

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 21, 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; Owen Roberts, Superintendent; and David Delaney, Board Attorney.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Dr. Paulson announced the deletion of Item B.1., Approval of October 7, 2014, School Board meeting minutes. Also deleted was Action Item B.3., Employee Case No. E-1414-03.

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to adopt the agenda for the October 21, 2014, School Board meeting, as amended.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

RECOGNITION -

DUVAL ELEMENTARY
FINE ARTS ACADEMY

An Anti-Bullying production, written by Angela Terrell, Music Teacher, was performed by Duval Fine Arts Academy students, to great audience appreciation. Dr. Roberts commended the students and teacher, as did Dr. McNealy.

WORLD YOUTH CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP

Cindy Jie, Lincoln Middle School eighth-grader, was recognized for her selection as a member of the 2014 United States World Youth Chess Championship Team and her finish as the second-ranked player for the U.S. Team in the Girls Under 14 Category.

PRESENTATION

A presentation on ESOL Certification Procedures was conducted by Ms. Beverly Finley, Human Resources Supervisor. It included:

ESOL CERTIFICATION

- Legal Background,
- Florida DOE ESOL Requirements
- ESOL auditing information
- Timeline in other Districts
- Alachua District Agreement
- District Training Costs
- HR ESOL Procedures
- Pre-Employment Agreements
- Vision

Mrs. Finley responded to Board member questions.

Ms. Isa Carter informed the Board that ways are being explored to alleviate the cost to teachers. One is a collaboration with Marion County, where training certification components have been developed. The plan is to transfer the components to an online platform, allowing for courses to be free and open to all teachers. It is hoped this program might be rolled out next summer.

Dr. Roberts cautioned about being certain that the Marion courses are all DOE approved. If not, he stated that he has another option.

Dr. Paulson stated that he feels the Pre-Employment Agreement is vague. With that in mind, Mr. Lyons will have the Agreement reviewed by staff, in conjunction with the staff attorney.

Mrs. Roy commented on the negatives involved with teachers who are not certified:

1. Putting a child in an uncertified teacher's class.
2. Having to notify all parents in that class that the teacher was uncertified, which is unfair to the teacher.
3. The unwarranted bad publicity generated toward the district by informing parents that their child's teacher is not certified.

Mr. Scott Ward, Assistant Superintendent, Planning and Budget, will look into Mrs. Roy's suggestion that Adult Ed funds might be used for ESOL certification for teachers.

Dr. Roberts commented that ESOL certification issues are common to Boards around the state. He also stated that he understands the Board's concern about practice and procedures.

Mrs. Roy commented on the inequity of new teachers having only three years to earn certification and teachers on Professional Services Contract never having to earn it.

Dr. Paulson said he did not know if this is happening, but that principals should be told not to intentionally put a student in a non-certified teacher's class, in order to force certification.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Roy:

- Commented on a science-related float that represented ACPS in the UF Homecoming Parade and thanked Lincoln Middle School science teacher Adrienne Thieke for coordinating its development.
- Congratulations to District Energy Conservation Specialist Teresa Spurling-Wood on a Florida Green School Network commendation.

Mrs. McNealy:

- Expressed thanks to community organizations who are partnering with Alachua County Public Schools as mentors, stating that it is a significant commitment.

Dr. Roberts:

- Recognized Ms. Cynthia Chestnut for coordinating mentoring efforts.
- Attended a recent screening of *Rise Above the Mark*, where more than 160 people attended. Many have told him they now have a better sense of what is going on with public schools. An upcoming showing was announced.

- Commented on the recent High Springs Community Forum and stated that there will be one in every outlying city and several in Gainesville. He visited the Metcalfe community this weekend via door-to-door visits, telling residents he wants to know what the community thinks is good, as well as what concerns they have.
- Expressed excitement about the Florida Department of Agriculture naming Eastside High School senior Aaliah Harris one of just five Student Chef Ambassadors for the state, selected by a Chef Cook-Off. He referred to the Eastside High Culinary Arts program as exemplary.

Mrs. Griffin –

- Attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Alachua for the new baseball facility, which was named after Alan Hitchcock. It includes a new roadway connecting the old and new part of Alachua and is a good example of what a community can do for its citizens when they work together.
- Attended the reception for the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations annual meeting, and attended a session on donor relations. It reminded her that we need to be sure to thank people for what they do for us.

CITIZEN INPUT

ACEA President Karen McCann commented on the ESOL presentation earlier in the meeting. She feels it is overwhelming to new teachers on annual contract to put 300 hours of ESOL training on them over just three years. She requested consideration of this as the procedure is reviewed.

A first-grade teacher expressed that there is not a problem with several ELL students in one class, as they tend to support each other. She encouraged careful classroom placement of ELL students, to be sure the teacher welcomes them.

A high-school teacher encouraged people to come to the next showing of Rise Above the Mark, as well as to the *I Am More Than a Test Score* Rally on October 28. She commented on the amount of time teachers spend on test preparation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

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

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

RESOLUTION –
STATE’S
ACCOUNTABILITY
SYSTEM

This item was tabled at the October 7, 2014, School Board meeting.

Mrs. Karen Clarke, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum/Instruction, read the Resolution on the state’s accountability system, which was amended according to Board member requests at the October 7 meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved that this Resolution be removed from the table and adopted as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Board members were in agreement with Ms. Jackie Johnson’s suggested amendments.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to approve the 2015 Legislative Priorities, as amended.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Dr. Roberts stated for the record that he is not aware of any process that the state has in place to even determine if the scope of their standards can be taught in 180 days. The Superintendent related that the model has not been tested, and teachers will tell you the standards cannot be taught in that time.

Dr. Roberts therefore believes that the issue of instructional validity will be much bigger than just testing and accountability. He referred to case law that has addressed the question of whether adequate opportunity has been provided for students to learn the standards on which they will be measured.

Dr. Paulson recognized Susan Bowles, who was in the audience. Ms. Bowles is the kindergarten teacher who brought wide attention to testing, by refusing to administer the FAIR test.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mrs. Griffin suggested the possibility of the District Advisory Council being convened to address some of the Board priorities. Chairman. Paulson concurred, as did Superintendent Roberts.

Since this is the first time in six months that the Council will be called together, Dr. Paulson reviewed that the Board Chair and the Superintendent are co-chairs.

Dr. McNealy requested an extension of the timeline for Board members to submit their strategic priorities. It was agreed that the end of October would provide adequate time.

Mrs. Roy suggested an email be sent to the Citizens for Strong Schools, asking if they would support us in this effort against the state’s accountability system.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.