

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES  
**BUDGET WORKSHOP**  
April 8, 2014

The Board met in workshop session duly called at 3 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Ave., Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Gunnar Paulson, Chairman; Leanetta McNealy, Vice-Chairman; April Griffin, and Eileen Roy Board members; Hershel Lyons, Interim Superintendent; principal representatives and staff members; and Ryan Gilbert, Board Attorney. Board member Carol Oyenarte was absent.

Chairman Paulson called the meeting to order. Mr. Lyons noted a numerical error he had made in an email to Dr. Paulson. He asked Assistant Superintendent Scott Ward to be sure it is clarified, as he makes his presentation.

2014-A5 BUDGET            Mr. Ward presented and explained Budget information as of February 28, 2014 [see supplementary minutes].  
The information included:

- Budget to Actual Revenues and Expenditures
- June 30, 2014, Projected Revenues and Expense, based on Percent of Year End
- Projections Based on Percent of February 28 Budgets

Mr. Ward noted that Projections will become more accurate, but at this time are based on only a little more than half of the year. He will provide an update of this information on a monthly basis.

Dr. Paulson stated that his goal is to increase the Contingency Fund, plus Unrestricted Reserve, to over \$4 million. He feels the numbers being presented today are encouraging. Mr. Ward agreed, but cautioned that it is still early in the budget year to be certain if projections will be met.

Mr. Ward responded to Board member questions and offered to meet individually with any Board member who would find it helpful.

Mr. Ward also reviewed:

**School Level Instructional Units -**

Based on projected student numbers for next year and current formulas, there will be a total 29.40 increase in Instruction Units.

**School Other Expense Budget**

Classroom Supplies, Miscellaneous School Allocations (specific program funding, e.g.; band allocations, athletic supplements, discipline funds) and Utilities.

At Dr. Paulson's request, discussion was held on Potential FTE Adjustments, based on the recent release of the Attorney General's Audit Report for 2013.

Mr. Ward provided information on the Transportation appeal and the Kanapaha Middle School appeal, including a correction to page 6 of the presentation documents [see Supplementary Minutes]. Dr. Paulson explained that the problem is

due to controls not being in place prior to Mr. Ward taking his present position. Assistant Superintendent Karen Clarke explained that the coding for which they were cited had not been questioned in previous audits. Because it was fixed the day after being informed, there is optimism that the withheld funds will be recovered.

Mr. Ward explained file comparison procedures and transportation counting procedures that have been instituted to prevent a recurrence. Mr. Ward also reviewed a software system being looked into, which would be efficient for student counts and would qualify as a capital outlay expenditure. It would computerize bus routing, make routes more efficient, and possibly result in a reduction of operating costs and fewer buses. This system is presently in use in Bay, Orange and Osceola Counties. Costs are preliminary. As research is completed, information will be brought to the Board.

Dr. McNealy pointed out that the system would be very costly and stated that she is looking at some other things for capital outlay funds. She said she would like to see an alternative to this software brought to the Board.

Dr. Paulson pointed out that the number one thing is that the District now has a cross-referencing file control in place.

#### PRAIRIE VIEW

Mr. Shane Andrew, Executive Director of Facilities, provided information on the present state of the Prairie View facility and requested direction for its future. He felt this might be the time to look at options, including the advantage there might be in its agricultural zoning.

Brief discussion was held on some previous ideas considered for the Prairie View facility, required facility upkeep, even if vacant, and potential legislation that could require giving excess classrooms or facilities to charter schools.

Dr. Paulson expressed concern about questions on a recent survey that went to employees.

Mr. Ward stated that a preliminary budget is being worked on for April 15 but cautioned that it is still very early in the process.

In response Dr. McNealy's concern about an item on the April 15 Special Board Meeting agenda, Mr. Lyons stated that he is only providing information on the item, and discussion will not be required.

#### DES DISCUSSION

Dr. Paulson brought up the subject of DES, stating that it has been discussed for 10 months. He stated that \$70-80,000 could be saved, and it's not punishing people: they have retired with significantly high salaries.

Mrs. Roy asked for confirmation from Dr. Paulson that he is suggesting that people who have been through DES, who are continuing to work, and who were not in the decision on three-year rule for new enrollees, return to the mid-point of the salary schedule, as in extended DROP or post-DES.

Dr. Paulson reiterated that this is not a punishment issue, but a fairness issue, comparing the situations of these people to Board members and others, mentioning an amount of money he feels the people involved should be able to live on.

Mrs. Griffin, stated that while she is not a fan of DES, she feels it is inappropriate at this point of the year, to tell people it's being changed. She suggested informing these six people of the change for the beginning of next year.

Dr. McNealy feels this has been discussed for a long time and would like to see the change made for next year. Mrs. Roy felt that other Board members delayed the decision and now want to continue the delay.

Attorney Moore will determine a date to place DES on a Board agenda for vote, allowing time for legal notice.

Mr. Moore spoke about issues that he feels are problematic for the decision on the six grandfathered DES employees, including concerns about salary schedule changes and employee age, although the Board attorney has said the age factor is defensible. Mr. Moore noted that employment contracts for present DES employees contain a clause that requires the return to salary midpoint, which is not the case for the grandfathered employees. Dr. Paulson felt these points were not valid and explained how the salary schedule could be handled.

Dr. Paulson and Mr. Lyons conferred, with agreement that the salary schedule issues should be resolved conclusively prior to moving forward with the DES vote.

SUPERINTENDENT  
FINALISTS  
SELECTION PROCESS

PIO Jackie Johnson addressed the Board about possible procedures to use for selection of the Superintendent Finalists. After extensive discussion, a process was determined whereby each Board member will select their top five candidates to come to the District for visits/interviews.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lyons and Dr. Paulson thanked staff and the meeting was adjourned