

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
August 21, 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.

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 August 7, 2001, and minutes of Special Board Meetings of July 24, 2001, and August 2, 2001, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of August 21, 2001, as presented.

Mrs. Carroll requested Consent Agenda Item 9, School Improvement Plans, be pulled for discussion prior to vote on the Consent Agenda.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responding to Mrs. Carroll, the Chairman noted that he and the Superintendent will be attending the annual Legislative Delegation Hearing September 6, 2001, and will present the Board's Legislative Platform.

Condolences were extended to Dr. Leonard Weiss, principal, A. Q. Jones Center, in the loss of his mother, Mrs. Evelyn Weiss Friedland.

Superintendent Chambers noted that on the wall behind the dais staff has started a board to help promote character awareness, and each month students will depict what they believe the character traits look like and the trait of the month and student of the month will be highlighted.

The Superintendent reported that the district did have a very smooth opening. She pointed out that the efforts of the teachers and principals are obviously appreciated, but there are a lot of unsung heroes out there. Many facilities and maintenance folks painting after hours and around the clock to get the schools ready for opening. She saw a huge commitment on the part of food service and front office personnel the first day, but one of the most important, and that she was really appreciative of, was the commitment to the bus transportation by the transportation folks. Our hats are off to our unsung heroes as well as our heroes in our schools in appreciation of their efforts in making school opening as smoothly as it has been.

Superintendent Chambers pointed out that the Board's first legislative priority is salaries and benefits to recruit and retain competent/dedicated personnel. This year the district received \$1.8 million to give teachers bonuses. What is being asked of the Legislature is make certain we have those kinds of increases for all personnel, including those unsung heroes just mentioned.

She asked Board members to review their calendars for scheduling workshops in September/October to look at issues consultants have suggested. We are getting ready to go through an OPPAGA review, statewide audit, to look at best practices to make sure we are operating as efficiently and effectively as we can. She will be requesting that the Board review the seven-period day, maintenance, and the numbers of staff. There is a need to get a handle on the financial position of the budget. She noted one way to do this is to start early, very methodically look at where we are, where we are spending our money, and what we can do to help put us in a better financial position as well as providing not only for our students but for our personnel.

**SCHEDULED AGENCIES  
UNITED WAY**

Mr. Terry Tougaw, executive director, Facilities and Maintenance, noted that he is this year's School Board representative and campaign chairman for United Way. This year's theme is The United Way of Alachua County Cares--Community by Community and that we are all a part of the big picture. The district goal this year will be to strive for 100% participation and to better last year's goal of \$67,005.

Following a brief video presentation, Mr. Tougaw recognized Mr. Steve Reardon, executive director, United Way for Alachua County, and Ms. Leveda Brown, campaign chair for United Way.

Ms. Brown noted the appreciation of the entire community on the Board's approach to the campaign and the contributions that have been made. Eighty percent of Alachua County United Way's entire

contributions come through payroll deduction.

Board members thanked the United Way staff for their efforts and all the generous supporters of United Way for providing so much for the kids and the community.

ALACHUA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION

Ms. Melissa Murphy, president, Alachua County Public Schools Foundation, noted that the Foundation provided a new resource this year for many of the schools—Foundation for Success Grant—to help schools fund programs and initiatives that further their school improvement plans in the district’s overall strategic plan. This program was developed in an effort to find ways the Foundation can help the schools and children. The money for this year’s grant came from the Inaugural Ball held in August of 1999. Twenty-seven grants were awarded for a total amount of \$20,460 with a 25% match from business partners and SACs, PTAs and other funding sources, representing an investment in the schools of approximately \$25,000 this year. Most of these grants were in support of school reading or literacy programs, including enhancing accelerated reader programs, classroom library and early reading skill development.

Mrs. Sharpe noted how proud and happy she is to be a member of the Foundation and thanked Ms. Murphy and Ms. Mary Chance for their efforts with the Foundation.

ACEA

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, made the following comments: ACEA and the Board had an agreement last year that they would honor the step increase for employees. We just want the same money received last year. We said no person in this district would get a salary increase. Bonuses are a scam. Teachers are getting \$850 as a bonus this year. They are not getting a 2.5% increase over the long haul. Career Service is not getting anything. Reduction in force should have been addressed earlier in the year. We have great professionals in the district. I want to work together with the Board. A step is a negotiated right a person has for giving years of service to the district.

RECOGNITION/PRESEN-  
TATION/REPORT

Florida Department of Education Community Involvement Award  
Ms. Karen Scarborough, coordinator, Volunteer Program, presented Chiles, Newberry and Wiles Elementary Schools as the schools that have met the rigorous criteria to be designated as “Five-Star Schools.” This award is presented by the Florida Department of Education annually and is the highest award for community involvement.

Camp Crystal Lake Summer Curriculum Integration

Mr. Tony Oyenarte, manager, Camp Crystal Lake, gave a brief recap on happenings at Camp Crystal. The Alpine Tower and High Ropes

course was a big success with students and parents. Another highlight was the CIT program (counselors in training). There are 20 trained counselors ready to step in for the next summer. The camp had 1200 campers this summer with 1000 on the waiting list.

He shared future plans for programs at Camp Crystal. The High Adventure Program to begin next summer. The curriculum will be based on Outward Bound policies and beliefs and all the staff involved in that program will be wilderness first responder trained and highly competent, mature adults. In 2003 Camp Crystal will partner with Outward Bound to send some students to North Carolina to go backpacking and rock climbing.

He was pleased to note that a partnership with the University of Florida College of Education Technology Department will allow 150 college students to come out and work with the fifth grade students each week. Camp Crystal will have students 48 weeks this school year. The goal is for the student to be able to go back to school and reflect on experiences at camp. The Camp Crystal Lake curriculum is tied into the Sunshine State Standards and FCAT strategies.

#### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Don Lewis, director, School Improvement, presented highlights of school improvement in the district. Efforts will be focused on student performance and the goal is to help students become successful in the classroom as well as in life. Schools are addressing their individual goals through a variety of programs that enhance the total school environment along with academic achievement. Parental involvement continues to be the priority of school improvement efforts. Each school improvement goal is correlated to a strategic planning goal, ensuring continuity of purpose.

He noted many interventions and activities going on in each of the schools and those that do the best job are the ones that create an environment where children feel wanted and loved. A strong sense of physical, emotional and social safety must exist.

Beginning tonight schools will present highlights of activities that make their school a special place to be. Alachua County schools continue to strive toward greater growth and achievement for each child at every school. Through continued efforts from the outstanding faculty and staff and improved collaboration with parents and the community, the focus will be on success--one child at a time.

Mrs. Hazel Gordon, teacher, Metcalfe Elementary School, addressed the Board on teaming and team building. She noted where there is a great leader there is an awesome team. The members of the faculty at

Metcalf feel they are among the best and understand and know the importance of team building. She highlighted some of the activities offered throughout the school year at Metcalfe to enhance this concept.

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- Board either agenda public discussion on citizen proposals or give a reasonable explanation as to why concerns are ignored.
- Improve the curriculum in relation to the teaching of African American history.
- Citizen Input should begin the meeting; addressed F.S. 233.061(2).
- Assemble an advisory group of educators to take a look at the African American history in curriculum and discuss how to build an inclusive community.
- Diversity Education/training for students and teachers—develop a model program that puts together a curriculum that includes not only civility but an appreciation of cultural diversity.
- Infusion of African American history in the curriculum.
- Reexamine the issue of awarding credit for Algebra I in middle schools or postpone until all issues being raised can be addressed.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-12  
REDISTRICTING  
BOARD MEMBER  
RESIDENCY AREAS

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mr. Cake

Moved the administration's recommendation to adopt Resolution No. 01-12 for Redistricting Board Member Residency Areas and direct staff to comply with the requirements for notice and filing of the newly established School Board Member Residence Areas; and that a public hearing be held on this matter on October 2, 2001, and that following that hearing, change, if any, be adopted by a subsequent Resolution of the Board.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHOOL BOARD  
POLICY 9.10, CIVILITY--  
SECOND READING

A public hearing was held August 7, 2001, to consider new School Board Policy 9.10, Civility—Conduct of District Employees, Parents, and other Visitors to School District Facilities.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the administration's recommendation to adopt Policy 9.10, Civility, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENTS TO THE  
PUPIL PROGRESSION

Mr. Lewis addressed concerns raised regarding high school credit for Algebra I in middle schools. He noted that district records indicate that

PLAN--SECOND  
READING

95% of the students who moved from middle school Algebra I to high school Algebra II successfully completed the course with a grade of "C" or higher. The credit for Algebra I would not be assigned until the end of the first semester of the student's ninth grade year. Thus, students who need to drop back to Algebra I Honors in 9<sup>th</sup> grade would have that option available by refusing to accept credit for Algebra I taken in eighth grade.

Middle and high school teachers worked to create a new exam, which was field-tested during the 2000-2001 school year. Middle school teachers will be trained to grade the extended response questions to ensure consistency in assessment. Tests will be housed at and distributed from the district office, and standard procedures to ensure test security will be followed. The exam can be administered countywide on the same day, and make-up exams will be handled as for FCAT and other standardized tests.

If the student met the grade criteria ("A" or "B" in the course) and passed the exam, credit could be awarded. Teachers and counselors would advise students of the benefits of taking additional math courses in preparation for standardized tests and college courses. The credit will be awarded by year, not by semester.

A survey of the 71 school districts in Florida (including four university lab schools) revealed that 71% offer Algebra I at the middle school level. Ninety percent of these districts award high school credit for the course. Some districts also award credit for foreign language, life management skills, geometry, geometry honors, physical science, English I Honors, and biology taken at the middle school level

This proposed change to the Pupil Progression Plan to grant credit for Algebra I taken in middle school will give the students the same opportunity available to students in the majority of the other districts.

A public hearing was held August 7, 2001, to consider amendments to the Pupil Progression Plan.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the administration's recommendation to approve the amendments to the Pupil Progression Plan as presented.

Mr. Cake stated for clarification that the high school students in Algebra II Honors will not get credit for Algebra I in middle school, and they are required to have had an "A" or "B," until second semester. The middle school administrator and guidance counselor, working in

conjunction with the high school staff, will award the credit.

Mrs. Carroll requested that copies of Dr. Cliett’s memo responding to concerns raised be submitted to all high schools, and she addressed concerns received from Buchholz High School math teachers with Dr. Cliett’s responses.

Mrs. Sharpe feels the math teachers have legitimate concerns and wants to be satisfied that we will not be enabling some and disabling others.

Mr. Cake requested assurance that staff will observe this year and report back to the Board next year prior to this time not just how the students have done but how the teachers feel about it in both middle and high schools.

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

CHANGE ORDER NO. 8  
FOR PROJECT SBAC  
CB909—EASTSIDE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
REROOFING

This change order adds \$182,897.90 to the contract, revising the contract to \$2,788,215.60, and represents an increase in cost for replacing 6,749 square feet of existing metal deck and insulation found to be structurally unsound. This change order adds ten (10) consecutive calendar days to the contract time.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

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

Mrs. Sharpe asked for understanding on whether the problem is the result of an old building or if the quality of the original work is in question and if someone else could help share the responsibility.

Mr. Gable, director, Facilities, explained they are replacing the existing roof as well as the metal deck under that roof which was constructed in 1970. There have been some minor repairs along the way but never a major replacement of this roof.

This is not the last change order on this roof. This roof represents 174,000 sq. ft. and there are about 4,000 sq. ft. left to investigate as the roof is being taken off. When that has been done, we will be able to give the Board a final number.

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

DISCUSSION OF  
SCHOOL  
IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Mrs. Carroll thanked all those involved in the school improvement process for their efforts.

Mr. Lewis noted that a countywide training session for those new to school improvement has been held and another one is scheduled for September 20, 2001, in the evening.

Chairman Leathers was impressed with the quality of the plans and suggested that in order for schools to not set themselves up for failure they look at the possibility of expanding the number of areas they address.

Mr. Lewis noted that the Superintendent has given direction to take a more global, holistic look at the schools. Schools will be scheduled to address the Board throughout the school year to highlight activities going on in the schools that will benefit the students.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-17.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBERS/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

Mrs. Sharpe reported that she had received a call from Mr. Anthony Buzzella noting that he had withdrawn the charter school application for FAME Academy Middle School for the Arts and requested that she thank the staff and those involved with his application.

Mr. Cake requested that Mrs. Gallant be provided a copy of the district's 2002 Legislative Priorities.

He also commended Dr. Scaggs, staff attorney, and expressed appreciation for his time and efforts with the Redistricting Plan for Board Member Residency Areas.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Cake

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to adjourn the Board meeting of August 21, 2001, at 9:20 p.m.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0