

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 7, 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 and Eileen Roy, members; Owen Roberts, Superintendent; and Jaime White, School Board Attorney. Absent: Carol Oyenarte, School Board Member.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Chairman Paulson stated that *Head Start Governance, Leadership and Oversight Capacity Screening Results*, will be added to the agenda as Action Item J.3.

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to add *Head Start Governance, Leadership and Oversight Capacity Screening Results*, to the agenda, as Action Item J.3.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Chairman Paulson stated that the following Items will be pulled for separate discussion: I.7., Digital Classroom Plan; I.10., Professional Services Ranking – Roofing; and I.12., District Facilities Five-Year Work Program.

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to adopt the agenda for the October 7, 2014, School Board meeting, as amended.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the minutes of the September 10 and 11, 2014, School Board Retreat, as presented.

Dr. McNealy commented that this was an outstanding Retreat.

Mrs. Roy requested that Impact Fees should be included in the Retreat minutes, since they were strongly recommended by Facilitator Mike Lannon.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2014, Facilities Update, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2014, School Board Meeting, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

RECOGNITION

BUCHHOLZ MATH TEAM

Mr. Will Frazer, teacher for the Buchholz High School National Champion Math Team, reviewed some of some of the team's accomplishments, including community outreach programs. He reported that math teams have been started at several middle and elementary schools and ran a camp for algebra.

There are plans with the Superintendent that include elementary and middle school competitions, ending with a Superintendent's Challenge in April.

Awards were presented to officers of the Math Team, as well as to girls who attended a competition at MIT, competing against 271 of the top female math students in the world.

PRESENTATION

ENERGY CONSERVATION INCENTIVE AWARDS

Ms. Theresa Spurling-Wood conducted a presentation on school energy savings [see Supplementary Minutes]. Twelve schools were presented with a monetary award, according to the school energy calculations: Alachua, Duval, Idylwild, Littlewood, Newberry, Talbot, Waldo and Williams Elementary Schools; and Hawthorne High School; and the Traffic Safety Center.

Alachua County was one of only three counties in the state to receive the Green Schools Award. Mrs. Roy commended Ms. Spurling-Wood for her efforts.

Dr. Roberts congratulated all on the energy savings. He also commended the BHS Math team on the civic responsibility they exhibit, in addition to the scope of their academic work.

SCHEDULED AGENCIES-- ALACHUA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM SALES SURTAX

Mr. Jeffrey Hays, Alachua County Transportation Planning Manager, conducted an informative presentation pertaining to *Moving Alachua County Forward*, an initiative to pass a County Transportation System Sales Surtax.

ALACHUA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT - P.A.U.S.E. PROJECT

Teresa Mercado-White, Alachua County Health Department Minority AIDS Program, and Mr. Joe Brew conducted presentations concerning a teen advocacy program: *Peers Advocating for Unified Services and Education (PAUSE)*. It recruits and trains teens as volunteer advocates to their peers to reduce health disparities among this age group as well as addressing issues like bullying eating disorders, STD/HIV, pregnancy, and dating violence. In addition to Ms. Mercado-White, student volunteers from the PAUSE Group addressed the Board. They were commended by the Board and Superintendent.

BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Griffin commented on the Boardroom artwork, courtesy of Terwilliger Elementary, Joy Gattshall, art teacher; and Talbot Elementary, Dinah Jones, art teacher.

Mrs. Roy:

- congratulated eighth grade Bishop Middle School student Talar Terzianon on being named one of just thirty national finalists in the prestigious Broadcom MASTERS Science and Engineering Competition.
- congratulated Eastside High School freshman Amir Helmy, who has developed two smartphone apps that could one day save lives by detecting epileptic seizures and the other by capturing heart movement patterns.
- attended the River Phoenix/Peaceful Paths Peacebuilding March Against Bullying. Among those performing was the Duval Choir, and she requested they be contacted to perform at the next Board meeting.

Dr. McNealy:

- visited Williams, Archer and Idylwild Elementary Schools and Sai Tech Charter School and said those learning environments are thriving. She especially enjoyed Idylwild's *Dads, Take Your Child to School Day* and highly commended Deputy Superintendent Lyons on this amazing idea and implementation.
- took part in a Professional Development event dealing with exciting information on brain research, stating it was an outstanding presentation; kudos to the Superintendent.

Superintendent Roberts :

- spoke on the student inventors and innovators in this District and the efforts to continue that development. He congratulated the students Mrs. Roy mentioned and wished them well.
- commended Mr. Lyons on the highly successful *Dads, Take Your Child to School Day*, which will be an annual event.
- commended National Merit Finalists and Semifinalists.
- announced that the location of his 100-Day Report has been changed from Finley Elementary to Lincoln Middle School.
- has begun working with eastside teachers and faculty to understand the linking of the school's accountability system to curriculum/instruction. He pointed out that whether or not we agree with the testing system, it is the law.
- met with various departments in preparation for FTE counts.
- Stated that Board members are individually identifying the five most important items they wish to have on a future Board meeting agendas.

Chairman Paulson:

- announced that Open Enrollment for health insurance is a shorter time period than in the past.
- reminded of upcoming Health Fairs and encouraged employees to attend.

- reminded of the upcoming Lastinger Center reception.
- announced that the District lost a great employee in the passing of Collette Rossi.

CITIZEN INPUT

Citizens addressed the Board on subjects including:

- The issue of over-testing.
- An invitation to a panel discussion on Black History curriculum at a Town Hall meeting on October 26: presented by a group from the Office of Equal Opportunity, together with a Black History task force.
- Upcoming showings of the *Rise Above the Mark* film, were announced by ACEA President Karen McCann.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-12, with the following Items being pulled for separate discussion: I.7., Digital Classroom Plan; I.10., Professional Services Ranking – Roofing; and I.12., District Facilities Five-Year Work Program.

I.7. Information was provided to the Board by Dr. Roberts on the process of fully developing a Digital Classroom Plan, as required by state statute. A more comprehensive presentation will be scheduled.

I.10. Mrs. Roy stated that energy effectiveness is being affected by outdated HVAC, classroom lighting, and Utility Manager Pro. She made a formal request to consider what modifications might be feasible.

Mrs. Roy was pleased that we are working with UF to use a computer model for assessment of what energy improvements can be made and to prioritize the importance.

I.12. Chairman Paulson verified that the issue of school growth patterns was addressed in the recent Facilities Workshop.

While understanding the importance of energy savings, Dr. McNealy wants to keep the bigger picture in mind. She commented that it is imperative to consider the older structures. She looks forward to future workshops, where discussion can be held.

Chairman Paulson expressed the importance of the two-mill and contacting legislators concerning it. He spoke about spending money wisely: saving, as well as increasing resources.

Dr. Roberts agreed with the idea of a workshop on the Five-Year Facilities Plan, while noting the difficulties presented by limited resources. He stated that resources will go wherever the Board decides.

Chairman Paulson stated there will be no more spending money without approval from the Board.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. E-1414-04

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation that the Board terminate the employee in Case No. E-1414-04, effective October 6, 2014.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

RESOLUTION –
STATE'S
ACCOUNTABILITY
SYSTEM

The School Board will consider adopting a resolution setting forth its position on the state's accountability system. A Draft form was presented.

Mrs. Roy stated she found Dr. Roberts' resolution to be consistently better than the one from Palm Beach, in addition to it being more tailored to Alachua County. She and Dr. Paulson suggested several changes to the Draft Resolution. Those changes will be made and the new Draft sent to the Board.

Dr. Roberts would like to have some discussion on what testing should look like, not just what we don't want.

Dr. Paulson conveyed his feeling that this is a fighting moment in the state of Florida and this Resolution is a way to get on board with other counties that are also addressing the issue.

Mrs. Griffin and Dr. McNealy agreed with the suggested changes to the Draft.

Chairman Paulson expressed that he believes the entire Board and Dr. Roberts are in support of teachers on this issue.

At Chairman Paulson's request, Board members unanimously agreed to table the Resolution until the next meeting, when the revised Resolution can be voted upon.

Dr. Roberts gave assurance that he will use his voice strongly in this issue, while ensuring the law will always be obeyed. He has a model that he will offer when solutions are discussed.

Mrs. Roy commended the teachers who spoke this evening as being the leaders in this movement.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to table the resolution until the next meeting.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

CITIZEN INPUT

A teacher spoke about the need to work together on the testing issue, while noting that teachers fear for their jobs if they speak out, and they need to know what is appropriate. She also noted that many parents aren't aware of the issues.

ACEA President Karen McCann, agreed that teachers are unsure about what they can speak, since this is a political issue. She felt the most important thing at this time is to vote.

Chairman Paulson and Superintendent Roberts shared their thoughts on the testing situation. Dr. Roberts stated that he would not advise anyone to ‘opt out’ of tests. A specific suggestion from Dr. Paulson was that the *Citizens for Strong Schools* group be contacted to get involved. Dr. Roberts concurred.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Roy:

- suggested lobbying to make Susan Bowles the Teacher of the Year for Florida. Dr. Roberts reminded that there is a process that must be followed concerning Teacher of the Year selection.
- noticed on a recently received report that many counties have no School Resource Officers (SRO) at all or one shared among districts. Hillsborough County has armed security rather than sworn police officers. Mrs. Roy suggested that avenue be investigated.
- reported that the amount we supplement for SROs is way out of line with other districts. Many districts do not fund at all or maybe at a level such as \$100,000—not the \$1 million that we provide out of our general fund. Dr. Roberts stated that the precedent has been set and we need to make certain we can correct it appropriately.

Dr. McNealy:

- suggested that rather than the Finley Elementary School auditorium, the Superintendent’s 100-Day Report be held at the larger auditorium at Lincoln Middle School.
- wanted to do whatever is possible to win the Broad award. Dr. Roberts explained that this is not an award that can be applied for.
- thanked Dr. Roberts on receiving her signed copy of his book, *A Framework for Improving School Systems in the 21st Century*. She looks forward to having a discussion on it in the future.
- noted an NAACP event being held on November 2.
- stated that the SRO report information showed almost no districts have SRO coverage at their elementary schools. She was distressed at the information that few districts contribute funds to their SRO programs and wondered if the City/County will receive this information.
- Reported on a November 14 workshop at the College of Law, concerning Sources of Trauma in the Community

Available dates for a Charter School Application workshop were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.