

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES
BOARD WORKSHOP – STAFFING ALLOCATIONS
March 9, 2015

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in workshop session duly called at 10:30 a.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; Superintendent Owen Roberts; and staff members.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McNealy.

Dr. Roberts requested clear directives from the Board, to ensure the right allocation units to be effective in meeting the objectives.

Assistant Superintendent Karen Clarke reviewed the Staffing Allocations Work Flow Chart, the process of which covers three to four months. The function of Position Control was also explained.

Mrs. Clarke provided a detailed overview of the *Draft 2015-16 Staff Allocations Plan* and responded to Board member questions.

Dr. Roberts commented on the unintended consequences of unfunded mandates, such as the state class-size requirements. He also assured Mrs. Roy that he is giving attention to the concerns she voiced about Horizon allocations.

Dropout Prevention calculations were discussed in more detail. Dr. Roberts reported that his experience with intensive reading programs is that the results don't produce what is expected for Dropout Prevention. He stated that it is important to determine that these allocations are making a difference for the students.

Discussion was held on the difficulty of meeting certain IEP requirements, within funding constraints. Superintendent Roberts suggested that carefully written IEPs, along with annual reviews could help bring this into balance.

Dr. McNealy believes instructional aides are very much needed back in the classroom, particularly in lower performing schools. She hoped some funding could be found.

Mrs. Roy requested training for paras in the in-school suspension program. She suggested reconsideration of the Horizon Center paras, because there are so few students in a classroom.

Budget Director Alex Rella presented the Board with information on the budgetary impact of unit changes and discussion was held.

ACEA President Karen McCann commented on (1) the amount of time Counselors spend on Testing, (2) whether the role of Dropout Prevention Specialists could be expanded or changed to Home/School Liaisons, and (3) the fact that Foreign Language is considered an elective but is actually required by most colleges.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.