

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
April 15, 2014

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: Gunnar Paulson, Chairman; Leannetta McNealy, Vice-Chairman; April Griffin, Carol Oyenarte and Eileen Roy, members; Hershel Lyons, Interim Superintendent; and Board Attorney David Delaney.

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

The Buchholz sax quartet, under the direction of conductor Alex Kaminsky, played in honor of Jazz Appreciation Month. Ms. Debbie Gallagher, curriculum supervisor, reviewed the recent honors of the Buchholz bands.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA	<u>Motion by</u> Dr. McNealy	<u>Seconded by</u> Mrs. Roy
	<u>Moved to</u> adopt the agenda for the April 15, 2014, School Board meeting, as presented.	
	The question was called.	<u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	<u>Motion by</u> Mrs. Griffin	<u>Seconded by</u> Dr. McNealy
	<u>Moved to</u> approve the minutes of the January 30, 2014, Elected Officials meeting (Concurrency), as presented.	
	The question was called.	<u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0
	<u>Motion by</u> Mrs. Roy	<u>Seconded by</u> Mrs. Griffin
	<u>Moved to</u> approve the minutes of the March 18, 2014, School Board Meeting, as presented.	
	The question was called.	<u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0
RECOGNITION	Recognition was given to Williams Elementary and Lincoln Middle Schools for winning the state Chess Championships.	
STATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS	Ms. Jennifer Hill, this year's United Way Coordinator, conducted a brief update on the recent United Way Campaign. Recognition was given to departments and individuals who had outstanding participation.	
UNITED WAY	Mr. Lyons thanked Ms. Hill for her service to the campaign and gave special recognition to Ms. Wanda Durr-Spidell, who was the coordinator over the past several years.	
	Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Karen Clarke, praised the accomplishments and the service of Mrs. Debbie Gallagher, who will soon retire. Dr. McNealy thanked Mrs. Gallagher and wished her well. Dr. Paulson also spoke highly of Mrs. Gallagher.	

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PUBLIC HEARING –

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

This Public Hearing was scheduled to consider adoption, amendments and repeal of Board policies, as presented.

There was no citizen input.

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

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BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Griffin commented on the following events she attended and commended those involved:

- Head Start class, self-assessments
- Littlewood's Weather play
- NHS *Beauty and the Beast*
- Buchholz Jazz Quartet

Drama teachers were receptive to Mrs. Griffin's idea for a Summer Drama Camp, and will soon be looking for enrollees. *Midsummer Night's Dream* will be the first production.

- The Eastside Relay is May 2 and 3 at Howard Bishop Middle School.
- O2B a Kid Again! is May 4.

Dr. McNealy commented on the following:

- Five of our high schools are listed in the *Washington Post* annual rankings of the top 5 high schools in the nation. Following are the rankings, out of 22,000 high schools in the nation:

EHS - 27  
GHS - 324  
BHS - 358  
NHS - 1372  
SFHS - 1882

- Attended *Spotlight on Youth* arts performance
- Kennedy White was crowned 2014 *Miss Blue Review*
- EHS Gumbo event, Cajun style; thanks to John Sansoney
- GHS student Ladell Thomas awarded 2014 *Drum Majors for Justice*

Mrs. Roy commended:

- BHS Math Team on 10<sup>th</sup> National win
- BHS Wind Symphony
- Teachers/Students who provided the Boardroom artwork
- Flyer she received titled *Floridians Support Public School Choice*.

Dr. Paulson:

- Congratulated the *Spotlight on Youth* presentation and MC Louis Kalivoda.
- MLK Prayer Breakfast
- Congratulations to Coach Rodney McNealy on winning the GHS Boys County Boys Track Meet

Dr. Paulson announced the five Superintendent Search finalists have been selected:

- James Browder
- Mark Rendell
- Owen Roberts
- Robert Bolden
- Fred Heid

He urged the public to be a part of the process.

#### CITIZEN INPUT

A retired music teacher spoke highly of Mrs. Gallagher, stating that he had reaped the benefit of her service, and her retirement is a great loss to the district.

A GHS teacher reported on GHS accomplishments at Mu Alpha Theta state competition.

A charter school teacher stated that Mrs. Gallagher changed the lives of children at her school, by using music to make great strides in reading ability.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-16, with the deletion of G.16., 2014-15 Head Start Non-Competitive Five-Year Grant Application.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

#### PROCLAMATION JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

Mrs. Debbie Gallagher, curriculum supervisor, read the proclamation and introduced Mr. Scott Koons, president, Gainesville Friends of Jazz.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the Proclamation, which proclaims the month of April as *Jazz Appreciation Month* in Alachua County Public schools.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

#### PROCLAMATION - SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA MONTH

Ms. Martha Jost, President of the Professional Association of Library Media Specialists (PALMS), read the proclamation on behalf of Media Specialists.

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the Proclamation proclaiming the month of April as "Library Media Month" in Alachua County Public Schools, as presented.

Mrs. Roy stated how very important libraries/librarians are to student achievement.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SECOND RENEWAL  
CHARTER CONTRACT—  
THE EINSTEIN SCHOOL,  
INC.

The Einstein School, Inc., located at 5910 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, Florida, is a charter school serving students in grades 2-8 and has operated continuously since the 1999 school year. The school's charter contract (2004-2014) expires on June 30, 2014. The proposed second renewal charter contract sets forth the terms and conditions for operation of the school, and follows the state template. It has a term of five (5) years, July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2019.

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Second Renewal Charter Contract with The Einstein School, Inc., as presented.

Dr. Diana Lagotic, director, elementary curriculum, responded to questions from Mrs. Roy.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

THIRD AMENDMENT TO  
CHARTER CONTRACT—  
MICANOPY AREA  
COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

Micanopy Area Cooperative School is requesting that their Charter be amended to increase maximum enrollment. The current maximum enrollment is 172. The school would be serving a maximum of 194 students in VPK through fifth grade.

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Third Amendment to the Micanopy Area Cooperative School Charter Contract, as presented.

Dr. Lagotic responded to questions.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

WAIVER REQUEST  
FOR A. QUINN  
JONES/CHARACTER  
COUNTS

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

A. Quinn Jones is requesting a waiver of Article IX, Section 12(c) of the collective bargaining agreement in order to implement 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 meeting mandated class size requirements within their allocated instructional units.

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

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

Mrs. Clarke responded to questions and brief discussion was held.

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) of the collective bargaining agreement, to use a 4 x 4 block schedule. The waiver is contingent upon the school meeting mandated class size requirements within their allocated instructional units.

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte Seconded by Mrs. Roy

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

Dr. Paulson stated that he is excited about Hawthorne having the Block Schedule.

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(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 Executive Board of the ACEA.

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

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.

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

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Mrs. Oyenarte

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

#### SCHEDULE WORKSHOPS

Workshops were scheduled as follows:

- Policy Workshop, May 13, 3:30 p.m.
- Budget Workshop, May 20, 3:30 p.m.

#### JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the job descriptions for **Director – Budget** and **Supervisor II – Risk Management**, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

#### ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT(S)

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Mr. Alex Rella as Director-Budget, effective June 1, 2014.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

#### CITIZEN INPUT

The President of the Einstein School thanked the Board for their support of the Einstein School.

#### BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT REQUESTS

Dr. McNealy requested a workshop on the process that will be used for the final selection of the new Superintendent.

Regarding Charter School audits, Dr. Paulson requested that Mr. Ward inform the Board if any are close to being in trouble. He also stated that he would like to meet with Mr. Lyons and Mr. Ward on the budget and requested specific information.

#### SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

Mrs. Johnson reviewed and discussion was held on the proposed schedule for the two-day finalist visits.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.