

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 16, 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: Leannetta McNealy, Chairman; Eileen Roy, Vice-Chairman; April Griffin, Rob Hyatt, and Gunnar Paulson, members; Owen Roberts, Superintendent; and David Delaney, Board Attorney.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McNealy. Music Entertainment was provided by the J. J. Finley Chorus, Jenny Eckenrode, music teacher; and Eastside High School Gospel Choir, Avis Hope, choir director.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Motion by Mr. Hyatt Seconded by Dr. Paulson

 Moved to adopt the agenda for the December 16, 2014, School Board meeting, as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion by Dr. Paulson Seconded by Mrs. Roy

 Moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2014, Food and Nutrition Services Update, as presented.

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

Motion by Mrs. Roy Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2014, Reorganization meeting, as presented.

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

Motion by Mrs. Roy Seconded by Dr. Paulson

Moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2014, School Board meeting, as presented.

Dr. Paulson requested an amendment to the motion, that would place wording from the November 4, 2014, minutes (*Revision of District's Strategic Plan and Discussion of Synthesized Priorities*) into the November 18, 2014, minutes (*Approval of New Board Priorities*) as it better explains what he was trying to convey in the November 18 discussion. He submitted a document to the Board with the information. [See Supplementary Minutes.]

Motion by Dr. Paulson Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve Dr. Paulson's requested amendment to the November 18, 2014, School Board meeting minutes, as presented.

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

RECOGNITION –	Mrs. April Griffin was recognized for receiving the Consortium of Education Foundations’ STAR School Board Member Award, which was presented by Ms. Mary Chance, Executive Director, Consortium of Florida Education Foundations.
APRIL GRIFFIN – SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER	
ELIZABETH STARK, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Elizabeth Stark, Volunteer Coordinator, was recognized for receiving the 2014 Adele Graham Award from the Florida Association of Partners in Education (FAPE). The award was presented by Dorothy Spradley, Columbia County, and Linda Morris, Nassau County.
A. L. MEBANE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	Ms. Verdell W. Robinson, Chair of the Committee for the Dedication of the Alachua County Training (A.C.T.) School Historical Marker, conducted a PowerPoint presentation of the Dedication Ceremony. There were many enjoyable photos of the event and its participants. Also speaking was Gussie Mae Washington Lee, president of the A. L. Mebane Alumni Association. Chairman McNealy expressed great appreciation to Ms. Robinson and Ms. Lee and the entire committee for what they have accomplished.
BOARD MEMBER/ SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>Mrs. Griffin commented on the BHS Wind Symphony kick-off. Guest conductors stated that this Wind Symphony is, hands down, the best band in the nation.</p> <p>Mrs. Roy commented on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BHS Wind Symphony - Youth performance of Stop Children’s Cancer - National Chess Championship winners, including three kindergarten students from Wiles Elementary: Erick Zhao, Noah Jang and Nick Liu. She congratulated all teams. <p>Mr. Hyatt expressed appreciation for the evening’s musical performances by the J. J. Finley Chorus and the Eastside High School Gospel Choir. He also thanked Waldo citizens for attending the recent Community Input Session.</p> <p>Dr. Roberts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanked all who attended the recent 100-Day Report, which he presented at the Lincoln Middle School Auditorium. - Reported that the Financial Management review was completed last week and a verbal report received. He stated that he is putting in place a hiring freeze and informed the Board of some surveys that will be conducted. - Commended student performances in the National Chess Championships and in the Florida Marching Band Championships. - Congratulated Mrs. Griffin on being named the STAR school board member by the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations, as well as the Impact Award winner for 2014 by the <i>Business in the Heart of Florida</i> magazine. - Expressed sadness on the recent passing of GHS freshman Emily Cook, and conveyed to her family and friends that our thoughts and prayers are with them. - Expressed condolences to Mrs. Griffin and her family on the passing of Mr. Griffin’s father.

Dr. McNealy:

- Complimented the Transportation Department on their Holiday social event.
- Commended students of the GHS Medical Terminology program on their academic achievement.
- Highly complimented Dr. Roberts on the goals announced in his 100-Day Report. She called for community support and conveyed that the Board is fully behind Dr. Roberts

CITIZEN INPUT

Mr. Jay Godwin, BHS Dean, addressed the Board regarding a project to add bleachers at the BHS athletic field. In June 2014, the SBAC Building Committee stated they had no objection, if the funds were raised privately. Mr. Godwin distributed a letter for Board review, which upon approval will be posted on the Booster website, social media sites, and mailed to school alumni. He also requested Board consideration of providing BHS funds in the amount spent on other high school athletic field lighting projects, since BHS privately funded their own lighting, with no reimbursement.

Dr. Roberts stated that this will be brought back to a Board meeting for a vote as an action item. Mr. Delaney concurred with that procedure. Mrs. Roy felt the project could be moved forward on general consensus, but Mr. Delaney stated it should be a vote in the sunshine. He agreed however, that boosters sending out a letter did not have to be approved by the Board.

Dr. Roberts requested nods from Board members to get a sense of their position on the issue.

Mr. Kali Blount, citizen, spoke of community anticipation concerning the vision Dr. Roberts' spoke of in his 100-Day Report. He also announced an upcoming meeting of the Black History Task Force and continuation of *The New Jim Crow* discussion-group meeting. He continued a history lesson.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda as described in items 1-10

Mrs. Roy commented on the following items:

- G.5 Monthly Financials (graphs were helpful)
- G.6. Budget Amendments, General Fund (good information on the contingency fund balances. Noted a reduction in the one-mill fund)
- G.7 Inventory Droppage Report (requested information on the furniture droppage on page 22.)

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

EMPLOYEE CASE NO. E-1415-03

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to refer the hearing to the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) to conduct a hearing by January 30, 2015.

Mrs. Roy was assured that the Board is not voting on termination of the employee.

The question was called.

Upon Vote: Motion passed 5-0

ANNUAL RENEWAL OF
THE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH DELL GRAHAM P.A.
LAW FIRM –
RATE INCREASE

Motion by Mrs. Griffin

Seconded by Mr. Hyatt

Moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the rate increases, as presented.

Motion by Dr. Paulson

Seconded by Mrs. Roy

Moved to amend the motion to change the requested attorney rate increase from \$185 per hour to \$175 per hour, and the paralegal rate from \$95 per hour to \$90 per hour.

Dr. Paulson expressed that he was pleased with the Dell Graham Law firm. The reasons he proposes this amendment, however, are current financial situations and the fact that if employees receive a raise it would not be so large a percentage increase.

Chairman McNealy also expressed appreciation to the Dell Graham firm. She understands Dr. Paulson's position, as well as the reasons that Dell Graham requests the increase. Comparing the costs of other firms, she feels the increase is appropriate.

Mrs. Roy expressed that she is very pleased with Mr. Delaney's service, but she feels Dr. Paulson's compromise is fair.

Dr. McNealy stated that she has supported hefty increases for teachers and ESPs and supports that now, but feels strongly that the Dell Graham request is deserved.

The question was called on the amendment to the motion.

Upon Vote:

Motion failed 2-3

Yes: Paulson

Roy

No: Griffin

Hyatt

McNealy

The question was called on the original motion.

Upon Vote:

Motion passed 3-2

Yes: Griffin

Hyatt

Lee

No: Paulson

Roy

CITIZEN INPUT

There was no citizen input.

BOARD MEMBER/
SUPERINTENDENT
REQUESTS

Mr. Hyatt thanked Mr. Dustin Adams and his staff for preparing a very extensive and thorough report on the Performing Arts program, which he had requested. He hopes to soon see a similar overview of the Visual Arts program.

Mrs. Roy requested a workshop/discussion on salaries for adult ed teachers. She commented that she hoped we are not trying to end this program and her thought was that it could be made part of the DES Workshop.

Dr. Roberts concurred with the idea of combining this with the DES Workshop.

Mrs. Roy requested an explanation on why there has been such a dramatic rise in staffing over the last year and stated that she does not recall the Board approving this, as was requested. She expressed concern about the effect on the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.