

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
CALLED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2000

MINUTES

A called meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, April 10, 2000 in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

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

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, Gordon Stallings, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Tom Walters, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, Bill Hortman, Associate Superintendent, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and representatives from the media.

Mrs. Polleys called the meeting to order with an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mrs. Polleys stated that the purpose of the meeting was to re-elect professional employees, hear a student discipline appeal, discuss a property matter and a personnel matter.

Mrs. Polleys informed the Board that the first item of business was a draft resolution and then the Board would go into executive session and come out of executive session to vote on the re-election of professional employees.

Mrs. Polleys called on Mr. Whiteside or Mr. Wells to comment on the draft resolution to the Consolidated Government of Columbus regarding property on the northern portion of Lake Bottom Park that has been traditionally accessible to Columbus High School for athletic purposes. Mr. Wells informed the Board that he was concerned that the City plans to abolish the use of the track and practice field located at the northern end of Lake Bottom by Columbus High School. Mr. Wells said that it has always been assumed that this would be used as Columbus High Schools' primary facility for track and field, football, ROTC, tennis, P.E. classes, field trips and band program. Mr. Wells said that the reason behind the resolution was to respectfully ask City Council to re-instate the park so that the marching band and other programs could have access. It was the consensus of the Board to include in the resolution the wording that, to abolish the use of this piece of property would effect programs such as track and field, football, ROTC, tennis, P.E. classes, field trips and the band program. Mrs. Parker asked if anyone has spoken to City Council. Mr. Ebron commented that it could have been an oversight to exclude this from the project of the City and suggested that someone speak with the city officials. Mr. Sims commented that he spoke with City officials and it was a deliberate decision to take this item out of the project not to hurt Muscogee County School District but because of the cost of construction which had exceeded the projected cost of the project. Mr. Wells recommended that Mrs. Polleys and Mr. Walker go and speak with City officials and discuss this matter.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved the resolution to the Consolidated Government of Columbus subject to editorial changes. It was the consensus of the Board that the resolution be made available to City Officials in the morning for consideration at their meeting. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved two purchase orders to Scott Equipment Company for student lockers at Double Churches Middle (\$74,507.00) and East Columbus Magnet Academy (\$74,507.00).

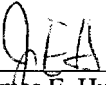
Mrs. Polleys asked for a motion to go into executive session after which the Board will come out of executive session and vote on the re-election of professional employees for the 2000-2001 school term.

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

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to re-elect those professional employees as presented subject to discussion of executive session.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the called meeting of the Board.



James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Muscogee County School District, herein "MCSD", (and its predecessors) have operated Columbus High School at 1700 Cherokee Avenue since 1926;

WHEREAS, Columbus High School has used the northern most portion of Lake Bottom Park, which is owned by the Consolidated Government of Columbus, herein "CCC", (and its predecessors), as athletic facilities since 1926;

WHEREAS, that Columbus High School had access to Lake Bottom Park for athletic purposes as a tradition which extended over history from the construction of the current Columbus High facility and to the construction of Lake Bottom park facility, and that relationship has been mutually cooperative with Columbus High having full access to the park for athletic purposes and with Columbus High from time to time assisting in the maintenance of the property, which relationship was one which operated as a mutual understanding without need for formal documentation;

WHEREAS, in 1926 when Columbus High School was constructed in conjunction with the Lake Bottom Park area.

WHEREAS, the Columbus High School has used the Lake Bottom Park as its primary practice and playground facility for its' ROTC, Marching Band, Football Teams, Tennis Teams, Cross Country Track, Field Trips and Physical Education outdoor class.

WHEREAS, for several years CCC has contemplated an expansion, renovation and upgrade of Lake Bottom park, generally, and specifically, the facilities located on the north end of the park;

WHEREAS, plans or architectural renditions have existed for several years which showed the inclusion of an athletic track on the north end of Lake Bottom Park;

WHEREAS, these plans (which included the track) were used as part of the political promotion for the passage of the recent one cent sales tax renewal which was to finance the renovation, expansion and upgrade of Lake Bottom park;

WHEREAS, without any timely discussion or conference with the MCSD or its superintendent, and without prior notice to the public, the CCC made a decision to delete the athletic track from the renovation project, and has now let contracts which do not include the track;

WHEREAS, the plans, as approved by the council of the CCC, will eliminate one of two practice fields which Columbus High School has used for football and band practice, and the CCC has failed to give or to make available a substitute practice field, although property does exist which could be used for an additional practice field, at little or no substantial costs to CCC or MCSD;

WHEREAS, the track facility located on the north end of Lake Bottom park as well as such substitute, additional practice field as might be installed on either the north end or the south end of Lake Bottom Park, are used generally by the public or not exclusively by MCSD and are therefore not such that MCSD should bear the responsibility of locating property and building for use by Columbus High;

WHEREAS, the loss of the athletic track and the second additional practice field, singularly and taken in conjunction with each other, will have a devastating effect on the Columbus High track and field program, football program, ROTC, tennis program, PE classes, field trips and band program;

WHEREAS, the MCSD desired to continue its cooperative joint use of MCSD schools including cafeteriums, playgrounds and after school programs that they are beneficial to all citizens of Columbus, Georgia.

WHEREAS, MCSD is very concerned at the lack of communications between council of the CCC and the board of MCSD on such crucial decisions as affect in such a direct way approximately one-seventh of the entire high school student body for the city, and the public generally.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED as follows:

1. MCSD, through its board, respectfully requests the CCC, through its council, to reinstate the plans to construct the athletic track on the north end of Lake Bottom park, which it may do by an additive change order to contracts that have already been let on that property;
2. that MCSD, through its board, respectfully requests the CCC, through its council, to direct its director of Parks and Recreation to make reasonable accommodations at the same location to MCSD for an additional practice field to replace one of two that is being lost as part of the renovation, expansion and upgrade of Lake Bottom park;
3. that MCSD, through its board, respectfully requests the CCC, through its council, to take steps to insure that changes in its sales tax projects, and those which were represented to the voters at the time of the campaign process, be effectively communicated to the MCSD, through its board, where those changes would materially affect educational programs maintained by MCSD;
4. that MCSD, through its board, directs the MCSD administration, to negotiate a written agreement with CCC for use of the Lake Bottom Park facilities.

DO DONE, this 10th day of April, 2000.


MARY SUE POLLEYS, Chairman
Muscogee County Board of Education

VOTING:

MARY SUE POLLEYS	<u>Yes</u>	JOHN WELLS	<u>Yes</u>
JAMES WALKER	<u>Yes</u>	DAVID E. EBRON	<u>Yes</u>
LINDA PARKER	<u>No</u>	BARBARA M. PIERCE	<u>Yes</u>
PHILIP T. SCHLEY	<u>Yes</u>	BRENDA P. STOREY	<u>Yes</u>
FIFE M. WHITESIDE	<u>Yes</u>		