

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 15, 2013

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: Eileen Roy, Chairman; Gunnar Paulson, Vice-Chairman; April Griffin, Leanetta McNealy, and Carol Oyenarte Board members; Hershel Lyons, Interim Superintendent; and David Delaney, Attorney for the Board. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Dr. Paulson

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2013, Policy Workshop, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2013, School Board meeting, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2013, Special School Board meeting, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2013, School Board Retreat.

As an addition to a request he made at the Retreat, Dr. Paulson stated that he wants to see the names of everyone who has ever been on DES, how long they were on DES, ones that were administrators and put back on PSC as a teacher, how many ESPs and PTs. He stated that he is requesting this information because he wants to hold a workshop to determine what the cost has been to the District.

Mrs. Griffin requested that the minutes of the September 24, 2013, be amended to include the fact that the meeting agenda was not completed and that a second Retreat will be scheduled to finish the agenda.

Concerning her request at the Retreat for a report on Zoning Exemptions, Dr. McNealy feels that the information she received was incomplete. She wants the exemptions categorized by ethnicity, and she does not want the magnet exemptions included with the other ZE requests.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved to amend the original motion to include the fact that the meeting agenda was not completed, so a second Retreat will be scheduled.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The question was called on the original motion, as amended.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Motion by Dr. Paulson

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2013, School Board meeting, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved to adopt the agenda for the October 15, 2013, Board meeting, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Griffin

- thanked Mr. Calsam and HR staff for the Health Fairs.
- reported on a student health fair at Irby, supported by volunteers from Kohl's Department Store.
- announced a BHS Community Based Vocational Education class project with Cymplify, where disabled students will learn to grow vegetables for the soon-to-open Cymplify cafe.
- congratulated the BHS Wind Symphony on the Foundation for Music Education naming them the Commended Winner in the Mark of Excellence National Wind Band Honors Project.
- thanked Interim Superintendent Hershel Lyons for his Weekly Highlights, a bulletin intended to keep the Board updated on District activities.

Dr. McNealy

- congratulated and thanked all the talented employees who participated in the Thomas Center art exhibit, which she called outstanding.

Dr. Paulson

- the exhibit of SBAC employees' art at the Thomas Center showed unbelievable talent.
- learned a lot from the Solar Tour.
- attended the Health Fair at Lincoln Middle School, and encouraged employees to attend upcoming fairs.
- complimented Dr. McNealy on the Newberry Town Hall Meeting she held recently. Dr. McNealy thanked Ms. Donna Jones for her assistance.

- Buchholz stadium lights have been installed.
- Bargaining is complete. He commended ACEA President Karen McCann, Mr. Lyons and Mr. Ward.

Mrs. Oyenarte

- expressed heartfelt thanks to staff, employees, parents, children, Board members and teachers for their cards, emails and phone calls.
- commended Shane Andrew, Executive Director of Facilities, on his leadership skills, on building a team with strong morale and camaraderie, and introducing new technology.
- commended David Shelnutt on his adept handling of the many difficult situations he has faced since his appointment as GHS principal.
- credited Police Chief Tony Jones, Ms. Rosa B. Williams, and members of the Black on Black Crime Task Force for their diligent and longstanding efforts, especially against gang activity.
- expressed thanks to Mr. Lyons and stated that the District is fortunate that he was willing to take on the role of Interim Superintendent.
- expressed thanks to Assistant Superintendent Scott Ward for all the help he was to her in keeping up with the budget process while she was recuperating from illness.

Dr. McNealy thanked the following principals for their support at her Newberry Town Hall Meeting: Katherine Munn, Oak View Middle; Kevin Purvis, Newberry High; and Lacy Redd, Newberry Elementary.

Mrs. Roy

- stated that the District has reserved a table for the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet on November 10.
- Reported that the Board of County Commissioners has requested that the District phase in the full cost of School Resource Officers. The District now pays 42% and the County 58%. Mrs. Roy requested that Mrs. Ramos schedule a meeting with the Board of County Commissioners.
- reported on the recent Solar Tour, which she called impressive and informative. [See Supplementary Minutes.]
- appreciates the weekly Superintendent updates.
- thanked ESE Supervisor Bill Goodman for sending the video and PowerPoint on Restorative Justice, a process that has had great results around the nation in reducing school suspensions and crime. She encouraged all who received it to watch.

SCHEDULED AGENCY –
THE EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Mrs. Judy Boles, Executive Director, The Education Foundation, conducted a presentation concerning Foundation programs. She reviewed the Foundation's growth efforts and efforts to increase graduation rates and attack poverty. Mrs. Boles also provided information on matching funds and grant programs. [See Supplementary Minutes.] This year's Night in the Big Apple will be held on January 24.

Mrs. Boles thanked the Board members for their support and reviewed the past year's accomplishments. She reported that \$50,000 has been awarded to pilot a technology program throughout the curriculum at Terwilliger Elementary School. Mrs. Boles presented the Board with a check in the

amount of \$150,000, representing the amount given by the Foundation in the past year through grants and scholarships.

CITIZEN INPUT

ACEA President Karen McCann read from an email she received from the Florida Education Association reporting that Governor Rick Scott sent a letter thanking the 16 Superintendents and School Boards who have ratified agreements for pay raises. Ms. McCann was pleased to announce that, for the first time in five years, employees will have money put into salary schedules.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-11.

Attorney Brian Moore responded to questions from Dr. Paulson about the status of the policy for the assigned reserve.

Dr. McNealy stated that it is important that any policies that have been recommended should have policy language in place prior to the new Superintendent on July 1, 2013. She stated that she plans to present some policies that she recommends to both attorneys.

Mr. Ward will provide information to Mrs. Roy concerning a question she has on Budget Amendment No. 1.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ADOPTION,
AMENDMENT, AND
REPEAL OF BOARD
POLICIES—

A public hearing was held on Tuesday, October 1, 2013.

SECOND READING

Mrs. Oyenarte addressed the Board regarding Policy 5517.01, Bullying and Harassment, concerned that there are many 'loopholes.' She made a request that strict language be developed stating that there will be immediate revocation of any Choice or Magnet zoning exemption if a student engages in bullying.

Dr. McNealy felt this would just shift a problem from the ZE administrator to the zoned-school administrator. Mrs. Oyenarte pointed out that moving the bullying student(s) would disperse a clique and also separate them from the student they are bullying.

Attorneys Moore and Delaney responded.

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed new policies, proposed policy amendments, and repeals, as presented.

Mrs. Roy stated that this community is turning toward restorative justice, mentioning GPD, Juvenile Justice, and River Phoenix Center for Peace Building. She is hoping this will help.

Mr. Lyons responded to questions from Dr. Paulson and Mrs. Roy on a DES Policy and procedures. He and Mr. Moore will provide further information.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

AMENDMENTS TO
POLICY 5410, STUDENT
PROGRESSION, AND
THE PUPIL
PROGRESSION PLAN
FOR 2013-14

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Oyenarte

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Policy 5410, *Student Progression*, and the *Amended Pupil Progression Plan for 2013-2014*, incorporated by reference therein, as presented, for advertising and schedule a public hearing for 6:30 p.m., November 5, 2013.

FIRST READING

Dr. McNealy stated that a reference to the UF Upward Bound Program should be eliminated because the program is now only at SFC.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

EMPLOYEE CASE
NO. E1314-06

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to terminate the employee in Case No. E1314-06., effective October 16, 2013.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHEDULE
A WORKSHOP
TO DISCUSS THE
SUPERINTENDENT'S
EVALUATION
INSTRUMENT

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to schedule a workshop for Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 3 p.m., with Board Attorney Delaney to discuss and review the Superintendent's Evaluation instrument.

Mr. Delaney stated that a Draft will be provided to the Board prior to the workshop, based in part on the Board's input on the Superintendent search.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

SCHEDULE A SPECIAL
BOARD MEETING TO
DISCUSS THE
SUPERINTENDENT
SEARCH

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to schedule a Special Board Meeting for Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 4 p.m., (before the regular School Board Meeting) to discuss and finalize the core characteristics and advertisement for the Superintendent Search, with Dr. Wayne Blanton, Executive Director, Florida School Boards Association.

Mr. Moore stated that Dr. Blanton's desire at the Special Board meeting is to schedule everyone's calendars for the required meetings of the Superintendent Search over the next 4-5 months.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

CITIZEN INPUT

ACEA President Karen McCann expressed appreciation to Mrs. Oyenarte, as well as the other Board members, for taking a special interest in the Bullying issue. In connection, Mrs. Roy recommended the book *Reign of Error* by Diane Ravitch.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Oyenarte commented on the increased costs on the Dell Graham statement this month. Although she made it clear she had no question that the charges were accurate and merited, she was concerned about where the money would come from to pay such bills if they were ongoing.

Dr. McNealy stated that the Board Attorney is the one that Board members often must confer with, rather than the Staff Attorney. She also feels there is a great need for such things as Board Retreats, though they may be costly.

Mrs. Oyenarte agreed, as Mr. Delaney pointed out, that the appointment of a new Superintendent is the most important decision this Board will make. She nevertheless has an interest in identifying the funding source for the legal expenses.

Dr. Paulson reiterated his earlier request about DES information. He also requested that a workshop be scheduled to explore DES and Extended Drop as possible areas to save money.

Mr. Lyons asked that Dr. Paulson email his request, to be sure that the information he wants is understood and provided in its entirety by staff. Mrs. Roy suggested that Dr. McNealy might also email her request for zoning exemptions.

At Dr. McNealy's request, Mr. Everett Caudle, Director, Project Development, provided an update on the Strategic Planning Action Plans development.

Dr. McNealy expressed concern about the Board not having input on the Action Plans until a draft is in place. Mr. Lyons assured her that the draft will be prepared in a timely manner, so a workshop can be held prior to the winter holidays.

Dr. Paulson expressed concern that the public is not taking the opportunity to get involved in the Strategic Planning process. Mr. Lyons reminded the Board that the community did take part in the Focus Groups, where information was gathered and is being used to write the Action Plans. In addition, the public is welcome at the workshop, where the draft Action Plans will be discussed by the Board.

Dr. Paulson was complimentary about Mr. Lyons leadership in the process. He also commended Mr. Caudle and Mrs. Jackie Johnson, PIO.

Mrs. Roy referred back to the issue of the monthly attorney statement, commenting that she does not regret any of the expense, since the Superintendent Search is vital. She also pointed out that a considerable part of the expense relates to a lawsuit concerning Value Added Model (VAM) scores, in which an ACPS teacher is a plaintiff and the Board a defendant. At Mrs. Roy's request, Mr. Delaney provided a brief update.

Mrs. Griffin took exception to a statement by Mrs. Roy that the Board agreed that becoming a party in the lawsuit was a necessary action by the teacher, in the effort to have an impact on the state's position. Mrs. Griffin stated that

she did not agree, explaining that she feels the opposition is not beneficial. She further noted that the Board and staff had given teachers full support in the VAM issue.

Mrs. Roy noted that an update was recently presented at the League of Women Voters by the attorneys in the lawsuit against the state for not adequately funding public schools.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

Mrs. Jackie Johnson provided an update on the Superintendent Search:

- development of an online survey on the core characteristics wanted in the Superintendent went online last week.
- A news release was sent out and was widely picked up by the media.
- All employees were emailed, as were the participants in the Strategic Planning process and SAC/PTA presidents, asking them to take part in the survey. They were also given information on the upcoming Public Forums.
- Surveys are now being returned. The deadline is November 12, the day of the last Forum. This allows time to compile the survey information before the Board meeting the following week.
- Contact is being kept with Strategic Planning participants on other issues as well, with a link to the budget update document being sent, as well as information about the state's public hearings on Common Core.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Roy announced that Public Forums on the Superintendent Search will be held 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. as follows:

- October 29, Hidden Oak Middle School Cafeteria
- November 7, Metcalfe Elementary School Cafeteria
- November 12, Irby Elementary School Cafeteria

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.