

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
June 3, 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; Leanetta 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.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA      Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte      Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to adopt the agenda for the June 3, 2014, School Board meeting, as amended.

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

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

Moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2014, Superintendent Search Process Workshop, as presented.

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

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte      Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2014, School Board Meeting, as presented.

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

RECOGNITION -  
SERVIN-ELLIS AND  
JOHN C. RAWLS  
SCHOLARSHIP  
AWARDS

Ms. Chris Clore, Florida Credit Union, presented \$1000 Servin-Ellis Memorial Scholarships to Zhana McCoy, EHS; Chrislin Hadley, GHS; Sarah Kell, Lofton Professional Academies Magnet; and Nicketa Jordan, EHS.

Mrs. Oyenarte thanked Ms. Clore and the Florida Credit Union for all they do for students and congratulated the scholarship winners.

ALTA JOHNSON,  
SCHOOL RELATED  
EMPLOYEE OF THE  
YEAR

Ms. Alta Johnson, 2013-14 School Related Employee of the Year, was recognized and congratulated by the Board.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. McNealy:

- attended the Reichert House graduation, at which Mr. Lyons was the speaker, and felt it was a very inspiring event.
- attended the Sidney Lanier graduation, stating it was a beautiful ceremony, and commended the graduates.

Mrs. Roy:

- attended the Head Start graduation at Prairie View and found the children's demonstrated skills in letters and sounds very encouraging. She also attended Reichert House and Lanier graduations.

Mrs. Oyenarte commended the students and teachers, as she commented on:

- Oak View Band Concert at BHS
- J. J. Finley Curriculum Fair
- Littlewood Concert

Dr. Paulson conveyed his feelings about former School Board employee and his dear friend, Coach Tim Adams, who recently passed on.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Oyenarte

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-8.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

DISTRICT ADVISORY  
COUNCIL REPORT  
PRESENTATION

DAC Chairman Janine Plavac presented a report to the Board on the Superintendent Selection Subcommittee's ratings of the Superintendent Finalists' strengths and weaknesses. [See Supplementary Minutes.] Council members were introduced and thanks were given to staff members.

Board members expressed sincere appreciation to Council members for their diligence and professionalism in this process.

SUPERINTENDENT  
SELECTION

Mrs. Jackie Johnson, PIO, explained the process to be used for the Superintendent selection, as was determined by the Board at a previous meeting. A straw poll was taken, which favored Dr. Owen Roberts. Public comment was received, followed by Board members' individual statements. Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Oyenarte expressed their concerns and stated that they would fully support the Finalist selected by the majority of the Board, even though they did not vote in the straw poll.

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to appoint Dr. Owen Roberts with the understanding that the chairman has the authorization to negotiate the contract.

Discussion was held, with Dr. Paulson being commended for his leadership during the search and for keeping the process intact.

Mrs. Oyenarte commented again on her position that it was the process that was the problem. Mrs. Griffin stated that none of the candidates met the criteria set by the Board prior to the search. Both Board members reiterated that they would fully support the new Superintendent.

Dr. McNealy and Mrs. Roy expressed that they had hoped for and felt it important for the Board to cast a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Oyenarte stated that she is totally aligned with Dr. Roberts' philosophy of "children first." Dr. Paulson took exception to her statement that she is the one Board member who has the viewpoint of putting children first.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

A phone call was made to Dr. Roberts, who thanked the Board and community, and accepted the offer of the Superintendency. He expressed appreciation for the Board's confidence and committed to doing his best to meet their expectations. The audience gave a very enthusiastic response.

Dr. Paulson stated that he will work with Dr. Roberts on a contract, with intent to get him to the District as soon as possible.

Dr. Paulson thanked Mr. Lyons for his service as Interim Superintendent.

Mr. Lyons stated that staff has done its best to meet the needs of students and the District, particularly in the absence of an Assistant Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent and the Superintendent, due to retirements.

ADMINISTRATIVE  
APPOINTMENT(S)

Ms. Beth Pearlman presently serves as Assistant Principal at High Springs Community School.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Oyenarte

Moved to appoint Beth Pearlman as principal of Newberry Elementary School, effective June 4, 2014.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

EMPLOYEE CASE  
NO. E-1314-12

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Oyenarte

Moved that the employee be terminated, effective June 4, 2014.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF  
AMENDED  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
SALARY SCHEDULE FOR  
2013-14 FISCAL YEAR

This item was tabled at the May 6, 2014, School Board meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to remove this item from the table.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Dr. Paulson conducted a PowerPoint presentation that provided information concerning the DES issue and the savings that could have been realized in scenarios of employee placement at midpoint of the Salary Schedule.

Mrs. Griffin stated that data shows 113 employees are post-retirement, including Board members. She stated that this Board has never treated any one group different than another and she disagrees with the plan to single out employees, even though she is not a DES fan.

Dr. McNealy suggested a compromise that the five DES employees affected be permitted to continue through the 2014-15 year at present salary and be placed at midpoint the following year, which would be the last year they are allowed

to work for the District. No further extensions will be permitted. They would be required to sign a document stating that they understand the new terms.

Mrs. Griffin commented that replacements need to be training.

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved to amend the original motion to approve the Adoption of the Amended Administrative Salary Schedule for the 2013-14 Fiscal Year by stating that the administrative employees who returned to regular employment following a one-year contract with DES, before the more-recently adopted procedure for DES employment was initiated, be permitted to continue through the 2014-15 year at their present salary and be returned to mid-point of the salary schedule the following year, which would be the last year they are allowed to work for the District. They would be required to sign a document stating that they understand the new terms.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-1

Yes: Griffin  
McNealy  
Oyenarte  
Paulson

No: Roy

The question was called on the original motion as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CODES OF STUDENT  
CONDUCT AND  
ADOPTION OF  
BOARD POLICIES  
FIRST READING

Motion by Carol Oyenarte

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved to approve the proposed revisions to the Elementary and Secondary Codes of Student Conduct for 2014-15; and the proposed new policies and proposed amendments to policies, as presented, for advertising, and schedule a public hearing on July 15, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

APPROVAL OF JOB  
DESCRIPTION  
COORDINATOR –  
PROJECT, CUSTODIAL

On October 19, 2010, the Board previously adopted job descriptions in the professional/technical group. The position of *Coordinator—Project, Custodial* was at that time and is currently an allocated position, but was inadvertently left out of that particular group of job descriptions adopted by the Board.

Mr. Shane Andrew, Executive Director, Facilities, clarified that this is only a change to the Job Title.

Moved to approve the Job Description for *Coordinator – Project, Custodial*, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

ACEA President Karen McCann was highly complimentary of Dr. Owen Roberts and the Board's unanimous vote.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

Mrs. Roy:

- was thankful for the unanimous vote and stated that she feels this is a joyous night for the District.
- Urged an attempt to quickly market the Prairie View facility.

At Mr. Lyons suggestion and Board agreement, the information that the Prairie View facility is available will be shared with the Chamber of Commerce.

At a question from Dr. McNealy, Mr. Ward stated that the information recently requested by Dr. Paulson will be shared at the June 23 Budget Workshop. He offered to speak with Board members prior to that, if any would so desire.

Because of Board member absences for the July Special Meetings, a phone-in connection will be set up for voting purposes as necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.