

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
June 1, 1999

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: Bill Cake, chairman; Barbara Sharpe, vice-chairman; Judy Brashear, Bev Carroll, and Chester Leathers, members; Lawrence L. Marazza, superintendent; and James F. Lang, attorney for the Board.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cake, 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 18, 1999, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of June 1, 1999, as presented.

Add Action Items B.0., Report--Crisis Management Plan Update; and B.1.i., Reorganization of the 1999 High School Summer Classes.

Amend Action Item B.1.a., to read: "Schedule a Workshop 9 a.m., June 16, 1999, to discuss the Construction Academy."

Consent Agenda Item C.6., Annual Renewal of Florida School Boards' Instruct Trust (FSBIT) Property & Casualty Program, read the "Safe School Resolution" into the record.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS/
DISCUSSION

Mrs. Carroll congratulated all K-12 graduates, their parents and teachers.

Chairman Cake attended a School Violence Awareness Conference in Tampa and suggested scheduling a workshop in the future to discuss this issue in-depth.

RECOGNITION/PRESEN-
TATION—ENGLISH
WRITING AWARD

Mrs. Mary Anne Wagner, ESOL Supervisor, recognized the 1999 winners of the Alachua County Council of Teachers of English Writing Awards. Students read excerpts from their award winning entries.

OAK VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL—"HEROES IN OUR MIDST"

Mr. John Sims, supervisor, Curriculum, recognized Oak View Middle School staff and students for producing a book entitled "Heroes in our Midst," which is a collection of stories from area veterans.

EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL—INSTITUTE OF CULINARY ARTS

Mr. Bill Herschleb, principal, Eastside High School, recognized students from the Institute of Culinary Arts for their accomplishments and winning state awards.

GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL—STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

Mrs. Ginger Childs, principal, Gainesville High School, recognized the varsity basketball players for winning the state championship. The team ranked #1 in Florida and #10 nationally.

VIDEO PRODUCTION CREW

Mrs. Childs also recognized the Video Production crew at Gainesville High School for their outstanding video entitled "Broken Silence." Gainesville High School won first place in the Universal Studios Video Production competition.

COMMUNITY-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM

Mrs. Rosalind Hall, ESE Coordinator, recognized the numerous business partners for their participation in the Community-based Training Program for exceptional students.

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- The president of the Alachua County Education Association commended the School Board for denying the approval of the Alachua Learning Center, Inc., Charter School.
- A citizen expressed concern that the Chance Charter School had hired an attorney, at taxpayer expense, to represent them on acquisition of a site permit for a new location.
- A Nigerian representative requested donations of used computers, books, and school supplies for children in his country.
- A citizen expressed support of Chance Charter School and staff.

Mrs. Sharpe requested Superintendent Marazza assist the Nigerian representative, if possible, with donations.

REPORT—
CRISIS MANAGEMENT
PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Terry Tougaw, assistant superintendent, Facilities/Transportation, reported that law enforcement and school officials continue to meet to discuss prevention of school violence.

He noted the following steps which have been taken to date:

- May 4, 1999, the Board accepted the Final Report of its Task Force on the Prevention of School Violence.
- May 7, 1999, a letter was sent to parents informing them of a partnership with the Alachua County Crisis Center and the establishment of a rumor control hotline number (334-0800).
- A Crisis Management Team, consisting of district staff and law enforcement officials will expand upon the School Violence Task Force Report and prepare an Emergency and Crisis Plan for the district in mid July.
- The Crisis Management Team will distribute a draft of the Crisis Plan to all principals and staff for review and input prior to August 1, 1999.
- Mock drills are planned at Buchholz and Gainesville High schools the first week of preplanning.
- At the beginning of the school year, personnel will be trained.
- A list is currently being created on uniform facility needs.
- The plan will be implemented in elementary, middle and high schools.

Mrs. Sharpe recommended students also be informed and aware of the plan during an emergency.

The Board thanked staff and the law enforcement community for their efforts in assisting the district to find a solution to violence in the schools.

Superintendent Marazza informed the Board that he has requested dollars be set aside in the expansion budget to cover school needs as identified for safer schools.

SCHEDULE A
WORKSHOP

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved to schedule a workshop 9 a.m., Wednesday, June 16, 1999, to discuss the Construction Academy.

Mrs. Sharpe noted that she will be out of town for a Florida Healthy Kids Board meeting, but requested the Board hold the workshop in her absence.

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

BID AWARD FOR
PROJECT SBAC CB709—
SANTA FE HIGH
SCHOOL ROOF
REPAIR/REPLACEMENT

Mrs. Ed Gable, director, Facilities, reported that bids for the construction of this project were received May 6, 1999.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to accept the base bid of \$289,600 and additive alternate no. 1 in the amount of \$272,500 and award a contract for construction totaling \$562,100 to Springer-Peterson Roofing & Sheet Metal, Lakeland, Florida, with completion of the project to be within 150 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 CC634—
MEBANE MIDDLE
SCHOOL PARKING AND
SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Gable reported that bids for the construction of this project were received May 20, 1999.

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved to accept the base bid of \$194,444.44 and award a contract for construction to Music & Worth Construction, Inc., Live Oak, Florida, with completion of the project to be within 68 consecutive calendar days from the dated indicated in the “Notice to Proceed.”

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

SCHOOL ADVISORY
COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
LISTS

Dr. Dan Boyd, assistant superintendent, Instruction, reported that membership of each council has been selected in compliance with School Board Policy, BCFC. The signature of the principal and SAC chair indicates that the council is composed of teachers, parents, students, career service personnel, and other citizens who are representative of the ethnic, racial and economic community of the school.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to approve the School Advisory Council membership lists as submitted.

Dr. Boyd informed the Board that principals worked very hard in stimulating interest for citizens to serve on the councils and were very successful.

It was noted that this year 70 new individuals are participating on the councils.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PROPOSED REVISIONS
TO POLICIES—SECOND
READING

A public hearing was held May 4, 1999, on policies categorized as follows:

Schedule A – Proposed New Policies

Schedule B – Proposed Policies to be Amended

Schedule C – Proposed Policies to be Repealed

Schedule D – Proposed Policies to be Re-codified Only

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to adopt the policies as revised.

Mrs. Carroll referred to Policy 4.111, Graduation Exercises, and stated that she has a philosophical problem with students walking across the stage who have not completed all the required credits for graduation. She preferred the Board require all students to have their credits and the Board host/fund summer graduations for those students who have not completed their graduation requirements at the time of graduation.

Mrs. Brashear referred to the new graduation requirements associated with the FCAT by the year 2001, and preferred that parents and students be given a two-year notice to prepare.

Mrs. Sharpe felt that if a student is lacking a credit or a half-credit due to extenuating circumstances, but is able to make up the credit in a reasonable amount of time or during summer school, they should be allowed to walk. The district should hold their diploma until they meet the requirements and parents should also be contacted in advance by the district if a student is having trouble. She stated that she could not support the amendment if other variables are not considered.

Chairman Cake also felt students should be allowed to walk and not be punished if they are missing a half-credit and can make it up in the summer.

Dr. Boyd stated that past policy has allowed principals to make the judgment and noted it has worked very well.

Superintendent Marazza urged the Board to consider latitude and standardization.

Mrs. Brashear stated that in the past the latitude that has been given to principals has created inequity between high schools. She suggested

setting clear goals for students and allowing students sufficient time to be prepared.

Mrs. Carroll stated that she would like for students who fulfill the true requirements for graduation to walk.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to amend Policy 4.111, Graduation Exercises, to read: “As proposed by the Superintendent, effective with the school year 2000-2001 students must have met all requirements for graduation under state law and the Pupil Progression Plan in order to graduate, receive a diploma, and participate in the school’s graduation exercises.”

The question was called on the amendment.

Upon Vote: Motion failed 3-2
No: Mr. Cake
Dr. Leathers
Mrs. Sharpe
Yes: Mrs. Brashear
Mrs. Carroll

Mrs. Brashear referred to Policy 7.31(3), Change Orders, which allows a consultant to be hired on a frequent basis without Board approval or knowledge and the recommendation is to raise the amount from \$6,000 to \$15,000.

Dr. Chambers stated that current law is \$15,000 and the recommendation is for the policy to mirror state law.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to amend Policy 7.31(3), Purchasing and Bidding, and add item (d) to read: “Each consultant hired, with the exception of grants, shall be reported by the Superintendent to the Board and entered into the official minutes at a regular Board meeting.”

The question was called on the amendment.

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

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-18-X

Mr. Tom Wittmer, staff attorney, reported that the student was charged with battery on a teacher. A hearing was held March 12, 1999.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to expel the student through the 1998-99 school year, but be permitted to attend the alternative center on probation.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-23-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was charged with possession, sale and transfer of marijuana at school. A hearing was held April 23, 1999.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to expel the student through the 1999-2000 school year.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-25-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was charged with possession of marijuana at school. A hearing was held April 23, 1999.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to expel the student through the 1999-2000 school year, but be permitted to attend the alternative center on probation.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-26-HC

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was reassigned to the alternative center as a result of a history of disruptive behavior. A hearing was held April 23, 1999.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to confirm the student's assignment to the alternative center.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-27-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student is charged with defiance, disorderly conduct and battery on school personnel.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through June 15, 1999.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-29-NP

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was reassigned to the alternative center as a result of a history of disruptive behavior. A hearing was held May 5, 1999.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to confirm the student's assignment to the alternative center.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-30-NP

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was reassigned to the alternative center as a result of a history of disruptive behavior. A hearing was held May 5, 1999.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Dr. Leathers

Moved the hearing agent's recommendation to confirm the student's assignment to the alternative center.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-34-SB

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student is charged with a Level IV violation on the school bus. The parent did not request a hearing.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation that the student be suspended from bus riding privileges through the 1999 extended school year.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

STUDENT CASE
NO. 99-38-X

Mr. Wittmer reported that the student was charged with threatening a teacher.

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to extend the student's suspension through June 15, 1999.

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

AUDIT REPORT NO.
13467 OF THE
ALACHUA COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD,
FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 1998

Dr. Mary Chambers, assistant superintendent, Business Services, reported that the findings of the Auditor General's report are currently being addressed.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation that Audit Report No. 13467 of the Alachua County District School Board for fiscal year ended June 30, 1998, be filed as a part of the public records of the School Board.

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

COPS IN SCHOOLS

Dr. Boyd reported that the Gainesville Police Department is applying for a three-year grant for funding three additional resource officers. The district is being requested to make a good faith effort to pay half the costs of the officers at the end of the grant period.

Superintendent Marazza stated that this is a good faith commitment and a good working partnership.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to support the Gainesville Police Department's grant application and make a good faith effort to pay one-half the cost of the officers at the end of the three-year grant period.

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

REORGANIZATION OF
1999 HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER CLASSES

Dr. Boyd reported that the recommendation to change high school summer school is based on recent state legislation and funding formulas. The 1999 Florida State Legislature has changed high school summer school effective July 1, 1999, whereby all expenditures for summer school must be taken out of the "Supplemental Academic Instruction Categorical Fund" and must address remediation K-12 and high school graduation.

He explained that the generation of FTE funds at the high school level (grades 9-12) are not authorized beyond June 30, 1999. Expenses incurred after June 30 will impact the "Supplemental Academic

Instruction Categorical Fund.”

In order to save approximately \$750,000 from the “Supplemental Academic Instruction Categorical Fund,” the following amendments are recommended for the 1999 extended school year calendar:

All high school course work will be collapsed into 15 days in June, beginning June 10, and every weekday, including Fridays through June 30, 1999, with the exception of the Summer Musical Theatre, which will be extended an additional two days through July 2, 1999.

The daily academic schedule will feature a morning class and an afternoon class. Each class will be four (4) hours per day for 15 days (60 hours of instruction) and will enable students to earn ½ credit in each. Students will be able to earn one (1) full credit if they attend all day for each of the 15 days (120 hours of instruction).

Elementary and middle schools will operate on a four-day week beginning June 14.

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Brashear

Moved the superintendent’s recommendation to approve the revisions to the high school summer schedule as presented.

Dr. Paulson, president, ACEA, requested assistance from the district in working with teachers who have prior commitments June 10 and 11.

Dr. Boyd assured the Board and community that principals will be very flexible and accommodating with teachers and students.

A parent expressed opposition to the change in the summer high school schedule.

It was noted that a letter will be sent home with students explaining the emergency nature of the change in schedule.

Mrs. Carroll requested the district excuse students with legitimate reasons on June 10 and 11 and monitor abuse.

Dr. Boyd stated that principals will make announcements before the end of the school year and request students with extenuating circumstances to inform the school.

Mrs. Brashear pointed out that next year the district will be confronted with this same situation and suggested a survey be conducted in order to acquire data for next year.

The Board expressed its commitment that principals be consistent countywide to excuse students with extenuating circumstances on June 10 and 11.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1-28. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

Mrs. Sharpe, serving as the School Board’s trustee of the Florida School Board Insurance Trust, referred to item 6., FSBIT—“Safe School Resolution,” and thanked Mr. Dave Hotary, director, Risk Management, for his efforts in realizing a 10% reduction in claims totaling \$231,355.

Mrs. Carroll read the “Safe School Resolution” into the record.

“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 a 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

Mrs. Sharpe requested a discussion item on the June 15, 1999, agenda on school uniforms.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.