unless we are here where the public can see us, she doesn't know that they will perceive that to be true. Public input at School Board meetings is important, and she doesn't feel it will be right if that time goes away and the public is no longer hearing what the concerns are.

Mrs. Carroll also expressed concern with the business issue of contracts that may not come through in a timely manner.

She understands the spirit of which it is intended, but will not vote for this.

Dr. Leathers noted that he, too, has some of the same feelings and ideas. First of all he feels the School Board meeting like all other business of the School Board is the community's and the citizens' interests. He doesn't know of much feedback except for individual Board members getting phone calls. As to the cost, may be looking at an inflated cost. He would like to consider having two Board meetings a month, of which one would be for business and one for input and more interaction with our citizens, public, staff and everyone else in the district. Because of the Sunshine law in Florida, Board members only get to talk in Board meetings or workshops. A second Board meeting of input and sharing should not be costly. He is inclined to think that one meeting might be enough just to concentrate on business but not enough in terms of interaction within the system and interacting with the community.

Mr. Cake asked Dr. Leathers if he would want to put that into the form of an amendment to the motion. Hold the meeting in the afternoon rather than in the evening, say 4 or 5 when teachers can come by and if it can't be televised have it taped and shown at another time. Make it an accessible kind of meeting, open for discussion, nothing predetermined, unless there were some emergency kinds of contracts, then those items would be advertised just as for any Board meeting.

Dr. Leathers would be acceptable to this particularly if it is late enough so people can come from work or have the opportunity to be there.

Discussion continued on the estimated cost savings of about \$50,000 in real dollars and another \$50,000 with cost avoidance by going to one meeting a month.

Mrs. Carroll pointed out that there are two issues on the table – one is whether or not it would be financially better to go to one meeting a month, and the other is whether or not we should have a different sort of meeting once a month.

Maybe we should research possible ways to facilitate less expenditures for Board meetings before making a decision on how we want to do a second meeting a month. Maybe look at what the city and county commissions do as it relates to staff during regular business hours. She doesn't think the problem with the public input is the time of day. She

feels it is not being able to respond to the public at meetings and staff is not able to respond to them right then and there for us.

She can agree maybe to have a different format in terms of public input as long as we have an agenda time for any business so that our contractors are not backlogged, which she feels would greatly impact the schools.

Mrs. Sharpe doesn't think that the intent of this reestablishment of Board meeting dates and times is meant to cut out any interaction between the public and the School Board, but to look at the budgetary impact and as mentioned, other school districts are trying to find ways to relieve the budget anyway that they can. Florida Statute dictates that Board meetings are business meetings of the School Board and that's the intent of Board meetings. She thinks we are user-friendly because we do have public input, we also have input at public workshops. There is no reason for us not to be able to call special meetings if necessary. She is not sure all those in the community would be upset with us if we do this in the spirit of trying to save dollars, as she believes we are. There is never going to be total agreement from everybody at anytime at anywhere in the world. She doesn't want to get the spirit of this lost by saying we might be cutting out input. The School Board can't be compared to the city and county government. The county has two meetings a month and the city has four.

Mrs. Carroll thinks the intent is in the spirit of trying to save money and find solutions, but she also thinks the intent may not be to circumvent the public, but it may be a result. The end result may be that the public will feel that they don't have the opportunity to address the Board. Our workshops are scheduled during the day and she supports that and doesn't want to change that. It works very well with staff and their presentations.

Dr. Leathers noted that his idea for a second Board meeting should only cost electricity, heating and air-conditioning because he is not going to be asking for other people's time and this is a time for people to come. I think we have the possibility of not only reducing cost but getting more opportunity to our people to input out process.

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved to amend the original motion to hold two Board meetings the first and third Tuesdays of each month, one regular business meeting, and the second meeting would be at a different time preferably 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. with no agenda, all Board members in attendance, open to the public for discussion, be that kind of meeting with no action items per say.

Following Board discussion, there was consensus to hold both meetings at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Carroll suggested looking at having Mr. Lang only for the business meeting.

The question was called on the amendment.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

APPOINTMENT OF
BOARD ATTORNEY
AND
ESTABLISHMENT
OF FEES

Dr. Chambers noted that the Board increased Mr. Lang's hourly rate to \$150 last year and that Mr. Lang is willing to accept this rate for the coming year if reappointed.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to reappoint Mr. James F. Lang as attorney for the School Board at the current hourly rate of \$150.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The School Board recessed and reconvened with Chairman Cake presiding.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the minutes of October 16, 2001, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of November 20, 2001, as presented.

Recognition Item 4., National School Nurse Certification, was deleted along with Action Items I.1., Charter School Application for Thomas Edison High School, and 5.b., Student Case No. 01-55-X. Consent Agenda Item J.13, Contract for Professional Service with Joy Frank & Associates, P.A., was pulled for discussion and separate vote as Action Item I.7.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board members announced activities and events attended.

Dr. Leathers noted that Veterans Day celebrations held at the schools provided students better opportunities for more awareness and education than the celebrations attended on the holiday.

Superintendent Chambers on behalf of the Board extended condolences to the families and friends of employees, students and a former employee. Condolences were also extended to employees and their families on the loss of their loved ones.

Superintendent Chambers noted the artwork displayed in the Boardroom by students at GHS, JJ. Finley, Wiles, Prairie View, Glen Springs and Lake Forest. This month's character trait is "Citizenship."

She reminded the Board that staff is working on OPPAGA and the audit coming down from the state department looking at best practices in Alachua County. While going through the OPPAGA guidelines it was realized there is no longer a strong districtwide advisory group that advises the superintendent. She has asked a group of people, kind of a key communicators group of folks, to come in and work with the district on several issues. These folks serving on this committee will be the eyes and ears from the schools and the community.

Mrs. Sharpe also thanked Dr. Leathers on his leadership as chairman during the past year.

RECOGNITION/PRESEN-
TATION/REPORT

Veterans Day School Ceremonies

A video highlighting Veterans Day ceremonies at area schools was presented showing the many ways students honored veterans.

Character Education Student Artwork

Miss Summer Hanson, J. J. Finely Elementary School, and Miss Victoria Baggett, Wiles Elementary School, were presented certificates for their artwork depicting this month's character trait, "Citizenship."

Head Start Policy Council Members

Mrs. Ann Crowell, director, Head Start, noted that the Head Start Pre-K Policy Council is required by federal Head Start Performance Standards. The Policy Council consists of former and current Head Start parents and representatives of community agencies. Twenty-three elementary schools, eight childcare centers and a variety of community agencies come together to form a council dedicated to providing quality support to the Head Start program. She introduced the 2001-2002 Head Start Pre-K Policy Council members.

Social Studies Teachers of the Year 2000-2001

Ms. Cynthia Mingo, Ms. Rachael Sharpe, and David Jones were recognized as winners of the Florida Council for the Social Studies Teachers of the Year awards.

School Improvement Highlights

Representatives for Chiles Elementary School, Bishop Middle School and Newberry High School shared highlights of activities, events and programs in these schools that help contribute to higher student achievement.

Safety and Security Update

The District Security Chief updated the Board on safety and security measures, including ID badges, mail handling procedures, additional training, Crisis Manual revisions, and web-based data management.

Hawthorne Jr./Sr. High School Baseball Booster Projects

Mr. Gable, director, Facilities, presented a rough drawing of the master plan for the baseball field, long-range view that the baseball boosters are proposing. There are five buildings that represents a concession/press box building, two dugouts, a storage/restroom facility, and a new batting cage. Currently, the district building committee is reviewing the documents provided for the dugouts. These projects are fully funded by the boosters.

Budgeting/Financial Update

Mr. Keith Birkett, deputy superintendent, presented the results of the first special session of the legislature. Eight hundred million dollars were cut from the state budget. There remains an additional \$500 million to be cut, which means about one and one-half percent reduction in revenues to the district. There was no flexibility given for the use of the capital improvement millage or use of categorical funds for other things. The impact to our budget this year is about \$2.3 million. Another special session has been scheduled for November 27 through December 6. Many staff members have been invited to meetings of the SACs, PTAs, faculties, and community organizations to present our budget situation. We have asked principals to meet with staff and give us 3 to 5 things they feel they can do without and 3 to 5 things they feel they can't do without. In addition to this, we have explained how we budget by funds.

Mr. Wayne Hackett, director, Purchasing, gave a brief overview of the purchasing procedures and processes.

Dr. Leathers asked how many purchase orders issued for the fiscal year to date compared to last year, and how much less are we purchasing in dollar amount.

Mr. Birkett assured Dr. Leathers there is a process in place for review of purchases, where anything questionable comes to the deputy superintendents or the superintendent.

Dr. Leathers also requested the total dollar amount for all purchases that are under \$25,000.

In response to Mrs. Carroll, Mr. Hackett noted that annual bids are called term contracts, which are for services provided by vendors to the School Board over the year. Whether or not to use the sealed bid process or piggyback on another contract for one-time purchases over \$25,000 he will use another district's contract if he thinks he can get a better price. He will test the market and call other districts and if he feels the district would be better served issuing its own bid, he will do that.

Mr. Terry Tougaw, executive director, Facilities/Transportation, gave an overview of the capital outlay projects underway in the district since June of 2000. These are active projects in various stages of design and the construction process. There are 118 projects totaling \$57.6 million that come from ten different fund sources. Included in this list of projects, there are 23 projects funded by our Food Services for a total of \$1.5 million, which allows our capital outlay funds to go further. At our last meeting the Board approved a five-year plan that reflected \$185.5 million worth of needs. The ten capital outlay funding sources are PECO; 2 mill; interest generated and put back into the projects; Food Service local capital outlay fund; Certificates of Participation; SBE Bond fund; lottery fund; local capital improvement fund, capital outlay and debt service. He added that it is extremely important to watch the progress of the legislature during special session.

Responding to Mrs. Carroll, Superintendent Chambers noted that during the recent workshop, several things were talked about as possible reductions to stabilize the budget. One item was reducing Board meetings to one a month; another was the seventh-period day; lottery, living within our lottery means; Phase I of reorganization, we have cut in excess of \$500,000 out of Kirby-Smith as far as administrative staff, there is a Phase II in that so we can expect further reduction; changing school times; construction and flexibility; and consultants have recommended we look at outsourcing some of our functions. She stated that PE, music and art never have been discussed, and she does not anticipate that will be one of the items cut.

Responding to Dr. Leathers, Dr. Scaggs noted that there is a statute that permits persons who recommend money savings plans to be rewarded. The Board would need to adopt a plan to put this in place.

Dr. Leathers requested this be explored.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, stated at the budget workshop ACEA offered to present a plan during a School Board meeting in the near future. They look forward to presenting this plan and feel time is of the essence. He proposed that the Board form a new budget task force comprised of equal representation from the Board and from ACEA.

Chairman Cake requested the Superintendent meet with Dr. Paulson and report back to the Board.

Mrs. Carroll noted it was another budget task force and those recommendations should be couched with using the Strategic Plan as a guide.

Dr. Leathers left the Board meeting.

CITIZEN INPUT

The following concerns/suggestions/questions were presented:

- A citizen expressed concern about citizens not getting responses to the issues they present. He presented a statistical study from the monthly deans misconduct reports dating back to school year 1994-95 which he hopes will make very clear the trends of school crime and perhaps stimulate interest in solving this problem.

Chairman Cake noted that he has asked the Superintendent to have staff respond to each person addressing the Board in some way and that responses be forwarded on to the Board members.

- Several teachers expressed concerns regarding teacher raises and cuts to the budget; equality; the step increases negotiated for teachers last year; teacher morale; and being ranked 62 out of 67 districts in salaries.
- Citizens addressed the infusion of African-American and African history into the curriculum.
- A teacher referring to the survey for input on possible budget cuts asked (1) why it wasn't distributed to all schools; why were areas pertaining to district administration conspicuously missing from the survey; and (3) who designed the survey and why teachers were not given the opportunity to help design it?
- A teacher questioned where the Board stands on the issue of awarding step raises, assuming the money is there.

Dr. Scaggs noted that the Board and the Superintendent have said all along that step raises were negotiated last year and assuming the money is there they want to give the raise, but they won't know until

after this special session of the legislature is over.

- ACEA president offered a challenge to top administrators to take the same cut this year as he did the last four years.
- A citizen indicated she had received no follow through to her questions regarding the comprehensive curriculum; she is looking for this to be an agenda item; what is the status of the comprehensive curriculum; and she is interested in working together to include African and African-American content into the school curriculum. She also expressed an uncomfortable feeling while visiting the administration office on a fact-finding mission.

Superintendent Chambers responded that an update is planned for December or January and that it was her understanding that she had been communicated with on several occasions.

Mrs. Sharpe requested the Superintendent and staff invite Dr. Hillard-Nunn to attend any meetings held while working on the comprehensive curriculum as opposed to having it worked up and then bringing it to the Board.

Mrs. Carroll noted that many times when citizens address the Board the issue is handled by the Superintendent and staff but not always at a public meeting.

- A citizen posed questions regarding Bid items A. and C. and staff responded. He also questioned funding procedures for gaining funds for school boards, i.e., bonds, and staff provided history of the bond issue and the refunding. He noted that the Board might want to consider placing a referendum on the ballot in the general election next year to fund salaries of these teachers and career service employees. He also suggested soliciting funds from the private community.

The Superintendent pointed out there are two different kinds of bonds. The bonds first talked about are the capital bonds used to build, renovate schools, and provide capital improvement. The type of financing mentioned is not particularly a bond, but a financing acquired with voter referendum. A law that changed last year now provides the opportunity for school districts with voter approval to go for financing – 4-year pay-as-you-go method – that will allow districts to have financing whereby they can generate funds that districts could then invest in an endowment plan and use those interest earnings forever. She noted there is a citizen group forming to work on getting that referendum on the ballot and invited the citizen's help in that endeavor.

- A teacher suggested a School Board policy that does not allow administrators to get automatic raises before teachers and career service employees. Thinks it would be great for the Board members to get out into the schools and see the dedication of teachers and career service employees.

Mrs. Carroll responded that Board members do get into the schools and do value and know what is happening in the schools. Never has this Board said it has given up on negotiations. And never from a Board member have we heard anybody say that we thought that the \$850 coming from the state was fair. She doesn't feel it was fair to the teachers to not have it put into the salary schedule so they could have the step every year and have a retirement. She thinks it was heartbreaking that career service was not noticed at all and that those at the state level would set that standard.

Mrs. Sharpe stated for the record that it takes everybody working together, teachers can't make it without administrators, administrators can't make it without teachers and career service employees – everybody needs to work together to keep the school system working.

One thing about Georgia is every year the legislature has a dedicated amount of money to salaries only. They do not have a union. They get this money regardless because it is a partnership between the school boards and a partnership between the legislators.

It is not in our best interest to hold money from any one of you. We are not fighting against you. We are trying to do our best. If we don't have the resources, we don't have them. Some things that have been stated tonight are not true and there are some statements by deliberate omission and that is getting to be a real problem, especially when people espouse to working collaboratively and cooperatively. We have to work together, that is not a one-way street.

Another thing for the record that keeps coming up about the food service director – this salary does not come from general revenue. That money comes from special revenue from federal dollars. Just before she came on the Board there was a time when the district had to help bail out food service, but since this director has been here, food service has helped the district.

She doesn't want to see us fight against each other and hopefully at the end of this next session, we will be in better shape. This Board has not stated or acted in anyway that it doesn't care for the teachers and career service employees. Board members are not at liberty to respond to many statements in order to not get into unfair labor practices. She

appealed to teachers, administrators and career service employees to work together to get this solved and move on. Whether she is sitting on this Board or not, her motivation is the same and that is to take care of the employees and students in this district.

- the teacher continued by asking if there could be dialogue about the budget and specific questions answered during the Board meeting that will be scheduled for open discussion with the public, such as, Wasn't there a million dollars worth of savings between the teachers that retired last year and what you are paying new teachers?

Dr. Chambers responded that it was her intent to have a meeting where this kind of dialogue could be held. If the questions are gotten to her, she will get the answers. She invited him to attend the workshop that will probably be scheduled.

Mr. Jack Martin, retired army, long time residence in Gainesville, expressed delight in being at the meeting and with what he heard earlier and that is the young people are beginning to learn what this country is all about, especially on the order of the history of our country. The week of Thanksgiving is designated Christian Heritage Week and this year the banner hanging across West University Avenue is sponsored by Gator Christian Life at the University. So in the spirit of unity and national pride and in recognition of our dependence on the Supreme Being, he presented to the Chairman of the Board a framed copy of our motto, In God We Trust. In addition he provided 23 copies to be displayed in the county schools if and as the Board wishes and say yes, we can stand tall and say God, please, Bless American.

CHARTER
APPLICATION FOR
MICANOPY MIDDLE
SCHOOL

Mr. Don Lewis, director, reported that on September 28, 2001, a charter application for the Micanopy Middle School was submitted. District staff reviewed the application and consistently indicated that the application meets qualifications for approval. This will be the district's tenth charter school and the second application that is exclusively middle school. The school would serve students from south Alachua County and the city of Micanopy in particular.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the charter school application for the Micanopy Middle School in concept, authorize the staff to develop a proposed charter contract, and schedule a public hearing on the proposed charter contract for February 5, 2002.

Board members complimented Micanopy school staff on the preparation of their application, for covering all the bases, that they are a true success story for charter schools, and glad that they can expand.

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

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC CC842—
NEWBERRY HIGH
SCHOOL
BUSINESS/HOME
ECONOMICS/CLASS
ROOM REMODELING

Mr. Ed Gable reported that bids for the construction of this project were received on November 6, 2001.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to accept the low base bid of \$644,000 and Additive Alternates 1 through 8 in the amount of \$87,154 and award a contract for construction totaling \$731,154 to General Mechanical, Daytona Beach, Florida. Completion of this project shall be within three hundred ten (310) consecutive calendar days from the date indicated in the "Notice to Proceed."

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

Mr. Gable reiterated that we are proceeding with all of our projects in the planning phase and obviously all the ones in the construction phase, but until we get some clarification through the special session on the construction funding, we will probably not bring any additional projects to the Board for bid awards.

PROPOSED POLICY
AMENDMENTS AND
PROPOSED POLICY—
FIRST READING

Dr. Scaggs, staff attorney, noted that these policies reflect those policies covered in a recent workshop.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation that a public hearing be scheduled 7:30 p.m., January 15, 2002, to consider proposed policy amendments that specify and clarify requirements of law and district practices, proposed amendments to Policy 5.11 and Policy 7.32, and new proposed Policy 8.72.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-53-X

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to expel the student through May 31, 2002.

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

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-56-X

Dr. Scaggs reported that a hearing was held this afternoon and there has not been sufficient time to prepare a recommended order.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Cawthon

Moved the administration's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through December 4, 2001.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

SCHEDULE/CANCEL
WORKSHOPS/BOARD
MEETINGS

Dr. Paulson asked if at this workshop ACEA would be able to have open dialogue and input, they have a survey on these things.

Chairman Cake guaranteed him ACEA would have input and open dialogue as long as it doesn't cross the lines of negotiations.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to schedule a workshop 9 a.m., Tuesday, December 11, 2001, on Scheduling Options and Budget Stabilization and Cost Containment Plan; and another workshop 9 a.m., Wednesday, January 16, 2002, on Strategic Plan Update and Facility Utilization; and cancel Board meetings scheduled for December 18, 2001, and January 1, 2002, due to winter holidays.

Dr. Paulson pointed out that ACEA left the October 30 workshop thinking the Board and ACEA were going to do a survey together. This was not done. Administration put out a survey and ACEA put out a survey. Can we get together and try to work this out?

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Dr. Paulson, again, noted that an agreement was made to do this collaboratively. He noted that first they had to fight to get the input of the teachers and employees. He asked if they are going to work together, take the two surveys and see what we have so that we definitely have the input of all the employees and welcome the input of the public?

Dr. Chambers stated that when we get the input from the survey, we would be happy to compile that or take your summary and put it with our summary so that we will have information from your group as well as other groups. We have also asked the SACs, PTAs and several other groups for information. The answer is yes, and she stated that a meeting would be scheduled with Dr. Paulson.

CONTRACT FOR
PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES WITH JOY
FRANK & ASSOCIATES,
P.A.

Dr. Paulson wondered if the Board is getting its money's worth using a part-time lobbyist and if we should have someone from the district trained and maybe be a little more cost effective. Feels \$25,000 is a lot of money for someone that is not a full-time lobbyist.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the contract for the period January 19, 2002, through January 18, 2003.

Superintendent Chambers noted that her predecessor rearranged a lobbyist-negotiator position that was deleted and moved back into the staff attorney realm and if you recall this is a fraction of the cost of that administrative position eliminated. Mrs. Frank has agreed to extend this contract for the same amount of money even though she will have had two additional sessions than what she had originally contracted for.

Dr. Scaggs stated that the entire Florida School Code is being revised and Mrs. Frank is a member of the committee that is doing that revision. It is extremely helpful to have her insights available with what looks like a rewrite of about 1700 statutes. She is there monitoring that and is available to us as we go through the legislative session as the Code is being revised.

Mrs. Carroll can attest to the fact that because Mrs. Frank is up there and stays there and does work for other groups and she is very involved, we are getting more than our money's worth. She has dealt with her with AP dollars, school enrollment dollars, the School Readiness Coalition and now the Code. Her entrée into offices and the respect of those offices is well worth what we need right now, particularly, at this difficult time in Tallahassee.

Mrs. Sharpe noted she is on record being the only one that voted against her when she was first hired. She thought that \$25,000 for a part-time lobbyist at that time was too much plus she was the lobbyist for the superintendent's group. By the next contract renewal I had to change because Mrs. Frank had done such a good job for us, and she has all those inroads up there, she reports back to us and she has been very responsive and responsible to us.

Chairman Cake reminded Dr. Paulson of the half day Mrs. Frank gave them in Tallahassee, and he has never felt as comfortable with other lobbyists we have had. When we go to School Boards Association meetings, she is there to speak with us. She is also one of two or three that speaks to the entire School Boards Association. He has been very satisfied with what we get, the wealth of information we get from her, packets of information that probably no one else sees.

Dr. Paulson appreciated the open dialogue, and noted with some things on the consent agenda you don't know what is happening.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-13 with the removal of item 13 for separate vote. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

DISCUSSION ITEM—
Joint Meetings with
Alachua County and the
School Board

Chairman Cake requested that Dr. Chambers come up with some date and some agenda items that would indicate how much of a need this is.

Mrs. Sharpe would like to know the benefit of either.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Carroll noted that the purchase of the Archer property seems to be tied up with a dispute over a deed and requested staff follow-up. She also requested a copy of the curriculum survey regarding reading programs.

Mrs. Cawthon was informed that the new format for Board meetings will begin in February.

Mr. Cake requested Superintendent Chambers present a format plan for Board meetings to the Board in January.

Mrs. Sharpe requested Dr. Chambers research and find out if there are actually some discrepancies in the office in how people are treated, whether or not they are being answered or whether they are being put off, and if there is a problem, make sure it is rectified.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 a.m.