

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
November 4, 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; Owen Roberts, Superintendent; and Chip Koval, acting Board Attorney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES      Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte      Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2014, School Board meeting, as presented.

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

Motion by Dr. McNealy                      Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2014, Finance Department Update, as presented.

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

Motion by Mrs. Oyenarte Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2014, School Board meeting, as presented.

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

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

Chairman Paulson announced the following changes to the Agenda:

- Action Item I.3, Approval of New Board Priorities, was changed to a Discussion Item.

Ms. Judy Boles, Director of the Education Foundation of Alachua County, along with Sheriff Sadie Darnell and Police Chief Tony Jones were among those in attendance to recognize Mrs. Oyenarte.

Mrs. Griffin presented her with an engraved vase and flowers from the Board and Superintendent. Board members provided cards and wished her the best of health.

Carol Oyenarte left the meeting.

#### INTRODUCTION OF 2014-15 HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Standing in for Head Start Director Ann Crowell, Ms. Diane Hill, Pre-K Director, introduced the 2014-15 Head Start Policy Council and recognized the outgoing members, with thanks for providing three years of service. The Board and Superintendent expressed appreciation.

#### PRESENTATIONS

##### HEALTH ISSUES UPDATE

Health Services Supervisor Pat Hughes provided the Board with an update on enterovirus safeguards in place at the schools, including a video from the Center for Disease Controls.

#### EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Referring to their motto of “Continuous Improvement,” Ms. Judy Boles, Director of the Education Foundation of Alachua County, presented information on Take Stock in Children; Catalyst for Change; Find It, Fund It; and Senior Scholarships.

Dr. Roberts stated that he would like to help get schools more involved in grants to make sure ‘no money is left on the table.’

#### BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Griffin:

- reported that the FSBA Legislative Report should be received soon
- read at the Altrusa Read-In at Chiles,
- attended:
  - third-grade program at Hidden Oak
  - Rally at Westside Park
  - GHS academic recognition
  - Global Educator Conference, where Dr. Roberts was the first speaker.

Dr. McNealy attended:

Junior Achievement Breakfast, where she was impressed with the students’ innovation, particularly the *Grab and Go* snack idea.

- ACEA Rally - state testing issue. She gave a ‘hats off’ to the organizers.
- African-American History Forum
- An academic recognition at GHS and congratulated the straight A students and National Merit Scholars.
- Commented on the mentoring initiative, as reported in a recent newspaper article.

Mrs. Roy noted:

- Board members had commitments to the Altrusa Read-in that conflicted with being able to attend the academic recognition programs.
- There were great articles in the newspaper about (1) Food Service students learning to test recipes and (2) the District mentoring program to increase literacy.

Dr. Roberts:

- Reported that the National Pan-Hellenic/Community Partnership Coalition already has more than 50 mentors signed up, with more being added. He gave a sincere thanks to the coalition, which is under the leadership of Dr. Cynthia Chestnut.
- Reported a very good turnout at the third screening of Rise Above the Mark, which was held at Buchholz. Dr. Roberts thanked the League of Women Voters, Southern Legal Counsel and the ACEA for their support.
- Thanked the ACEA for organizing the recent well-attended Rally at Westside Park, in support of efforts to change the state's testing program.
- Reported that EHS student Aaliyah Harris won the 2014 Student Chef Cook-Off in Jacksonville, and she is now a Student Chef Ambassador and will travel throughout Northeast Florida to speak to high school students about healthy eating.
- Enjoyed some time recently in a Pre-K Head Start class at Sidney Lanier.

Reminded Board members of some upcoming events:

- Grand Opening of Farm-to-School Work Hub at the Professional Academies Magnet at Lofton.
- Annual Business Partners at Westwood.
- Hawthorne Community Education Forum at Shell Elementary.
- Thanks to Food and Nutrition Services Director Maria Eunice and her team for the honor of developing a lunch dish named *Pasta Roberts* and serving it at schools throughout the District.

Dr. Paulson referred to several events he and most Board members attended, including the NAACP Dinner.

With this being Dr. Paulson's last meeting as Chair, he recounted some of his experiences over the years: Forty-four years in education, Head football coach, Athletic Director, President of the Central Florida Labor Council, Board member. He referred to the year as being a very satisfying experience.

Mrs. Roy thanked Dr. Paulson and stated that the Board benefitted very much from his leadership. Dr. McNealy also expressed appreciation to Dr. Paulson.

## CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Kali Blount, who is associated with the recently formed Black Task Force, reported on their recent African-American History Forum. A book display was a main component, with book circles planned for Black History study. He stated that those who regularly conduct Black History events recognize that children do not know Black history, despite information from the School District's collection of books provided by the state. He gave a brief history lesson.

A citizen who stated he is a drug counselor in the community, addressed the Board regarding potential Red Ribbon Week activities.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Roy

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-6.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

RISING STAR ACADEMY  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
APPLICATION

The School Board received an application from The Rising Star Academy (Grades K-5) on September 2, 2014. After a thorough review it is the recommendation of the District's Application Review Committee's (ARC that the School Board deny the application.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to deny the Rising Star Academy application, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

RATIFICATION OF  
DISTRICT ADVISORY  
COUNCIL (DAC) BYLAWS

Dr. Roberts stated that the DAC Bylaws have been in effect for over a year but were never ratified.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to ratify the DAC Bylaws, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

REVISION OF DISTRICT'S  
STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Roberts stated that this begins the process of incorporating the Board Priorities from the Retreat into the Strategic Plan. He also noted that the finalized Strategic Plan will help the Superintendent guide the work of staff. The Board attorney will also use it to work out the final agreement for the Superintendent's evaluation instrument.

DISCUSSION OF  
SYNTHESIZED PRIORITIES

After discussion, Chairman Paulson asked Board members to come to the next Board meeting (Nov. 18) prepared to incorporate the Synthesized Priorities into the Strategic Plan. The District Advisory Council (DAC) can then begin development of the final version of the Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Roy wanted to make sure that Impact Fees are included in the list of Priorities.

It was agreed that Board Members could submit their Priorities information to the Superintendent prior to the November 18 meeting.

BOARD MEMBER/  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REQUESTS

Dr. McNealy was informed that a larger projection screen is on order for the Superintendent's 100-Day Report, and the process is being followed to ensure its timely arrival.

Brief discussion was held on the subject of Board Committee Assignments, with a decision to address the issue at the November 18 meeting.

Dr. Roberts reminded Board members to respond to the 'third tier' of agenda items for future Board meetings. He also noted the upcoming FADSS review of Finance and HR, and the November 18 Food Service Update presentation.

Dr. Paulson requested an update on the Transportation Appeal.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.