

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 15, 2013

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in regular session duly called at 6 p.m. in the Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Eileen Roy, Chairman; Gunnar Paulson, Vice-Chairman; Leanetta McNealy, Carol Oyenarte, and April Griffin, Board members; W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent; and Susan Seigle, Attorney for the Board.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Oyenarte

Moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2012, School Board meeting, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Oyenarte

Moved to adopt the January 15, 2013, meeting agenda, as presented.

The question was called on the agenda, as presented.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PRESENTATIONS

- HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

Kelley Kostamo, Volunteer Services, gave a report on the Holiday Food Drive, which resulted in approximately 35,000 pounds of food being collected for 815 student families in need. Ms. Kostamo was recognized for her work in conducting this Drive.

- GREEN GLOBES
CERTIFICATION

Facilities Department staff was recognized for Meadowbrook Elementary School's Green Globes Certification.

- SOLAR IMPACT ROOF LEASE

Solar Impact company presented a symbolic check in the amount of \$2,460,000 to the School Board for the money that will they will pay for a 20-year lease to place solar panels on the roof of Kanapaha Middle School.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Oyenarte commended staff on the success of the Flumist program in the schools and gave a reminder of upcoming magnet openhouses.

Dr. Paulson

- spoke about the importance of history, as related to upcoming Martin Luther King memorial events.
- spoke in memory of Robert Hessels, Glenda Kelly and Bill McBride, expressing condolences to their families.
- gave a reminder of the importance of an upcoming legislative meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING --
2013-14 CALENDAR

The regular Board meeting was recessed and a Public Hearing convened.

ACEA President Karen McCann addressed the Board concerning the calendar recommended by the ACEA, which has the entire week of Thanksgiving off.

Mrs. Oyenarte said the emails she received were 3-1 against having the full Thanksgiving week off. She expressed her concerns, including (1) some employees may not have leave time to cover the extra days and (2) childcare would be a problem for many parents.

Mr. Keith Birkett, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Budget, responded to questions about possible impact on individual employee groups.

Dr. Paulson explained why he feels that childcare would not be a problem, and stated that there is not an economic issue, since there is no change to the total number of days employees work, and students will still be in session for 180 days.

Dr. McNealy expressed surprise at the minimal input the Board has received on the subject of the calendar and the lack of citizen input at this public hearing. She stated that she tends to favor the change.

Mrs. Griffin felt the two extra days off would be an economic issue to a low socioeconomic population. She also reported hearing from 12-month employees who are concerned about more vacation days being designated for them. She encouraged more public or employee input to the Board.

Mrs. Roy stated that the entire Board is concerned with K-12 and the community, not Pre-K Childcare because Pre-K would not be affected by this calendar.

The Public Hearing was adjourned and the regular Board meeting was reconvened.

BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. McNealy reported on recent meetings she has attended as School Board representative, including the Head Start Policy Council and the Alachua County Library District Governing Board. She also commented on the importance of legislative issues.

Mrs. Griffin reported on the recent highly successful Career Expo and announced that Lofton Professional Academies will hold their Open House on January 26, 2013.

Mrs. Roy concurred with comments on the Career Expo, stating that a fantastic job was done. She stated that the legislative meeting was productive and she was proud of the teachers, who spoke eloquently. Mrs. Roy also expressed condolences from the Superintendent, staff and Board members to the families of Howard Bishop Middle School teacher Robert Hessels and retired librarian Cornelia Smith.

CITIZEN INPUT

Several citizens addressed the Board on the issue of safety at school, in light of the recent school tragedy in Connecticut.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent

Agenda as described in items 1-6.

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

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. E1112--08

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate the employment of this employee, effective January 16, 2013.

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

CITIZEN INPUT

ACEA President Karen McCann thanked administration and Board members who attended the recent legislative meeting. She believed the teacher evaluation input was very helpful.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Oyenarte noted that a computer issue prevented her timely receipt of the legislative meeting information, and she was unable to attend.

Mrs. Roy:

- new Education Commissioner Tony Bennett has made it known that he will listen to parents and teachers speak to the important issues at hand.
- is proud of the high school grades recently received.
- payroll tax has risen, reducing the amount of employee paychecks.
- school safety is a top priority and a crisis management team is at work on the issues.
- requested intermittent reports on Diamond Sports Park, throughout the term of the contract, which was renewed at this meeting.
- recently toured the 39th Avenue Correctional facility property, which the City of Gainesville is cautiously optimistic about acquiring. If so, Mr. Ken VanNortwick of the Reichert House is hopeful that a boarding school might be started on the property for boys and young men who have no adult presence in their lives.
- the amount of Florida Tax Credit scholarships to private schools is now up to \$229 million statewide, with those schools having no accountability. This issue needs to be brought up to legislators at every opportunity.
- the Foundation for Florida's Future is wrongly reporting that charter school students receive less funding than their peers in public schools.
- the Floridian of the Year this year is an owner of a for-profit charter school chain.
- encouraged Board members to contact legislators while they are at their home offices, since it is more difficult to reach them when they are in Tallahassee.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman announced upcoming meetings and declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.