

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 24, 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 Dr. Leathers

Moved to approve the minutes of August 3, 1999, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Sharpe

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved to adopt the agenda for the meeting of August 3, 1999, as presented.

Add as a Recognition Item the Buchholz High School Debate Team following Scheduled Agencies; and delete Acton Item, f., Student Case No. 99-46-X.

The question was called on the agenda as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS/
DISCUSSION

Mrs. Brashear made the following requests:

- The Charter Review Commission has invited the Board to provide input and there is a need for Board discussion on the parameters and possible involvement.
- Food Service provide information related to the sale of soft drinks at schools and address the related issues of fundraising and advertising in schools.
- Board members provide FSBA with input on legislation related to electronic pagers.

Chairman Cake urged Board members to individually submit their

legislative requests to FSBA relative to electronic pagers. Mrs. Sharpe informed the Board that she has submitted her request to FSBA to amend sections and phrases dealing with possession of electronic telephone pagers.

Chairman Cake reminded the Board of the upcoming Board member training sessions and also announced he attended the Public School Choice conference. He requested a workshop be scheduled to discuss controlled school choice and issues related to the Charter Review Commission.

SCHEDULED
AGENCIES—ALACHUA
COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE

Lt. Charlie Lee, Alachua County Sheriff's Office, provided the Board with an update on the Crisis Management Planning Committee, and the steps that have been taken to address violence in schools and noted that draft crisis plans will be available at schools campuses within thirty days. He also reported on the recent mock drills held at Buchholz and Gainesville High schools and noted the areas needing to be addressed include communication and facility needs.

The district's Curriculum and Student Support Services division presented information on violence prevention and intervention.

The Board thanked the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Gainesville Police Department for their efforts.

Superintendent Marazza commended the City of Alachua, the Gainesville Police Department (GPD) and Alachua Sheriff's Office (ASO) for their assistance during the mock drills, and pledged the district's cooperation to improve the protection of students.

Superintendent Marazza informed the Board that he will continue to work with ASO and GPD and will reconvene the task force to continue to review and improve on needs, including inservice training for employees and provide the Board with recommendations.

Mrs. Sharpe urged staff to make certain that every school in the district is aware of what to do in case of an emergency.

ALACHUA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

On behalf of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, Ms. D. J. Williams informed the Board of a new program to be implemented in the next few weeks—the creation of a Junior County Commission, which is designed to promote active citizenship among young people. Students will be appointed to the Junior County Commission by their high school principal (two students from each school).

The Board expressed their full support of this new initiative.

BUCHHOLZ HIGH
SCHOOL DEBATE
TEAM

The Buchholz High School Debate Team was recognized for their outstanding achievements at the district and state levels.

CITIZEN INPUT

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

- An education consultant expressed concern related to the new/revised job descriptions and that no public hearing was held on these positions and lack of information provided to the public. The Board was urged to provide the public with an opportunity to address important issues through the public hearing process.
- State Representative Casey urged the Board to consider curfews for students in order to reduce crime and vandalism related to downtown RAVE parties, and recommended the Board appoint a student task force to discuss the issue of curfews.
- Legislative Chair, Coalition Against Poverty, reviewed the discipline report and expressed concern with the high numbers of student referrals for misconduct.

Mrs. Carroll requested staff provide the Coalition with information on the “Second Step” program.

Mrs. Sharpe reported that the district and staff continually work to improve student discipline and noted the successful use of the peer mediation resolution conflict program.

- The Co-chair of Parents and Concerned Citizens Anti-RAVE Committee requested the Board support the earlier closing of downtown establishments, and urged that the Board support enforcing student curfews and consider Friday night activities for student participation.
- A parent expressed concern with the downtown RAVE parties and

urged the School Board to help protect and maintain a city that has a strong anti-drug stance.

REPORTS—THE
SUPERINTENDENT'S
BALL FOR EDUCATION

Ms. Janice Yrausquin and Ms. Karen Novak, co-chairs of the Superintendent's Ball for Education, presented video highlights of the ball and provided a financial report on the event. They reported that the next ball is scheduled for August 13, 2000.

Superintendent Marazza presented plaques to Ms. Yrausquin and Ms. Novak in recognition of their many volunteer hours and contributions to the school system.

STRATEGIC PLANNING
UPDATE

Mr. Don Lewis, Strategic Planning Facilitator, updated the Board on the Strategic Planning Team meeting, which took place August 12-14. Action Teams will begin to meet on September 23 at which time community members and educational members will have an opportunity to participate. Each school will receive a framed draft Mission Statement and poster outlining the beliefs, parameters, objectives and strategies.

Mrs. Sharpe stated she was honored to participate as a member of the Strategic Planning Team, which developed the beliefs, parameters, objectives and strategies and looks forward to the continuation of the strategic planning process by the Action Teams.

Mr. Lewis reported that Action Team leaders will be chosen by Superintendent Marazza and staff, which will include nine education and nine community members. The community will be provided with information at the school level and by extensive advertising in *The Gainesville Sun* in order to allow the public the opportunity to participate and to sign up to be a member on an Action Team.

Mrs. Carroll requested that information be mailed out to each teacher and information also be sent to PTAs in order for them to include it in their newsletters.

Dr. Gunnar Paulson, president, ACEA, referred to the recent article in *The Gainesville Sun* related to the budget and new administrative positions. He expressed his appreciation to Superintendent Marazza and staff for their efforts during the collective bargaining process. He stated that he does not believe in expanding administrative positions, but has reviewed these positions thoroughly with the Superintendent and feels confident that a concerted effort is being made to help teachers. Every teacher who lost his or her job was placed and he urged everyone to allow the process to work.

Superintendent Marazza reviewed the proposed personnel positions for

1999-2000.

Ms. Ginger Childs, assistant superintendent, Instruction, provided a snapshot of enrollment and staffing figures in comparison to day two to last year. She assured the Board that staff will continue to monitor these figures on a daily basis to ensure that they are balanced in order to provide the best instruction for students and remain within budget.

A detective from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, provided a demonstration on the number and types of weapons students are able to hide in their clothing.

SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Ms. Childs informed the Board that since receipt of the initial copies of the School Improvement Plans (SIPs), grammatical and typographical errors have been corrected and copies provided to the Board along with supplemental strategies as a result of the grade awarded by the DOE. These strategies will ensure that the plans target deficiencies and address those concerns, and the addendum is provided for further information.

She stated that it is the intent of staff to continue to work with principals and School Advisory Councils (SACs) to ensure that in the future the Board is provided with School Improvement plans that are error-free, reflect annual state testing results, and demonstrate high expectations for student achievement.

She informed the Board that staff is revising the timetable for SAC meetings for submission of SIPs and for Board adoption, which is aimed to bring the highest quality SIPs reflecting the mission and goals of the district.

In accordance with Florida's system of School Improvement and Accountability and the School Board's Standards for School Improvement, each school has prepared a School Improvement Plan for 1999-2000.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to approve the 1999-2000 School Improvement Plans for 1999-2000 as amended barring the further development of any magnets.

Mrs. Brashear requested a workshop soon to discuss magnets and policy recommendations that would make major changes such as the timing of election and dealing with data on a short turn around time.

She also requested that the 19 schools that received high gain scores be recognized at the next meeting.

Mrs. Sharpe clarified that she is voting for the SIPs that have been corrected of typos and grammatical errors. She requested staff make her aware of SIPs which have magnet programs attached to them.

Superintendent Marazza suggested the Board consider aligning the strategies outlined in the school improvement plans with the strategic plan for discussion during the workshop.

Dr. Leathers stated that there is a common thread in the SIPs, which include English, mathematics, writing and reading and strategic planning will dictate the impact of these SIPs.

Mrs. Carroll noted that there were many good plans, but also noted some concerns that need to be addressed next year:

- Adequate progress, which may need to be changed.
- Strategic planning
- Magnet programs
- Math
- Out-of-school suspension rates

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

NEW/REVISED JOB
DESCRIPTIONS—
SECOND READING

The job descriptions establish work responsibilities for career service and professional/technical and administrative positions. On July 6, 1999, the Board approved these job descriptions for advertising. No public hearing has been requested.

Motion by Mrs. Brashear

Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to approve the job descriptions as presented.

Mrs. Brashear reviewed the opportunities made available to the public to provide the Board with input on these job descriptions.

Dr. Leathers feels comfortable with these positions, which have met all the necessary criteria.

Mrs. Sharpe stated that she has reviewed these job descriptions with the superintendent will give him a chance to prove how these positions will fit into Project Pass and the strategic planning process.

RATIFICATION OF
TEACHERS
AGREEMENT

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

Superintendent Marazza thanked ACEA for their contributions towards the bargaining process and thanked staff for their tremendous efforts.

Mr. Tom Wittmer, staff attorney, reported that there were 14 members on the instructional team and 18 on the career service team and the solutions that came out of the discussions were by consensus.

Dr. Paulson reported the results of the vote:

Teachers: 1074/Yes and 47/No -- Career Service: 763/Yes and 6/No

Motion by Sharpe Seconded by Brashear

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Teachers 1999-2002 as presented.

Mrs. Brashear requested the collective bargaining team begin as soon as possible to discuss how to measure student achievement and differentiate pay for teachers and administrators.

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

RATIFICATION OF
CAREER SERVICE
PERSONNEL
AGREEMENT

Motion by Mrs. Brashear Seconded by Mrs. Carroll

Moved the superintendent's recommendation to ratify the amendments to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Career Service Personnel 1998-2001 as presented.

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

ADOPTION OF 1999-
2000 SALARY
SCHEDULES

Motion by Mrs. Carroll Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to adopt the salary schedules as presented for teachers, career service bargaining unit members, support/technical personnel non-bargaining unit members, and administrators salary schedules and further recommend that the salary schedules adopted continue from year to year.

- Teacher Salary Schedule: 4.25%
- Career Service Salary Schedule: 4.25%
- Support Technical Salary Schedule: 4.52%
- Administrative Salary Schedule: 3.6%

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

PRESENTATION—
MEBANE SCHOOLWIDE
CAREER
EXPLORATION

Dr. Chet Sanders, principal, Mebane Middle School, provided a brief overview highlighting the Mebane Middle School career exploration project.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Dr. Sanders and his staff.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Dr. Leathers

Seconded by Mrs. Sharpe

Moved to approve the consent agenda as described in items 1.-6. (See Supplementary Minutes Book.)

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

RAVE CLUBS

Mrs. Brashear provided a draft proclamation on RAVE clubs to the Board and requested their input for presentation to the City Commission. She urged the Board to adopt strong language based on student achievement, and requested an action item at the next meeting.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Mrs. Sharpe provided a brief update on school uniforms as follows:

- Principals have been asked to involve their PTAs and SACs in distributing parent surveys on school uniforms.
- The ACCPTA will discuss this issue at their August 31 meeting with the goal of how best to assist PTAs in collecting data on the surveys.
- An information packet relevant to school uniforms will be provided to SACs in the fall.
- An orientation on the school uniform issue will be presented to principals in October.
- A presentation will be developed for use at the school sites.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 a.m.