

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 17, 2000, 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, July 17, 2000, 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 T. Schley, Linda Parker, Fife Whiteside, John Wells, Barbara Pierce, and Brenda Storey.

Others present: James E. Humes, II, Legal Counsel, Fred M. Jones, Treasurer, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Bill Hortman, Associate Superintendent, and representatives from the media. Mrs. Polleys called the meeting to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mrs. Polleys then recognized visitors in the audience; PTA representatives, Owen Ditchfield representing the South Columbus Concerned Citizens and Muscogee Education Excellence Foundation; Mr. & Mrs. Halouska representing Friends of the Libraries and League of Women Voters.

Mrs. Polleys called on Carol VanderGheynst who announced the schools receiving Pay for Performance and introduced their principals: Arnold, Columbus High, Double Churches, Georgetown, Reese Road and Edgewood. Mrs. Polleys called on Mr. Caggins to give the Board a report on the opening of schools. Mr. Caggins informed the Board of a delay in the opening of two schools; East Columbus Magnet, a new middle school will begin two weeks late on September 5th and Marshall Middle, with renovations being made will begin one week late on August 28th. Mr. Sims said that safety is the overriding reason for this because he did not want to do anything that would put the faculty and students at risk.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education Meeting on June 19, 2000.

Mrs. Polleys stated that the agenda would be altered slightly to hear a report from the Library Project Development Committee. Mr. Wells said that the Committee met today and heard rationale through a presentation from the bids and purchasing department of the City as to how they had come up with a list of architects thus far. Mr. Wells stated that there were nine architects and the top three have been chosen to bring a presentation to the Board of Education. Mr. Wells stated that the Board has the ultimate deciding role. Mr. Wells made a motion from the Library Project Development Committee, seconded by Mrs. Pierce to affirm the top three architectural firms to make a presentation to the Board. Kay Love from the City Manager's office explained that an RFQ is sent out to determine which firms qualify and based upon that a full package for the RFP is sent to that firm and the firms are scored. Mr. Whiteside asked how the scores were determined. Ms. Love stated that the scores are from the RFQ evaluations. Mr. Whiteside asked if the evaluations were made by the sub-committee in executive session. Ms. Love said the decision was made by the sub-committee with the meeting not open to the public. Mr. Whiteside asked if the School Board and full Library Project Committee would meet in executive session? Mr. Wells said that the presentations by the firms would be made in executive session with the School Board and Library Project Committee. Mr. Wells said that the Committee would then make a recommendation from the three firms to the full Board. Mr. Whiteside asked if Mr. Humes or Mr. Jones would comment on the procedure for RFQ'S. Mr. Whiteside said he wasn't sure if there could be an executive session under these circumstances and his concern is comprising the right of the public to know. Mr. Jones said that Ms. Love is correct, this process is done with an administrative committee of MCSD. Mr. Jones said, the decision of what firm to use is by way of a rating procedure and ultimately make a recommendation to the Board and the particulars of proposals are not made public until they have been ratified by the governing body so typically this is all done internally and then a recommendation is made to the Board who will vote. Mr. Whiteside said his concern was having the interviews in executive session and asked for comments from Counsel. Mr. Humes commented that if a group is included such as city council among a screening committee or a group that is not elected by the citizens such as the school board or Kay Love and her group then the issue of statutory purposes for going into executive session would be involved and a vote would need to be taken. Mr. Humes said that a meeting including a public group such as city council or the school board in these meetings would change the group from a rating group into a meeting of a public board therefore, it could not be termed a private or executive session. Mr. Humes said that since he is unclear on how the meeting will be carried out, he would speak with Ms. Love and clarify what the case will be. Mr. Whiteside made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Storey to table the item. Mr. Whiteside seconded by Mrs. Storey withdrew his motion to table. Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Pierce withdrew his motion. It was the consensus of the Board that approval from the Board is not needed and the City will issue invitations to the three architectural firms and the Board would be informed.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Pierce, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mrs. Ada Bell for the position of Assistant Principal at Eddy Middle School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Anthony Jordan to the position of Assistant Principal at Midland Middle School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved Ms. Karen Higgins to the position of Supervisor of Information and Technology Center.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Pierce, the Board unanimously approved a new policy regarding School Councils (BBF).

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved a new policy regarding Nepotism by Local Board of Education (BHA). This policy dictates that Board members would not vote on immediate family members hired by Muscogee County School District.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board approved the hiring of Philip Schley, son of Board member Dr. Schley as a math teacher at Columbus High. Mrs. Polleys stated that this item is on the consent agenda. The vote was (7) affirming and (2) abstaining, Dr. Schley and Mrs. Pierce.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved a new policy regarding Student Transportation Management-Communication Equipment on School Buses (ED).

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved a new policy regarding Finger Printing/Records Check (CGD).

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a new policy Hiring: Finger Printing/Records Check (GBD).

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved a new policy Alternative Education Programs (IDDM).

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved a new policy Equity in Sports (IDFA).

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved revision to policy (JBA) Mandatory Attendance Age.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved a new policy Mandatory Attendance at Alternative School Programs (JBA-A).

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved a new policy Chronic Disciplinary Student (JDD).

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board approved a new policy Suspension (Expulsion) for Violent Acts (JDE). Mr. Whiteside noted that the new law seems to impose a limit on the Board's power to suspend. Dr. Schley commented that if violence occurs against a teacher, then it should be the policy of Muscogee County School District that permanent expulsion would be the next step. Mr. Wells asked that a letter be written to legislators objecting to the language in this law. Mr. Whiteside noted that this law is not a part of H.B. 1187 and it would be good to include this item on the next legislative agenda. Mr. Whiteside said the primary supporter of this legislation was the lieutenant governor who believes there are school districts in Georgia where there are children who attack teachers and do not get punished so, it was intended to create a floor as to what a school district could do. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, Mr. Wells. The policy will lie on the table for (30) days.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved a new policy Pre-Enrollment of Two-Year Olds (JGCB). Mr. Walker asked how and when would this process take place. Mr. Sims commented that this would be a part of regular registration during the spring when pre-kindergarten and kindergarten registration. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, Mr. Wells. The policy will lie on the table (30) days.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board approved a new policy School Health Nurse Program (JGC). Mr. Whiteside asked Mr. Sims if there was a proposal as to how this program would be implemented? Mr. Sims commented that at the next committee meeting he would have a recommendation. Mr. Wells asked how much funding is available for this program? Mr. Walker asked would this mean one nurse per school? Mr. Jones said there is \$633,000 allotted and this is for nursing services. Mrs. Pierce asked if this would mean that the nursing services would include administering medication to students? Mr. Ebron said that he has been meeting with the ADHD Committee and the conclusion is that this is not the responsibility of the school system. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, Mr. Wells. The policy will lie on the table for (30) days.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the revision of the policy Teacher Evaluations (GBI).

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Pierce, the Board unanimously approved the revision of the policy Teacher Separation (Tenure) (GBN) and this would eliminate teacher tenure. Mr. Sims commented that any employee under contract this past year is exempt from the policy, this policy includes any new employees from July 1, 2000 on. Mrs. Polleys stated that this is with the exception of those administrative positions that have been changed and eliminated.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for eleven months ending May 31, 2000.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved items T through DD as one motion:

- T. Change order #3 for the construction of Jordan High School Gym.
- U. Change order #11 for new elementary school #4 (Midland Academy).
- V. Change order #2 for St. Marys Elementary, additions, modifications and renovations.
- W. Change order #3 for St. Marys Elementary, additions, renovations and modifications.
- X. Change order #3 for Double Churches Elementary, additions and renovations.
- Y. Change order #3 for Eddy Middle, additions, renovations and modifications.
- Z. Change order #5 for new elementary school #2 (Fox/Bibb replacement facility).
- AA. Change order #12 for new Double Churches Middle School.
- BB. Change order #4 for East Columbus Magnet Academy.
- CC. Change order #5 for East Columbus Magnet Academy.
- DD. Plans for construction, additions, renovations at Wesley Heights Elementary.

Mr. Wells commented that at the recommendation of the Finance Committee, he makes a motion, to approve the designation of a Muscogee County School District liaison officer to work with the City of Columbus on matters dealing with the use of facilities or properties, it was seconded by Mrs. Storey. Mr. Wells added that he has a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Ebron that the Board approve a resolution that would require the Superintendent to bring back to the Board a written agreement that would establish a contract with any other government entity as outlined in the protocol. Mr. Humes commented that he would suggest two changes those in paragraphs #5 and #7 of the protocol should read, "superintendent" instead of ASBA or designee and item #9 should include a statement, "school board members are not employees of the school district for the purpose of this protocol". Mrs. Polleys re-stated the substitute motion in that, "the superintendent will secure a written agreement establishing a contract between Muscogee County School District and another government entity". Mr. Wells withdrew his substitute motion. The Board voted on the original motion to approve the designation of the Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs as the school district liaison officer to work with the City of Columbus on all matters dealing with the use of facilities or properties. The vote was (7) affirming and (2) opposing, Ebron and Wells.

The Administration gave a visual presentation on construction of athletic fields at various new middle schools, existing middle schools where construction has occurred and reviewed the roof management plan and the HVAC management plan.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved a budget for improvements to athletic fields at various new middle schools and existing middle schools where construction is under way with these improvements not exceeding \$105,000.00 from the FY01 Capital Projects Fund Budget. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, Whiteside.

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

- Approved Personnel Report. (Appendix A).
- New budget for S.C.O.R.E.S. Grant at Carver High School.
- New budget for Adult Education; Federal(\$408,947.00), State(\$387,760.00) and Local(\$151,154.00).
- New budget for JTPA Summer Youth Grant (\$35,103.00).
- New budgets for exploratory vocational programs; Baker Middle(\$120,000.00); East Columbus Magnet Academy(\$120,000.00) and Double Churches Middle(\$120,000.00).
- Safe & Drug Free Schools budget; FY01 (\$139,230.00).
- 21st Century Learning Centers; FY01 (\$514,215.00).
- Pre-Kindergarten budget in the amount of \$2,597,316.00.
- Juvenile Justice Mentoring FY01 budget in the amount of \$52,583.00.
- Even Start FY01 budget in the amount of \$244,948.00.
- Budget adjustment; River Road; \$20,128.64, donation from PTA for computers.
- Budget adjustment over \$25,000.00 for FY00 Title VI-B Flow-Through.
- Budget adjustment with reduction in funds for Adult Education.
- Budget adjustment with additional funds for PEC students, FY00 Rule 10 budget, relations with other agencies.
- Approved low bid vendor to supply computer stock paper for FY01 for Systems and Data Processing.
- Approved purchase orders for software maintenance/lease for Systems and Data Processing; Computer Associates, \$16,248.00; BMC Software, \$3,040.00; Novell Corporation, \$66,175.93.
- Approved new budget FY01 Elementary Magnet Academy.
- Approved budget adjustment over \$25,000 for Plant Services Department.
- Approved budget adjustment over \$25,000 for Elementary Education/Middle Schools.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session to hear a student discipline appeal.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board voted unanimously to come out of executive session.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the regular July Board meeting.



James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel