

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD WORKSHOP  
Development of New and Amended Board Policies  
and  
Common Core Standards  
February 19, 2013

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in workshop session duly called at 3 p.m. in the Kirby-Smith Administration Boardroom, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Eileen Roy, Chairman; Dr. Gunnar Paulson, vice-chairman; Carol Oyenarte; April Griffin; and Dr. Leanetta McNealy, Board members; Susan Seigle, Board Attorney; Dr. Dan Boyd, Superintendent; Hershel Lyons, Deputy Superintendent, Human Resources; Brian Moore, Staff Attorney; and various staff members.

The purpose of the workshop was for the Board to review and make comments concerning the proposed amendments to policies, new policies, and various sections of the Board Bylaws.

Chairman Roy called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Mr. Moore and he noted that Mrs. Roy had previously pointed out, prior to the workshop, a few clerical changes in several of the policies. The Board discussed the policies and made minor changes as follows:

- Policy 2260.01, *Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability*--paragraph on page 3, line 31-32, would be re-instated and moved up to above line 13, page 3.
- Policy 8540, *Vending Machines*--policy language would be amended to clarify that it is for vending machines accessible only to students and not the machines accessible only to teachers or administrators, which would be in keeping with Policy 8510, *Wellness*, and USDA rules and regulations.

Dr. Paulson requested the development of a policy to evaluate the Board Attorney. He voiced his feelings on the need to evaluate everyone in the District and felt that an evaluation for the Board Attorney would ensure accountability and avoid mistakes. He referred to the recent problems with the handling of the school calendar and how it placed the Board in a bad position because he felt incorrect information had been presented to the public. He also noted that the Sunshine Law prohibits board members from communicating their concerns with each other and the evaluation would allow them the opportunity to share concerns, etc. Dr. Paulson also requested Mr. Moore include the previous language provided for this particular policy.

Mrs. Oyenarte requested Mr. Moore provide information on the number of other districts that evaluate their board attorney, especially the larger districts with multiple board attorneys. She also expressed her disagreement with Dr. Paulson regarding the handling of the school calendar, and felt the issue was handled appropriately and that correct information was presented to the public.

Mr. Moore informed the Board that he plans to schedule additional Board workshops in the future to provide board members with the opportunity to express their thoughts and provide staff with policy feedback.

Dr. McNealy requested clarification on what the Board is able to discuss during workshops. Mr. Moore explained that workshop meetings would have to be properly noticed and have agendas for specific topics to be discussed; however, the language used to notice the workshops could be broad enough to allow the Board to discuss any policy within a certain section.

Chairman Roy brought up a concern regarding make-up work for absences that came up during a Board meeting 6-8 months ago. She noted that the current policy now states that students may not make-up work for unexcused absences. She feels there is a discrepancy in make-up work for students who are out on unexcused absences and out on suspension, and requested that staff review the language in the policy regarding this concern.

Chairman Roy thanked staff for their work on the policies.

The Policy Workshop portion of the meeting was concluded and a review of Common Core Standards was presented.

Ms. Karen Clarke and Dr. Diana Lagotic presented information in regards to the new Common Core State Standards as well as the new PARCC assessments which will replace some FCAT subjects beginning in 2014-15. The presentation included information about instructional shifts, sample assessment items, as well as a timeline for implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Information was also presented in regards to trainings that have been completed as well as upcoming professional development opportunities in this area.

The workshop was adjourned at 5 p.m.