

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 5, 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 and Leanetta McNealy, Board members; Hershel Lyons, Interim Superintendent; and Ryan Gilbert, who was substituting for Board Attorney David Delaney. Board member Carol Oyenarte absent.

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

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Motion by Dr. McNealy Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved to approve minutes of the October 15, 2013, School Board meeting, as presented.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Item E, Presentation, Director of the Academy of Health Professions, GHS, Janine Plavac, will be deleted and held at a later date, to be determined.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to adopt the agenda for the November 5, 2013, School Board meeting, as amended.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

April Griffin:

- Attended plays recently at SFHS and EHS. She encouraged attendance, stating the students do a phenomenal job.
- Spent a day with Mentor Coach Michael Scott and was very impressed at the 'out-of-the-box' thinking.
- *Catalyst for Change* grants were awarded to Mebane, Meadowbrook, Idylwild and GHS, for about \$20,000. Last week, 30 new *Take Stock in Children* students were selected.
- Take Stock in Students
- Read to three classes of students for the Altrusa Read-In.

Dr. McNealy:

- Read to 2nd grade Norton students for the Altrusa Read-In.
- Congratulated BHS National Merit Schools and straight A students for the past six weeks. Dr. McNealy helped celebrate them at the Scholar Breakfast.
- She also congratulated Cody Emerson, 7th grade High Springs student, who was the only Florida student to win a National Agriscience award.
- Congratulated Dr. Donald DeVito, Sidney Lanier music teacher, who has a published chapter in an international book titled *Music Education for Hard to Reach Children*. It is about the last 10 years of the Sidney Lanier Center music program.

- Congratulated Alvero Valle, EHS student, who earned the highest possible ACT score.

Dr. Paulson:

- attended *Throw a Girl a Lifeline* event at the PACE Center for Girls, the CDS luncheon, and the BHS Health Fair. Staff did a great job getting people out to the Fairs.
- commended Mrs. Hollinger on the Hidden Oak Superintendent Search Forum and Everett Caudle on the Strategic Planning meeting.
- commended the Insurance Committee, particularly in this first year of being self-insured, ending with a reserve of 4.8 million.

Dr. McNealy commended the Project Development staff on the award of a \$1 million federal grant from Project Fortify. This grant will place school social workers at Idylwild, Lake Forest, Metcalfe and Rawlings elementary schools, which have a significant proportion of high-needs students. Director Everett Caudle stated that staff member Kimberly Sims was instrumental in writing the grant, as well as Mr. Bill Goodman, Student Services supervisor.

Chairman Roy:

- attended a UF panel discussion, the first in a series from the River Phoenix Foundation for Peace Building. She encouraged others on the Board or staff to attend the other two in this *Seeds of Violence* series.
- attended a Webinar at the Health Department, sponsored by the state Department of Education. It concerned lowering the number of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, and a grant to collect data and implement best practices in HIV prevention education in schools. There is consideration of ACPS becoming a participant
- pointed out student artwork on display in the Boardroom.

CITIZEN INPUT

A citizen addressed the Board regarding the GRU Biomass plant.

A citizen addressed the Board regarding bus transportation for the magnet program at Stephen Foster Elementary.

A teacher addressed the Board regarding what he understands is a grading policy at EHS and requested the policy be rescinded.

***** PUBLIC HEARING –

POLICIES AND PUPIL PROGRESSION PLAN

- a. Policy 5410, *Student Progression*, and the *Amended Pupil Progression Plan for 2013-2014*

An EHS Social Studies teacher suggested there is a mistake in the way grade points are assigned, which he understands may be the result of state requirements. Mrs. Karen Clarke, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support and Curriculum/Instructional Services, responded to the issues.

- b. Adoption and Amendments to School Board Policies.

There was no public input.

The Public Hearing was adjourned and the regular Board meeting

reconvened.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. McNealy

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

Mrs. Roy noted that 15 new buses have been purchased, at a cost of \$1,591,981. That is equivalent to the electricity savings that schools worked so hard on this year.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

RATIFICATION OF
AMENDMENTS TO THE
2012-2015 COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING
AGREEMENT FOR
INSTRUCTIONAL
PERSONNEL

ACEA President Karen McCann reported that the vote ratification for Instructional and Education Support Professionals was: 2,668--Yes and 30--No.

She further commented on the vote and the new contract.

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to ratify the 2013 amendments to the 2012-2015 Collective Bargaining agreement for Instructional Personnel, as presented.

Interim Superintendent Hershel Lyons expressed appreciation to all involved for their dedication to the process.

Dr. McNealy also expressed appreciation to the team for their continuous efforts, and both Dr. McNealy and Dr. Paulson credited Mr. Lyons.

Mrs. Griffin took the opportunity to state that, despite some rumors, she has always wanted the highest increase possible without putting the District in jeopardy. She is pleased with the result, noting that it is one of the Strategic Plan goals. She is also pleased that funds were put toward beginning teachers. She has some concerns with some of the language and will be cautious about how it works out.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

RATIFICATION OF THE
2013-2016 COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING
AGREEMENT FOR
EDUCATION SUPPORT
PROFESSIONALS

Motion by Dr. McNealy

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to ratify the 2013-2016 Collective Bargaining Agreement for Education Support Professionals, as presented.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

ADOPTION OF THE
2013-2014 SALARY
SCHEDULES

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the Teacher, Education Support Professionals (bargaining unit members), Professional/Technical (non-bargaining unit members), Administrative, and Other Compensation Salary Schedules for 2013-2014, as presented.

Mr. Ward reviewed pay dates, specifically announcing that retro pay is planned for distribution before Winter Break. All Board members were pleased.

Dr. Paulson stated that employees got raises without compromising the integrity of the salary schedule.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0

Mr. Lyons thanked Mr. Ward and his staff for their commitment to the dates for the retro pay. Mrs. Roy expressed appreciation on behalf of all Board members.

ESTABLISHMENT OF
A DISTRICT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (DAC)

In response to a Board initiative, the process of developing a revised Strategic Plan for Alachua County Public Schools was begun in February 2013. In August, the Board adopted a set of Goals and Outcomes for the plan, including Goal 6-E which states that "The district will increase communication opportunities for stakeholders' engagement on educational issues that have or will have districtwide impact." Understanding the Board's priority for this goal, it has been recommended that a District Advisory Committee (DAC) be implemented for the purpose of improved communication and community engagement. Creation of this committee is consistent with Board Bylaws 0155 for creating committees.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the establishment of the District Advisory Committee (DAC), consistent with the recommendations made to the Board in the memo dated September 13, 2013, concerning this subject. Next steps would include appointment of members to the DAC and development of bylaws for the committee.

Mr. Lyons reviewed the names of the Board member appointees to the Committee: Sue Legg, Aimee Oelrich, Scott Costello, Cynthia Chestnut and Rick Nesbitt. They are asked to serve for two years, but should that not work

out for someone, the Board member will be able to appoint their replacement. The Superintendent and the Board Chairman will be non-voting members and co-chairs of the DAC.

The question was called. Upon Vote: Motion passed 4-0
Workshops were scheduled as follows:

SCHEDULE
WORKSHOPS

- DES Workshop – November 14, 2 p.m.
- Strategic Planning – November 15, 10 a.m

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no public input.

SUPERINTENDENT
SEARCH UPDATE

Mrs. Jackie Johnson, Public Information Officer, briefly reported on the three (3) recent Public Forums that were held and the online survey that was conducted.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Dr. Paulson commented on how pleased he is with the Strategic Plan, since he has wanted it since he first came on the Board. He stated that he never envisioned such a great product as has been developed by Mrs. Hollinger, Mr. Caudle and staff.

Dr. McNealy

- announced she will be unable to attend the Legislative Delegation meeting.
- Reported on a program called Summer Slide Prevention, proposed by a Chiles teacher. She would like staff to review the information.

Mrs. Roy requested that Board members bring their planners to the upcoming Superintendent Search update with Dr. Blanton.

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming meetings were announced and the meeting was declared adjourned at 7:20 p.m.