

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 17, 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: Leanetta 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. Griffin

Moved to adopt the agenda for the February 17, 2015, School Board meeting, as presented.

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 February 17, 2015, Curriculum Department Update, as presented.

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

Motion by Mrs. Griffin Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2015, School Board meeting as presented.

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

**BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hyatt commented:

- Board members went to Tallahassee to speak with Representatives and Senator Bradley about the Legislative agenda for ACPS.
- *Music in Our Schools* celebrations were wonderful.

Mrs. Roy commented:

- She and Dr. Paulson attended the Alachua County Youth Fair,

Dr. Roberts commented on:

- Students who are attending the Florida Science and Engineering Fair.
- Eastside student Amir Helmy and his father, who are seeking financing for "*Seez-ARE-ee-oh: Mobile App for Seizures.*"
- BHS junior Beverly Gee, who scored a perfect 2400 on the SAT.
- Board member April Griffin being elected Vice President of the Florida School Boards Association.
- Workshop on Waldo Community School will be held on Wednesday, April 1, at 6 p.m. in the Kirby-Smith Boardroom.

Dr. Paulson commented:

The ACEA sponsored a film on the testing issue, titled *Standardized*. He encouraged the audience to make a difference by getting involved.

Dr. McNealy reported that the District will be working with the National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI) concerning Suicide Prevention measures. She stated that the student tragedies that took place earlier in the year have not been forgotten.

SCHEDULED AGENCY –
WALDO COMMUNITIY
SCHOOL PTO

Ms. Tracie Griffith, Waldo Community School PTO, conducted a PowerPoint presentation for the Board, highlighting issues such as importance of Community, Transportation considerations, Parent Involvement, Shell Enrollment, School comparisons (Waldo, Shell, Lake Forest), Teacher/Staff Jobs, Myths and Costs of Closure, Downfall of Waldo, and a Proposal to the Board concerning staying open for another year.

CITIZEN INPUT

Citizens addressed the Board on the following issues:

- Request that the Board honor the Interlocal Agreement, which contains requirements relating to school closures.
- Waldo City Manager conveyed Mayor Davis' message against closing Waldo. She spoke about fiscal issues, parent involvement, and community impact.
- Importance of community.
- Mr. Charles Chestnut, who served as a Board member some years ago, spoke on matters of historical significance which are related to the System Improvement Plan, such as the closing of Lincoln High School during the period of Integration. He emphasized that the economics of the situation must be addressed.
- Distance to the school is a problem for young children, particularly if they become ill. Busing elementary together with high school students is also problematic.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. McNealy announced that Item G.4., Monthly Financials; and Item G.5., Budget Amendments, will be changed to Action Items 6 and 7.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-3 and 6-7, with items 4 and 5 being changed to Action Items.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. E-1415-09

The employee is charged with violation of School Board Policy 4210, Standards of Ethical Conduct.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate the employee, effective March 17, 2015.

Staff Attorney Brian Moore replied to a question about the employee being on paid leave, which was posed by the parent whose child was involved.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

**PROPOSED JOB
DESCRIPTION –
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF SCHOOLS
SUPERVISION**

**APPROVAL OF REVISED
STRATEGIC PLAN**

**REPURPOSING OF
DUVAL ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

<u>Motion by Mrs. Roy</u>	<u>Seconded by Mrs. Griffin</u>
<u>Moved</u> to approve the proposed job description for Executive Director of Schools Supervision as presented, for advertising.	
The Staff Attorney replied to a question from Mrs. Griffin about whether there would be a second reading, and the timing of advertising the position.	
The question was called.	<u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0
<u>Motion by Mrs. Hyatt</u>	
<u>Seconded by Mrs. Roy</u>	
Ms. Jackie Johnson, Public Information Officer, reviewed that the Board held a Retreat in September 2014, where they developed a list of Priorities. The Board then requested that the Priorities be incorporated into the existing Strategic Plan. At this meeting, Chairman Paulson asked Board members to come to the next meeting (November 18) prepared to incorporate the synthesized priorities into the strategic plan. The District Advisory Council (DAC) can then begin development of the final approved version of the Strategic Plan. Mrs. Roy wanted to make sure that impact fees are included in the list of priorities. It was agreed that Board members could submit their priorities information to the Superintendent prior to the November 18 meeting. That task has been completed. The merged document was approved by the District Advisory Council (DAC) in February. At that time, the DAC also strongly recommended that the Strategic Plan be streamlined.	
<u>Moved</u> to approve the revised Strategic Plan as presented.	
Dr. Paulson expressed appreciation for the work done, but stated that the process wasn't followed, in that the Board was supposed to discuss the combining of Priorities and Strategic Plan at the November 18, 2014, Board meeting. This discussion did not occur at that Board meeting.	
The question was called.	<u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0
Mrs. Johnson reported that Ms. Rachael Meek was selected by Mr. Hyatt to serve on the DAC, replacing Scott Costello, who was the appointee of previous Board member Carol Oyenarte.	
To provide a stronger academic foundation to younger students living in east Gainesville and to enhance their chances for success, Duval Elementary School will be repurposed as a dedicated Early Childhood Education Center serving students in Prekindergarten, Head Start and Kindergarten.	
Mrs. Johnson stated that this vote has nothing to do with zoning or consolidation.	
<u>Motion by Mrs. Roy</u>	<u>Seconded by Mrs. Griffin</u>
<u>Moved</u> to approve the Repurposing of Duval Elementary School as a dedicated Early Childhood Learning Center, as presented.	
On behalf of the African American Alliance, Mr. Darry Lloyd spoke in support of Dr. Robert's plan, mentioning the historical aspect of busing, when many were bused, even when there were closer neighborhood schools.	

County Commissioner Ken Cornell spoke in support of the Superintendent. He is pleased that a workshop will be held on the Waldo closing, He is not familiar with the Interlocal Agreement, but offered his help, stating this is not a Waldo or East Gainesville problem, but an Alachua County problem.

Mr. Hyatt stated that, after spending fifteen very good years at Duval, it is somewhat difficult personally to see the change from its previous mission in the arts. However, he loves the word ‘repurposing’ and knows there are great things ahead for the boys and girls at Duval.

Dr. McNealy spoke of her history at Duval, beginning as a CRT, and moving to other schools and then having the opportunity to return as principal. She resisted the Superintendent’s idea in the beginning but soon came to understand the great value in repurposing. She supports this effort wholeheartedly.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY ADJACENT TO ARCHER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

An offer has been made to purchase real property, from Mr. Charles Pettus, in the amount of \$1,000. This parcel is approximately 0.14 acres and is located north of Archer Community School. The addition of this area to the school site will help accommodate future growth and parking.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the purchase of this property and direct staff to assemble any other appropriate documentation for closing of this purchase.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

MONTHLY FINANCIALS
(Moved from
Consent Agenda)

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved to approve the Monthly Financials, as presented.

Assistant Superintendent Scott Ward responded to questions from Dr. Paulson. Dr. Paulson commented that the information indicates we are in good shape on expenditures.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BUDGET AMENDMENTS
(Moved from
Consent Agenda)

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve Budget Amendments 15, General Fund; 16 Special Revenue and Budget; and 17, Capital Projects.

In response to Dr. Paulson’s question concerning information that does not show in the Contingency Fund, Mr. Ward stated that the monies referred to were just received, so are not yet reflected.

Dr. Paulson questioned the procedure for Consent Agenda discussion, with Attorney Delaney agreeing that in the future, items will not have to be removed for separate vote, if that is the Board’s preference.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

A school bus driver applauded fiscal responsibility but spoke against the closure of Waldo Community School. He suggested looking at the *Lowe's Bright Ideas* program to see if it could be adapted to the school district, to invite good money-saving ideas from employees.

Mayor Jennie Mance, Town of Micanopy, informed the Board that at the next Micanopy meeting, she intends to recommend that they support keeping Waldo open. She spoke about the value of 'community,' and requested a convening of the School Planning Advisory Committee, according to the Interlocal Agreement.

Mr. Chestnut addressed the Board once again, to remind them that difficult things must be done in the interests of the children.

A Waldo Community School employee addressed the Board, inviting everyone to come and see the culture at Waldo Community School and how students thrive.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Dr. Paulson stated that the Board will go to all lengths possible to be sure that no one loses their job through implementation of the System Improvement Plan. Questions will be answered at the April 1st Workshop, so Dr. Paulson encourages attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.