

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 7, 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 Mrs. Griffin Seconded by Mrs. Roy

 Moved to adopt the agenda for the April 7, 2015, School Board meeting, as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion by Mr. Hyatt Seconded by Mrs. Roy

 Moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2015, DES Update Workshop, as presented.

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

 Motion by Mrs. Roy Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

 Moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2015, Staffing Allocations Workshop, as presented.

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

 Motion by Dr. Paulson Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

 Moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015, School Board meeting as presented.

 Dr. Paulson presented changes for the March 17, 2015, Minutes, which he stated will correct the minutes as they pertain to the process of merging the Priorities into the Strategic Plan [SEE SUPPLEMENTARY MINUTES].

 Motion by Mr. Hyatt Seconded by Mrs. Roy

 Moved to amend the March 17, 2015, Minutes, with the corrections presented by Dr. Paulson.

 The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1
 Yes: Hyatt
 McNealy
 Paulson
 Roy
 No: Griffin

RECOGNITION

DORI SLOSBERG
TEEN DRIVING SUMMIT

Mr. Dekova Batey, Alachua County Community Traffic Safety Team, shared information on the Dori Slosberg Teen Driving Summit held in March. Students shared their experiences with that event and Chairman McNealy expressed appreciation.

UNITED WAY
CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Ms. Jennifer Hill, SBAC United Way Campaign Coordinator, addressed the Board, informing them that with Dr. Roberts' goal of 100% participation, \$9000 more was raised this year than last. School Coordinators were recognized. United Way President and CEO Deborah Buie recognized Jennifer Hill for being the best overall Employee Campaign Coordinator in the entire campaign.

PUBLIC HEARING --

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

INSTRUCTIONAL
MATERIALS FOR HIGH
SCHOOL

This Public Hearing was scheduled to consider and receive input on instructional materials for High School: Algebra 2, Algebra 2 Honors, Calculus Honors, English Language Arts, Health and Physical Education (HOPE), Math for College Readiness, Pre-Calculus Honors, Statistics Honors, World Language-Spanish and French, AP Calculus, and AP Statistics for Middle School and World Language Spanish.

There was no public input.

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

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SCHEDULED AGENCY
CONTROL FLU

Mr. Paul Myers, Health Department, addressed the Board on the efforts to control flu in Alachua County, including the history, how it relates to school absenteeism and the community, and the importance of consent forms.

Dr. Parker Small, originator of the FluMist program, also addressed the Board regarding whether it's possible to require forms to be returned, or even to require flu shots, the same as measles or mumps.

Dr. McNealy expressed confidence that Dr. Roberts will use the Parent Academy next year to bring about an increase in returned consent forms.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Griffin commented on:

- Her attendance at the FluMist celebration at Littlewood. She thanked Mr. Myers and Dr. Small for the work they do.
- Alachua County was #14 in the top schools in Florida, as rated by K-12Niche.com
- Talbot's International Fair represented 22 countries—a wonderful event put on by the PTA and teachers.
- Wants to look into magnet programs that would integrate Sean Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, as in Seminole County.
- Kudos to Oak View Middle School and their culture of good student/teacher relationships, as evidenced when she chaperoned a field trip to the Kennedy Space Center.

Mrs. Roy commented that she attended the Alachua County Youth Fair as did Dr. Paulson.

Dr. Roberts congratulated:

- Two GHS students who earned the highest scores in the world on the rigorous Cambridge exams: Rachel Abrams on the English language exam and Chaz Chester on the General Paper essay. Thirty three other current and recent GHS students were also recognized for earning top scores in the nation.
- Eastside High School Culinary Hospitality Management Team for being named to the Hospitality 50 list, an annual list of the best school culinary programs in the nation. This was just after taking first place in the state ProStart competition.
- GHS Academy of Health Professions students Kayla Wilson, Abby Neal and Agurah Humphreys won first place awards at the Florida Future Health Professionals state conference in Orlando.
- First place awards at the Florida Public Service Association Conference went to Loften's Academy of Fire and Emergency Services students: Jasmin Sprain, Samantha Merritt, Deion Townsend and Matt Batton. NHS Criminal Justice program students took a first place team award at the same Conference, as well as two first place awards: Victoria Stoner and Riley Chatfield.
- Board Chair Dr. Leanetta McNealy was named to the FAMU College of Education's Gallery of Distinction for her many outstanding contributions to education in Florida. She will be recognized in Tallahassee.
- Commended the over 200 students who will be participating in the Superintendent's Math Challenge at BHS.
- There will be another showing of the *Rise Above the Mark* documentary on April 22 from 6-8 p.m., at Finley Elementary School.

Dr. McNealy:

- Kudos on the performance of *Hats* by Hidden Oak second graders
- Dr. Roberts presented an outstanding message at the Martin Luther King prayer breakfast at the Best Western Hotel.

CITIZEN INPUT

Kali Blount, *Alachua County Black History Task Force*, provided a lesson on Black History.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-11.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

EMPLOYEE CASE NO. E-1415-10

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate the employee, effective April 8, 2015.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

FOURTH AMENDMENT
TO MICANOPY AREA
COOPERATIVE
CHARTER SCHOOL
CONTRACT

Micanopy Area Cooperative School is requesting that their charter be amended to increase their maximum enrollment to the maximum number of students that their facility can accommodate. They would be serving a maximum of 265 students in VPK through 5th Grade.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the Fourth Amendment to the Micanopy Area Cooperative Charter School Contract, as presented.

School Principal Brenda Maynard responded to Board member questions.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

APPROVAL OF SECOND
RENEWAL CHARTER
CONTRACT – HEALTHY
LEARNING ACADEMY,
INC., GRADES K-5

Healthy Learning Academy, Inc., located at 13505 West Newberry Road, Jonesville, Florida, is a charter school serving students in grade K-5 and has operated continuously since the 2005-06 school year. The schools' charter contract (2010-15) expires on June 30, 2015. The proposed second renewal charter contract sets forth the terms and conditions for operation of the school, and follows the state template, which has a term of ten (10) years – July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2025.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the Second Renewal Charter Contract for Healthy Learning Academy, Inc., as presented.

There was a question that couldn't be answered on a clause in the contract, leading to a motion to table the item.

Motion by Mr. Hyatt

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to table Item H.3., Approval of Second Renewal Charter Contract – Health Learning Academy, Inc., Grades K-5 to the next Board meeting.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mrs. Griffin withdrew her motion to approve the Contract.

APPROVAL OF
SCHOOL STAFFING
ALLOCATIONS 2015-16

Dr. Roberts reminded the Board of their charge to him, which includes a plan for staffing of the schools, based on the principles he has shared. He acknowledged the difficulties in implementing some of these things, since it changes the culture, as well as long-held practices. He read the recommendation:

Moved to approve the School Staffing Allocations for 2015-16, as presented.

Motion by Dr. Paulson

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Dr. McNealy received citizen input prior to calling for Board discussion.

Several teachers/parents, and a student spoke about the importance of BRTs and CRTs.

ACEA President Karen McCann addressed the issue and stated that she has received mixed comments on the BRT/CRT issue from teachers. She expressed appreciation to the Board for their ongoing support of teachers and ESPs

Chairman McNealy opened discussion to Board members.

Assistant Superintendent Karen Clarke explained changes concerning bookkeepers and clerical assistants, as questioned by Dr. Paulson. At Dr. Roberts' request, she then reviewed other changes in the proposed Staff Allocations Plan.

Mr. Hyatt spoke about the difficulty of making changes, even though they are felt to be necessary. He expressed confidence in Dr. Roberts plan for the overall district.

At Mr. Hyatt's request, Dr. Roberts expanded upon the importance of building leadership capacity at the schools. He emphasized building on sustainable principles, rather than personalities, which will ensure an infrastructure that can be maintained.

Dr. Paulson addressed other issues from the Staffing Allocations Plan, specifically suggesting that elementary enrollment be lowered from 700 to either 650 or 675, which would allow a Student Services position to be allocated to those schools meeting that enrollment threshold.

Referring to the stated intent of keeping changes as far away from the classroom as possible, Mrs. Griffin expressed concern about removing BRT and Dean positions, before all the planned training is complete.

Dr. McNealy spoke about the difficulty of making cuts. However, having charged Dr. Roberts with an enormous task, she feels it should be implemented without changing pieces of it.

UF Professor Brianna Kennedy-Lewis suggested possibly substituting counselor positions for BRTs, which would stay within the plan, but perhaps better support the most vulnerable student population.

Dr. Paulson stated that he is not opposing Dr. Roberts' plan by suggesting an adjustment. He feels that Talbot and Norton would benefit from his suggestion, at a minimal cost, approximately \$50,000 for both schools combined. .

Motion by Dr. Paulson

Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved to amend the original motion to lower elementary enrollment from 700 to 650.

Discussion was held on the amendment. Dr. Roberts understood the Board members' points, but spoke on behalf of the Plan as presented, noting that there are still some high-needs situations that have to be addressed.

The amendment was clarified by Mrs. Clarke.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote: Motion failed 3-2

Yes: Griffin

Paulson

No: Hyatt

McNealy

Roy

In response to a question from Mrs. Roy, the Superintendent stated that he favors decisions on counselor/BRT positions be left to the discretion of the principal.

Behavior issues and responses were discussed.

The question was called on the original motion.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1

Yes: Hyatt

McNealy

Paulson

Roy

No: Griffin

WAIVER REQUEST FOR
A. QUINN JONES/
CHARACTER COUNTS

A. Quinn Jones is requesting a waiver of Article IX, Section 12(c-d) of the collective bargaining agreement to continue using a seven-period day schedule. The waiver has been approved by the School Advisory Council, the faculty, and the ACEA Executive Board. The waiver is contingent upon the school allocation meeting mandated class size requirements within their allocated instructional units.

Motion by Mr. Hyatt

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the waiver request for A. Quinn Jones/Character Counts, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

WAIVER REQUEST FOR
EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Eastside High School is requesting a waiver to Article IX, Section 12(c) of the collective bargaining agreement, in order to provide a block schedule for 9th grade students in the major program. The block schedule, as in years past, will involve 200 students and 10 teachers. The remainder of the school will be unaffected and will continue to follow the traditional six-period schedule. The school will only use the block schedule if they can implement it with no additional allocation from the District and maintain class size. The waiver requested has been approved by the School Advisory Council, the faculty, and the Executive Committee of the ACEA.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the waiver request for Eastside High School, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

WAIVER REQUEST FOR
HAWTHORNE
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

Hawthorne Middle High School is requesting a waiver to Article IX, Section 12(c-d) of the collective bargaining agreement, to use a 4 x 4 block schedule. The waiver has been approved by the School Advisory Council, the faculty, and the ACEA Executive Board. The waiver is contingent upon the school meeting mandated class size requirements within their allocated instructional units.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the waiver request for Hawthorne High School, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

WAIVER REQUEST FOR
HIGH SPRINGS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

High Springs Community School is requesting the renewal of a waiver to Article IX, Section 12, 2(c) of the collective bargaining agreement, in order to continue to allow for early release on Wednesdays for middle school teachers. The waiver is necessary to allow for effective busing and cohesive scheduling. Middle school teachers will actually exceed the required number of contact minutes per week. The waiver request has been approved by the School Advisory Council, a majority of the faculty, and the ACEA Executive Board.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the waiver request for High Springs Community School, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

WAIVER REQUEST FOR
PROFESSIONAL
ACADEMIES MAGNET
AT LOFTEN HIGH
SCHOOL

The Professional Academies Magnet at Loftan High School is requesting a waiver to Article IX, Section 12(c) of the collective bargaining agreement to continue using a 4 x 4 block schedule. The waiver request has been approved by the School Advisory Council, the faculty, and the ACEA Executive Board. The waiver is contingent upon the school meeting mandated class size requirements within their allocated instructional units.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the waiver request for the Professional Academies Magnet at Loftan High School, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

WAIVER REQUEST FOR
MEBANE MIDDLE
SCHOOL

Mebane Middle School is requesting a waiver to Article IX, Section 12(c) of the collective bargaining agreement. Teachers will teach six of the seven-period day: Monday, Thursday, Friday. Tuesday and Wednesday, rotating block schedule every five weeks. Waiver will allow for expanded elective options (Chorus and Robotics initiative). The waiver has been approved by the School Advisory Council, the faculty, and the ACEA Executive Board. The waiver is contingent upon the school meeting mandated class size requirements within their allocated instructional units.

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the waiver request for Mebane Middle School, as presented.

Mrs. Griffin expressed excitement about this new and inventive waiver.

Dr. Paulson also commented on the District's innovative waiver system.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF
INSTRUCTIONAL
MATERIALS

A public hearing was held on April 7, 2015, on the adoption of the following instructional materials:

- a. Secondary ELA - \$794,480
- b. World Languages – \$153,825
- c. Secondary Math – \$400,000

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the adoption of the instructional materials and authorize the purchase and implementation, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

POLICY 5120.01 –
SCHOOL ZONE
BOUNDARY
DESCRIPTIONS—

A Rule Development Workshop was held March 17, 2015, to discuss school boundary descriptions for the creation of the Early Childhood Education Center and the consolidation of Waldo Community School into Shell Elementary and Lake Forest Elementary Schools. Another rule development workshop was held on the Waldo issue on April 1, 2015.

FIRST READING

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed changes to Policy 5120.01, as presented, School Zone Boundary Descriptions, as presented, for advertising and for a Public Hearing to be held on May 5, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman McNealy called for public input:

Kim Worley, Waldo City Manager – With this plan, she sees no benefits to Waldo students or the Waldo community. She made other cost savings suggestions and questioned the real reason for closing the school.

Shannon Boal – Spoke in favor of a new plan for Waldo.

Debra Boal – The proposal puts small children at risk, to save money that could be saved in other ways. The community should have been involved earlier.

Carolyn Wade – The Plan needs some revisions. Please vote no to closing.

Mary Rich – Take into consideration the transportation situation. At least give another year.

Susan Thomas reading statement from Lelia Powell – Long bus ride is a very real concern. What will happen to migrant children? Keep school open.

Tommy Powell – There have been some good ideas presented; he has many. One is to sell advertising on newsletters; get sponsors. No time to present them

all.

Jim DuBois, Pastor – Does not believe this plan is for the betterment of the whole system. Questioned validity of the stated savings, how 10-15 hours a week on a bus can be good for a child, funding. Parental involvement will drop, absenteeism will rise, after-school tutoring will be gone.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Kali Blount, Black History Task Force, suggested a pizza contest for getting students to return surveys. He then proceeded with a Black History lesson.

BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT REQUESTS

Mrs. Griffin:

- provided an email address for members of the public to send their questions. stated that Board members are supposed to wait until they have heard all input before making a decision. She added that she has not yet made hers.
- announced upcoming high school productions.
- reminded about Finley's 70th birthday, Headstart's 50th, and the upcoming Student Government Breakfast.

Mrs. Roy spoke about the consolidation plan not being all about money. She requested Dr. Roberts make available copies of his rationale.

Mr. Hyatt thanked all of the speakers, particularly the Waldo folks who waited long to speak.

Dr. McNealy reminded Board members of the upcoming Board Training.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.