

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
February 3, 2015

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: Leannetta McNealy, Chairman; Eileen Roy, Vice-Chairman; April Griffin, Rob Hyatt, and Gunnar Paulson, members; Owen Roberts, Superintendent; and David Delaney, Board Attorney.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA      Motion by Mr. Hyatt      Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to adopt the agenda for the February 3, 2015, School Board meeting, as presented.

Dr. Paulson pulled Consent Agenda Item H.8., School Audit Reports-Fiscal Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014, for comment/discussion.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES      Motion by Mrs. Roy      Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015, School Board meeting, as presented.

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

RECOGNITION –  
OUTSTANDING SCHOOL  
VOLUNTEERS

Liz Stark, Director of Volunteer Programs, reported that last year 25,000 volunteers provided over 760,000 hours of service in our schools. The Board recognized the District's 2014-15 Outstanding School Volunteers, as representatives of the exceptional dedication of all the volunteers in Alachua County schools:

- Megan Mathew, Youth Winner – Eastside High School
- Gouri Kumar, Adult Winner – Talbot Elementary School
- Fran Johnson, Senior Winner – High Springs Community School

Ms. Mathew's dedication also resulted in her being selected one of Florida's Outstanding 2014-15 School Volunteers.

Superintendent Roberts commented on the selflessness of volunteerism and expressed his appreciation.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES

PLUM CREEK  
ENVISION ALACHUA

Dr. Roberts stated that he requested the Plum Creek presentation to receive updated information, as the community considers the Plum Creek project. He commented on the school district's association with the Chamber, Santa Fe College, and the University of Florida, in representing the interests of a premier education system.

Florida Plum Creek Community Relations Manager Rose Fagler, introduced Mr. Tim Jackson, Director of Real Estate, who is filling in for General Manager Todd Powell, who is ill. They conducted a presentation, updating the Board on their proposed long-term Master Plan. It included the topics of economic opportunity, environmental conservation, and education.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Paulson:

- Encouraged everyone to come out to the Saturday morning Weekly Wellness Walks at the SFC Track.
- Recalled Mr. Bill Jackson upon his passing, calling him a hero to teachers, due to his expertise in arbitration.

Mr. Hyatt:

- Thanked Mrs. Griffin and the Education Foundation for the wonderful event, *A Night in the Big Apple*, which benefits Take Stock in Children.
- Commended Principal Lacy Redd on a very successful Open House.

Mrs. Roy:

- Thanked Dr. Roberts for bringing the Fast Forward reading program to our district.
- Referred the audience to a recent letter from a teacher in *The Gainesville Sun* about a student who expressed confusion and anxiety over a test for which she did not understand the directions.
- Complimented all on the *Night in the Big Apple* event.
- Congratulated 2014 Buchholz graduate Kevin Huang on a rare perfect score on the 2014 AP Microeconomics exam.
- Referred to a recent Peace 4 Gainesville meeting.

Mrs. Griffin:

- Thanked Board members for attending the *Night in the Big Apple* event.
- Commented on the impressive NHS Criminal Justice Open House.
- Congratulated all District Spelling Bee students.

Dr. Roberts

- Congratulated Avis Hope on being selected the District Employee of the Year.
- Addressed the issue of parents 'Opting Out' of state testing for their children. He would like parents' voices to be heard, while following the law that requires the testing.
- Congratulated Mr. Lyons on his appointment to K-12 Chancellor for the State of Florida and thanked him for his 37 years of dedicated service to this District.
- Commented on progressive changes coming to the District.

Dr. McNealy:

- Commented on sanctions that could be imposed on the District concerning Opting Out.
- Congratulated next-door neighbor Blake Smith on being Citizen of the Month at Williams Elementary.
- Thanked Avis Hope and David Richardson and all who helped students attend the annual Alachua County Empowerment Revival.
- "Job well done" on Lake Forest Open House and to Ms. Mayberry in particular.

Dr. Paulson:

Gave a reminder of the Resolution the Board passed, which calls for a testing moratorium.

## CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Kali Blount, Black History Task Force, resumed an ongoing history lesson.

Mr. Ken Cornell, Alachua County Commissioner, greeted the Board at this first opportunity since his election. Mr. Cornell addressed the Board:

- Congratulating Mr. Lyons on his Chancellor appointment, stating that he is excited that we have a 'friend in Tallahassee.'
- Commending Dr. Roberts on his clear presentation at the Legislative Delegation meeting and expressed his support.

Heather Hainey, UF grad student, addressed the Board regarding the Walk-Safe program, a three-day curriculum for elementary schools.

Members of the Buchholz girls basketball team addressed the Board regarding the firing of their coach. Dr. Roberts responded concerning the protocol of the situation.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-10, with discussion to be held on Item 8.

Dr. Paulson noted that according to the Charter School audits, a charter middle school was in financial difficulty and has a negative fund balance and stated that the school should be closely monitored. He also stated that Charter Schools should not be in business for profit.

Dr. McNealy noted that the month in Budget Amendment #10 should be changed from November 2014 to December 2014.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

## EMPLOYEE CASE NO. E-1415-07

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate the employee effective February 4, 2015.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

## EXTENDING POST RETIREMENT CONTRACTS (DES)

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve his plan for addressing Post-DROP employment, as follows:

- Employees who are not currently in DES will not be eligible to enter DES, effective immediately.
- The five (5) current employees in DES will be eligible to return for the remainder of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 fiscal year (6/30/2016), after which their employment will end.
- The four (4) employees who were rehired after spending a year with DES are eligible to return for the 2015-16 school year at mid-point on the salary schedule, after which their employment will end.
- Effective June 30, 2016, all DES contracts will expire.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

#### CITIZEN INPUT

ACEA President Karen McCann reported on a Florida Education Association statewide initiative. A short survey titled *Assess the Test* can be found at the *FEA.org* website. The responses and comments from that survey will be sent to legislators. Mrs. McCann requested District assistance in getting the *Assess the Test* information to PTAs.

Mr. Kali Blount, Black History Task Force, continued his history lesson to the Board.

#### BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT REQUESTS

Dr. Paulson reported that this year there is a rebate of \$200,660 from the Florida School Board Insurance Trust. Last year's rebate was designated to the Contingency Fund. Dr. Paulson requested a nod of heads to agree to the same designation this year.

Mrs. Griffin informed Superintendent Roberts about the Student Government Leaders' Breakfast, which the Board has held the past couple of years. Dr. Roberts stated that he looks forward to attending this year's event.

When attending the Mayor's Address to the City, Chairman McNealy noticed that Mayor Braddy reiterated many of Dr. Roberts' initiatives and expressed an interest in partnering with them. Dr. McNealy requested that we take the opportunity to respond to the mayor's statement.

Dr. Roberts was pleased to know that the mayor is speaking about this publicly and stated that, through previous meetings, he feels a good partnership is developing.

Dr. Roberts responded to a question from Mrs. Roy about a Board update on the recent HR Review.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.