

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 15, 2015

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; Rob Hyatt, Vice-Chairman; April Griffin, Leanetta McNealy, and Gunnar Paulson, members; Owen Roberts, Superintendent; and David Delaney, Board Attorney.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Finley Flyers Chorus, under the direction of Jenny Eckenrode, Music Teacher, presented songs to celebrate the holiday season.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA	Chairman Roy announced the deletion of Attachment C, Item 10.
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <u>Motion by</u> Dr. Paulson <u>Seconded by</u> Mr. Hyatt </div> <p><u>Moved to</u> adopt the agenda for the December 15, 2015, School Board meeting, as amended.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> The question was called. <u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0 </div>
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <u>Motion by</u> Mr. Hyatt <u>Seconded by</u> Dr. Paulson </div> <p><u>Moved to</u> approve the minutes of the November 17, 2015, School Board Organization meeting, as presented.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> The question was called. <u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <u>Motion by</u> Dr. Paulson <u>Seconded by</u> Mr. Hyatt </div> <p><u>Moved to</u> approve the minutes of the November 17, 2015, School Board meeting, as presented.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> The question was called. <u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 5-0 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <u>Motion by</u> Dr. McNealy <u>Seconded by</u> Mr. Hyatt </div> <p><u>Moved to</u> approve the minutes of the October 21, 2015, School Board Retreat, as presented.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> The question was called. <u>Upon Vote:</u> Motion passed 4-0 [Mrs. Griffin abstained, since she was not in attendance at the Retreat.] </div>

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. McNealy:

- noted that the first Robotics competition was held recently at Lincoln Middle School. Thanked Dr. Catherine Barnes for arranging the participation of Captain Barrington Irving, the youngest person, the first black person, and the first Jamaican to pilot a plane around the world solo.
- stated that Dr. Roberts had the honor of receiving the Community Impact Award.
- was highly complimentary of the Howard Bishop Middle School Winter Concert.

- Thank you to Nkwanda Jah, who hosted a community reception to honor school volunteers involved in science.

Mr. Hyatt:

- Thanked Jenny Eckenrode, Finley Music Teacher, for instilling 'joy' in her music students, perfect representation for the One-Mill.
- BHS students were first and second place winners of the Free Speech Forum, sponsored by Buddy Davis Essay Contest.
- Spoke about the importance of music in every school.

Mrs. Griffin:

- The Board took part in training and earned the distinction of Master Board from the Florida School Boards Association.
- Finalists for the District Teacher of the Year Award have been named: Ray Krone, PE teacher at Irby Elementary School; Laurie Pfizer, Band Director at Oak View Middle School; Nate Bisco, Band Director at SFHS.

Mrs. Roy:

- commented that the Robotics competition was one of the most exciting events ever in this district. Alachua County is in the vanguard in this area.
- Congratulated GHS Cambridge student Alex Maruniak on a Top in the World score on the Cambridge math exam and student Eric Guenes on a Top in the Country score on the chemistry exam.
- Congratulated Janine Plavac, Director of the GHS Academy of Health Professions, on excellent junior college exam scores.

Dr. McNealy extended sympathy to longtime educator Mary Lewis, on the passing of her husband.

Dr. Roberts:

- called attention to the artwork in the Boardroom and thanked students and teachers from Idylwild Elementary School, High Springs Community School and Eastside High School.
- recognized three staff members at High Springs Community School: Billy McMahon, Sherry Sakai, and Johnnelly Green, who saved the life of a student who had lost consciousness and a pulse. Hoping for a full recovery for the student and planning to recognize staff for their life-saving actions.
- recognized Kelley Kostamo, Business Partnerships Coordinator, for her leadership of another amazing holiday food drive. Volunteers and our very generous community were also recognized.
- congratulated EHS senior Sophia Eikenberry, who earned a perfect score on the ACT. Fewer than one tenth of one percent of test-takers earn a perfect score.
- reported that Education Commissioner Pam Stewart who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. A positive prognosis indicates that she will continue to fulfill her duties as usual.
- reported accurate Glen Springs retention numbers, to correct those that were stated by a citizen at the last Board meeting.

Mrs. Roy requested:

- the two student winners of the Free Speech Forum be invited to address the Board.
- at least one cafeteria employee be trained in the Heimlich maneuver.

[Ms. Maria Eunice, director, Food and Nutrition Services, reported that in many schools, most *all* personnel are trained. However, she will verify that there is at least one in every school.]

CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Rick McNeil, grandparent, volunteer, former teacher and public education advocate, spoke about the Southern Legal Counsel lawsuit on behalf of Citizens for Strong Schools, to be heard in the Supreme Court on March 14, 2016. He extended an invitation to informational meetings scheduled for January 12 at EHS, January 26 at GHS and February 2 at GHS. He also announced *5 for Change*, a program to raise funds through \$5.00 donations, for support of this legal effort.

Ms. Khanh-Lien Banko, representative for the Westwood Middle School PTO Board, read into the record a letter sent to the School Board requesting that they extend the principalship of Mr. Jim TenBiege.

A retired teacher addressed the Board regarding several matters, including smaller buses and CPR classes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-13, excluding Item 10, Attachment C, Items 8 and 9.

Chairman Roy stated that she is pulling Item F.3., Attachment C., Item 8, Milton R. Reid. Professional Services; and Item 9, Florida Institute of Government, FSU, Professional Services, for discussion and separate vote.

The question was called on approval of the Consent Agenda, excluding Item 3, Attachment C, Items F.8 and F.9.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mrs. Roy read Item 8 of Attachment C and stated her objection to hiring an outside service, since the stated services are already being done in-house.

Motion by Dr. Paulson

Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved that a Professional Service not be employed to conduct an analysis of the District's yellow fleet, as requested in Item F.3., Attachment C., Item 8, Milton R. Reid. Professional Services.

Mr. Paul White, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, reviewed issues that call for this assessment of fleet operations, including safety and efficiency.

Dr. Roberts spoke in support of the proposal.

At the request of Dr. Paulson, Interim Finance Director Wayne Hackett provided details on the bid process, for professional services of Milton R. Reid. Discussion was held, after which Dr. Paulson withdrew the motion.

Motion by Mr. Hyatt

Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved to approve Item F.3., Attachment C., Item 8, Milton R. Reid Professional Services.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

The Board agreed to move on to Action Item G.1., Administrative Appointments and then continue the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved to approve the appointment of Mr. LaTroy Strappy as Principal, Lincoln Middle School, effective January 4, 2015.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Strappy was warmly congratulated by the Board and staff.

CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

Item F.3., Attachment C., Item 9, Florida Institute of Government, FSU, Professional Services to provide strategic succession planning, including, but not limited to, training of the succession planning core team and developing a competency-based succession plan model. The contract term begins January 2, 2016, and ends April 30, 2016.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved to approve Consent Agenda Item F.3., Attachment C, Item 9, FSU Professional Services to provide strategic succession planning.

Dr. Paulson expressed concern about the use of a consultant.

Mr. White spoke about the needs and the scope of the project.

Mrs. Griffin expressed her feeling that the HR Department is not staffed to take on a project of this extent in such a short timeframe. In addition, she stated that this is a one-time training, which can then be maintained by staff.

Dr. Paulson expressed that he cannot vote for this, since he believes the planning can be done by staff. Mrs. Roy concurred, pointing out the FADSS report called only for a committee, not a consultant.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 3-2

Yes: Griffin

Hyatt

McNealy

No: Paulson

Roy

EMPLOYEE CASE E-1516-05 Motion by Mrs. Griffin Seconded by Dr. McNealy

Moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the termination of the employee, effective December 16, as presented.

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

EMPLOYEE COMPLAINT Motion by Dr. McNealy Seconded by Mr. Hyatt
NUMBER C201415--21

Moved to approve School Board Attorney David Delaney's recommendation, as presented.

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

REVISED 2016 At Mrs. Roy's request, PIO Jackie Johnson incorporated a request for System
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES of Care funding into the 2016 Legislative Priorities.

Motion by Dr. McNealy Seconded by Mrs. Griffin

Moved to approve the revised 2016 Legislative Priorities, as presented.

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

CITIZEN INPUT There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS Mr. Hyatt recommends taking a cue from recent federal government action,
by continuing to look at the total child in education.

Dr. Roberts commented that it is still the state legislature that must be changed.

Dr. Paulson emphasized the importance of physical education as part of this.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.