

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APPROVED WORKSHOP MINUTES

**Strategic Planning**

February 4, 2014

The School Board of Alachua County, Florida, met in workshop session duly called at 4 p.m. in the Kirby-Smith Boardroom, 620 E. University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Present were: Gunnar Paulson, Chairman; Leanetta McNealy, Vice-Chairman; April Griffin, and Carol Oyenarte, members; Interim Superintendent Hershel Lyons; and staff members. Eileen Roy was absent.

Mr. Everett Caudle, Director, Project Development, stated that this meeting will be a continuation of the January 21, 2014, Strategic Planning Workshop, which was adjourned at the conclusion of Goal 3, Outcome C. The plan for today's meeting is to review/update the remainder of the items for which Board members have provided recommendations.

**Goal 5 – To ensure that conditions of the District's infrastructure foster and promote environmental stewardship.**

Outcome D: The District will develop a comprehensive facilities plan that includes, but is not limited to, annual review of facility uses and projections for facility growth.

It was decided that Outcome D better fits under Goal 7 [To manage the District's financial resources in a productive and efficient manner] than under Goal 5.

**Goal 6 – To ensure conditions that prioritize family and community stakeholders' engagement and involvement in the educational process.**

Outcome A: The District will increase the number of adults mentoring students by 20%.

Discussion was held on Dr. Paulson's recommendation to add an Action Plan that calls for implementing a clearinghouse of mentors for students and to ensure mentors are utilized to the greatest extent possible.

Outcome C: The District will increase parent/guardian engagement in their student's education by 20%.

Discussion was held on Dr. Paulson's recommendation that the District encourage all schools to have a PTA or PTO and that the District support the organization of a countywide parent organization. His second recommendation was to explore additional ways to engage parents.

**Goal 7 – To manage the District's financial resources in a productive and efficient manner**

After discussion of Mrs. Roy's recommendation to add an Action Plan to convene a committee to discuss potentially controversial budget issues, the consensus was that the newly formed District Advisory Council will serve in such cases (pending Mrs. Roy's approval).

Outcome D - A word was added to Action Step 4: *Post, update and monitor school capacity information.*

Outcome F (add): The District budget will be presented to the Board with expenditures not exceeding projected revenue (not including reserves), as recommended by Dr. Paulson. Assistant Superintendent Scott Ward pointed out a situation where this Outcome might prevent a needed budget method from being implemented. Dr. Paulson noted that the Strategic Plan is not a Policy.

Action Plans for Outcome F were recommended by Dr. Paulson, including **1)** A preliminary budget will be presented to the Board no later than April 15, with expected expenditures not exceeding projected revenues. If revenues do not exceed expenditures, a proposed, prioritized list of items that may be eliminated will be presented, based on the best information available at that time. **2)** A monthly comparison of expenditures to budgeted expenditures will be presented to the Board, as well as a comparison of the same item from the previous fiscal year.

Extensive discussion was spent on the preliminary budget, monthly comparison of expenditures and the requested prioritization list.

Specific wording of Action Plans was discussed for each Goal. Mr. Caudle will make the additions/changes, in accordance with that discussion. An updated *Goals and Action Steps* document will be provided to the Board prior to the beginning of the Superintendent Search interviews. Going forward, Mr. Caudle suggested that a status report be provided to the Board annually. Dr. McNealy stated that she wants to be sure there is Board involvement.

Thanks were extended to the staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.