

MUSCOGEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1999, 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, December 13, 1999, 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

The following members were present: Mary Sue Polleys, Chairman, James Walker, Vice Chairman, David E. Ebron, Philip Schley, Linda Parker, Fife Whiteside, John Wells, Barbara Pierce and Brenda Storey.

Others present: Guy W. Sims, Superintendent of Education, James E. Humes, II, Legal Counsel, Fred M. Jones, Treasurer, Brenda Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Bill Hortman, Associate Superintendent, Gordon Stallings, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant and representatives from the media.

A musical tribute was performed by Daniel Middle School Chorus, directed by Sue Ellen Williams and Fort Middle School String Ensemble, directed by Carol Rulli. Mrs. Polleys called the meeting to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag, which was led by students from Reese Road Elementary School with the Principal, Mrs. Jeanella Pendleton.

Mrs. Polleys recognized visitors in the audience, Owen Ditchfield of Citizens of Southeast Columbus who introduced the new president, Kenneth Railey. Also, Doris Halouska, League of Women Voters and Friends of the Library.

For special recognitions Mrs. Polleys called on Mr. Sims who introduced Louis Pryor representing State Farm Good Neighbor Award which was won by Mrs. Gale Chance a teacher at Cusseta Road Elementary. Dr. Vander Gheynst recognized Edgewood Elementary (6th year), Blanchard Elementary (2nd year), Eastway Elementary (2nd year), Marshall Middle, (one of two middle schools in Muscogee County), Reese Road Elementary (1st year), Rigdon Road Elementary (1st year), South Columbus Elementary (1st year) receiving Pay for Performance awards. Mrs. Dozier introduced Mr. Obleton, Principal, Coach Flowers and the Shaw High football team who had a winning season and Coach Randy Whitt with the Columbus High cross-country track team who won the state championship.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting on November 15.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved Ann McDuffie for the position of Principal at New Elementary School No.4 and will remain at Edgewood Elementary until the new school opens in the fall of 2000.

Mr. Humes noted that the policy on "Naming New Facilities" was unanimously voted on at the November 15th Board meeting and that the Board had recommended the names for three new schools and it is time to vote on the naming of the three new schools.

BOARD MINUTES – DECEMBER 13, 1999 – PAGE 2

According to the new policy on “Naming New Facilities”, Mrs. Parker amended the motion from the last Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, to approve the official name for New Middle School No. 4 as “East Columbus Magnet Academy”. The vote was unanimous. Mrs. Pierce amended the motion from the last Board meeting, seconded by Mrs. Parker, to approve the official name for New Elementary School No. 3 as “Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary”. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) abstaining. Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved the official name of the Daniel Replacement Facility as “Double Churches Middle” and that the next new middle school would carry the name, “Daniel Middle School”. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing.

Upon motion of Mrs. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the target dates for the new library. A change was made to change the May 2000 program specifications report date to June, 2000 and that each report would be at the regular Board meeting for that month.

Mrs. Polleys directed the Board to the first addendum item. Mrs. Pierce made the motion, seconded by Mr. Walker, to approve a resolution authorizing Jim Humes to draw up an Inter Governmental agreement between the School Board and City Council to build and operate the new library. The Board wanted some time to review the resolution and would make a decision at the end of this meeting.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a request from Columbus High School for the wrestling team to travel to Albany, Georgia for a tournament on December 17th and 18th.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for four months ending October 31, 1999.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a contract in the estimated amount of \$26,000.00 to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for proposed consulting services regarding 403(b) compliance.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved draft legislation regarding raising the statutory “bid limit” for the school district.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a contract to Wright Associates, Inc. and budget in the total amount of \$2,373,319.00.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a contract and budget in the total amount of \$186,111.00 for the early site package at Allen Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the plans and specifications for construction at Forrest Road Elementary as prepared by Alex Griggs, Architect.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved two emergency purchase orders to Tennant in the amount of \$2,863.81 each for automatic scrubbers at Winterfield and Middle School #3.

Mr. Wells made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ebron, to approve a contract and budget in the amount of \$2,409,209.00 for a new gym at Jordan High. Mr. Wells commented that he would like to make a substitute motion that would add back \$354,542.00 that was deleted from the architects specifications for storage and have the bid proceed as it was originally written. Mr. Ebron seconded the substitute motion. After some discussion, Mr. Wells withdrew his substitute motion. The Board unanimously approved the original motion as printed in the agenda.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved a confirmation purchase order in the amount of \$11,500.00 to JRB, Inc. for reconstruction of the Environmental Learning Center at Dimon Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the structured cabling, wan, servers, telecommunication and maintenance services.

The Board then unanimously voted on the resolution on the time line for Mr. Humes to draw up the inter governmental agreement between the School Board and City Council to build and operate the new library.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the request to delay the opening of the New Baker Middle School for students to January 4th.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Parker, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items:

- Approved Personnel Report (Appendix A)
- Approved Shaw band students to travel to Myrtle Beach o May 4-7, 2000.
- Approved Hardaway band students to travel to Savannah, Georgia, January 27, 2000.
- Approved Hannan students to travel to Disney World May 21-26, 2000.
- Approved new budget FY2000 budget for COPS Grant in the amount of \$94,597.00.
- Approved new budget Title VI (Innovative Strategies) funds \$260,258.00.
- Approved new budget Title VI (Class Reduction) funds \$914,087.00.
- Approved new budget Eisenhower (Title II) funds \$200,832.00.
- Approved new budget contract extension for TANF increase of \$2,097.00.
- Approved new budget Pay for Performance, Eastway(\$68,640.00); Edgewood(\$60,840.00) and Marshall(\$84,240.00).

BOARD MINUTES – DECEMBER 13, 1999 – PAGE 4

- Approved budget adjustment Title I with additional funds from FY99 carryover; \$7,581,128.00.
- Approved budget adjustment custodial supplies for Downtown Elementary; \$1,000.00.
- Approved purchase order Dell Computer for server at Eastway Elementary; \$2,765.00.
- Approved purchase order 3Com Corporation, \$22,571.00 for cabling at Richards Middle.
- Approved purchase order to Sandy Hortman, consultant, and \$30,061.00 for services with COPS Grant.
- Approved Workers' Compensation Settlement for a classified employee.
- Approved financial assistance grants totaling \$1,579.50.

Mrs. Polleys asked that Mr. Pete Robinson give the Board a report from the Project Development Committee. Mr. Robinson said that everything is on target and the committee is moving in a positive way.

Mrs. Polleys reminded the Board of the workshop scheduled for January 8th and a meeting with City Council who will give the Board a proclamation for the 50th Anniversary of the Muscogee County School District.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved to change the January Board meeting because of the Martin Luther King holiday to Tuesday, January 18, 2000.

Mr. Whiteside reminded the Board of the upcoming term of the Georgia Legislature and the need for a lobbyist for the Muscogee County School District to be on the floor on a daily basis. Mr. Whiteside asked if this could be discussed at the upcoming workshop. Mr. Wells asked if the Administration would look at that issue and bring the Board some options on cost and time. Mr. Ebron commented that it would be wise to use GSBA in this endeavor because there will be an impact if the Governor proceeds as he has suggested. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Sims bring back with some specifics on some lobbyist help.

Mr. Caggins reminded the Board regarding the two new schools that would be moved in over the holidays and would be opened in January, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary and the New Baker Middle School. Also, the heating system at Columbus High School has a pervasive heating problem and the initial estimate for repair is about \$85,000.00 that would be done during the holidays.

Upon motion Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session for a student discipline appeal. Mr. Wells amended the motion, seconded by Mr. Walker to include a legal and property matter in the executive session.