

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES
BOARD WORKSHOP - DES UPDATE
January 13, 2015

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in workshop session duly called at 3:30 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Leanetta McNealy, Chairman; Eileen Roy, Vice-Chairman; Robert Hyatt, April Griffin, and Gunnar Paulson, Board members; Hershel Lyons, Deputy Superintendent; and staff members.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McNealy. Deputy Superintendent Hershel Lyons stated that he is standing in for Dr. Roberts, since he is attending a conference in Arizona.

Item B.3., Adult Ed Salaries, was pulled from the agenda, and will be discussed at a later date. .

OVERVIEW
AND DISCUSSION
OF DES

Mr. Lyons stated that Dr. Roberts strongly recommends discontinuing the DES Program, effective immediately. He understands the potential impact and wants to work with staff to prepare a policy for Board approval that addresses the need for a succession plan in critical needs areas. Dr. Paulson stated that he would not be comfortable if the plan turned into DES extensions.

Mr. Lyons and staff provided statistical information and responded to Board member questions.

OVERVIEW
AND DISCUSSION
OF DROP

Mr. Lyons stated that Dr. Roberts recommends discontinuing the DROP Extension Program. He wants to work with staff to prepare a policy for Board approval that addresses the needs for a succession plan for critical needs areas.

Discussion was held on allowing teachers whose DROP ends after November 1 to be able to complete the school year, if they so desire. [ACEA President Karen McCann later stated that she believes many teachers whose DROP ends in the Fall would not choose to come back.]

Mr. Lyons reported that critical shortage areas as defined by DOE are:

- English
- Language Arts
- Reading
- ESE
- Science
- Foreign Language
- Math

HR Director Beverly Finley affirmed these as critical areas in Alachua County.

Discussion included:

- Dr. Paulson and Mrs. Roy were concerned that the ‘critical shortage’ issue may lead to more DROP extensions. They want DROP extensions to end.
- Mr. Hyatt suggested the succession plan include an incentive for teachers in critical areas. Chairman McNealy concurred.
- Mrs. Griffin suggested the plan include replacements being sought early.
- Mr. Lyons reported that Superintendent Roberts plans to have employees complete Intent Forms, beginning in 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.