

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA
FEBRUARY 20, 2001

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2001, 6:30 p.m. in the conference at the Bradley Library.

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

Others present: James E. Humes, II, Legal Counsel, Fred M. Jones, Treasurer, Billy Kendall, Assistant to Superintendent, Brenda Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Gordon Stallings, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Tom Walters, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Bill Hortman, Associate Superintendent and representatives from the media.

Dr. Polleys called the meeting to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag led by the Student Council at Clubview Elementary School. Dr. Polleys also recognized two students from Clubview who won first and second place in the math decathlon. Dr. Polleys recognized visitors such as those representing Leadership Columbus, and PTA representatives.

Dr. Polleys recognized Mr. Walker, Board vice chairman as being appointed to GSBA Board of Directors. Mr. Sims introduced Dr. Tina Cross who has been selected as one of the Presidential Award recipients. Dr. Polleys introduced Mike Edmondson, a teacher at Hardaway high School and students who won the overall quiz at the Academic Decathlon and will be competing at the state level. Dr. Polleys introduced students from Carver Service Learning Team who performed for the Board. The following people spoke to the Board on the public forum: Mr. Tra Hitt regarding the application by Premier Academy as a charter school; Bonnie Davidson, a speech pathologist employed by the school district who spoke concerning Medicaid reimbursement; Edith Jackson a parent presented a proposal concerning safety at the schools.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting on January 16, 2001 with changes/attached comments as indicated by Mr. Whiteside and official actions taken at a called meeting on January 23, 2001.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved Mr. James Tanksley for the position of Assistant Director in Plant Services.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved school calendars for the 2001-2002 school year and a year-round school calendar.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the use of Kinnett Stadium by New Horizons on May 5, 2001 for the "Celebration Walk" to promote community awareness of behavioral health care. Mr. Sims noted that because of a private donation from a citizen there will be no cost to the school district or New Horizons.

Mr. Whiteside asked that the policy regarding the use of school facilities be brought back to the Board with a concentration on revisions regarding the language on cost for use of facilities.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the use of Kinnett Stadium by the American Cancer Society on May 18,19,20, 2001 for their "Relay for Life" event. Mr. Sims said the same citizen donation arrangement has been made and there will be no cost to the school district or the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Wells commented on a newspaper article that suggested putting Katie the cow at Kinnett Stadium expressing that this would not be a good location. Mr. Whiteside asked that the policy regarding use of school facilities be brought back to the Board at the next Personnel/Policy committee meeting in order to discuss the language on the cost for use of school facilities.

Mrs. Parker made a motion to televise Board meetings as soon as the Superintendent can get information regarding the cost, Mr. Ebron seconded the motion. Mr. Whiteside offered a priority motion to table the item until a date certain so that this item can go through the regular committee process and there can be discussion, Mrs. Storey seconded the priority motion. Mr. Ditchfield commented that he preferred waiting until the March committee meetings because the item may have a better chance of passing. Mr. Ebron commented that he is interested in the cost once the Superintendent comes up with some figures. Mrs. Parker commented that her concern is that the issue has been brought up for three years or so and that it is time to confront the issue. Mr. Wells said the cost would be a determining factor for him. The vote on the priority motion was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, Mrs. Parker.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation for Mr. Sims, Dr. Polleys, Mr. Jones and Mr. Humes to meet with and finalize the agreement between the Library Donor and the Chattahoochee Valley Community Foundation. Mr. Whiteside asked if this item would be presented to the Board again. Mr. Ebron commented that it does not have to be presented to the Board again because the Board has previously agreed that this group should negotiate through this meeting and bring back a report to the Board.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the concept of a semi-autonomous library board and asked that Board members review the existing Museum agreement for the purpose of identifying responsibilities that they would like to assign to a semi-autonomous library board. Mr. Humes will then draft a resolution to incorporate these recommendations from the Board.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved a phase in of a millage increase for the library. The increase will be set in (3) years at 1.50. Mr. Whiteside offered a substitute motion, seconded by Dr. Schley to adopt a dedicated millage but without the phase in at the rate of 1.50 mill allotment within the next budget year. The substitute motion failed with a vote of (8) opposing and (1) affirming, Mr. Whiteside. The vote on the main motion was (6) affirming and (3) opposing, Mr. Wells, Mrs. Storey and Mr. Whiteside.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mrs. Parker, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Robert A.M. Stern Architects for design services on the new main library building contingent upon item 6.3 being resolved.

Mr. Ebron asked that the members of the Lindsey Creek Association be notified when the Library Committee and the Project Development Committee meets so that they can attend.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved the policy on the establishment of Charter Schools with the inclusion of item #20, which is an addition made by Mr. Humes. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, Mrs. Parker.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mrs. Parker, the Board unanimously approved Phase II of the Middle School Lab Project completing the installation of student productivity labs at every high school and middle school in the district. The Finance Committee also approved this item.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved plans for elementary, middle, and high school summer school. Mr. Ebron asked if there were any provisions for those students who can't afford summer school. Mr. Sims said that the only ones that the school district could help would be high school students who would be involved in the work study program. Mr. Ebron said that maybe there could be donors.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the adoption of Technology/Career Education, Local Curriculum Management Guides and State Business Management Information Technology Curriculum Guide.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Parker, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Alternative General Contractors in the amount of \$2,045,000.00 for construction at Georgetown Elementary and approved the budget in the amount of \$2,412,291.00.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Interstate Transportation for the purchase of (6) special education buses with tinted windows and air conditioning and (11) regular buses (four with a/c and tinted windows) for the 2001-2002 school year.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for five months ending November 30, 2000.

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

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Medley Hotel & Restaurant Supply in the amount of \$33,404.58 for a walk-in freezer at St. Mary's Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved as one motion change order no. 9 in the amount of \$519.40 to be added to the original contract for construction at Reese Road Elementary and change order no. 2 in the amount of \$1,041.98 for construction at Allen Elementary.

Mr. Wells made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Storey to approve the implementation of a Medicaid billing provider to secure Medicaid reimbursements. A Georgia School Based Medicaid Clearinghouse is recommended to assist the school district with Medicaid billing. Mrs. Storey made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield to delay this item regarding Medicaid reimbursements for one month until the next Board meeting. The vote on the substitute motion was (8) affirming and (1) abstaining, Mr. Whiteside.

Dr. Polleys asked Mr. Wells to continue with the one item on an addendum. Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the request from David Rothschild for the transfer of \$5,000 from the Aleen and Irwin B. Rothschild Scholarship Fund to the Muscogee Education Excellence Foundation to be used for teacher mini-grants.

Mr. Humes gave the Board a report on the inter-governmental agreement on the north site property. Mr. Humes stated that the Mayor had executed the contract that the Board had resolved in January. Mr. Humes said the Board had a concern regarding exhibit E; the joint use agreement of the north site involving the City and the School District. Mr. Humes said that he drafted up a substitute joint use agreement, which the city accepted. Mr. Humes said consideration was given to the concerns of the Board in regards to specifying the purchase price of the 6-acres that the city is going to buy from the School District at \$47,147.00; the joint use agreement that pertained to off-site involvement such as the Midland Middle athletic field was taken out and the City accepted this change. The main concern was the third party use of the facility, which was a little non-specific. The draft includes wording that said if a third party wanted to use the facility, they would have to follow the School District's policies and whatever procedures the City has for third party use would be up to them. Dr. Polleys asked if there were any questions by Board members. There were none.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda with the exception of items C-3, D, and G-6, 8:

- Personnel Report (Appendix A)
- Awarded contract to various vendors for food and supplies in the School Nutrition Program.
- Awarded contract to Tranquility Solutions, Inc., \$163,144.00 for computerized IEP and Student Information System for classroom teachers.
- Awarded contact to Phenix Mechanical Contractors, Inc., \$29,662.50 for cooling tower at Columbus Museum.

- Purchase order to Bill Heard Chevrolet, \$14,086.00 for a service truck in bus shop.
- Purchase order to York International, \$18,190.00 for HVAC at Plant Services.
- Midland Middle School PTA project to install school sign and build brick plaza.
- Workers' Compensation settlement for three classified employees.
- New budget Nature/trail outdoor classroom at Dawson Elementary, \$10,000.
- New budget Mentoring Project Grant; Britt David, \$20,000.
- New budget TANF Contract for Adult Education \$75,630.00.
- New budget PIAG Educational Foundation Grant, \$5,000 for Graphic Arts Program at Kendrick.
- New budget for donations from Rothschild Trust Funds to purchase books and enhance cultural arts program at Rothschild Middle.
- New budget for TAPP, \$28,000 from Local Assistance Grant.
- Budget adjustment for additional funds from FY00 Title VI-B carryover and FY01 Title VI-B additional allocation of funds for GLRS.
- Budget adjustment over \$25,000 for Plant Services Department.
- Financial Assistance total grant of \$4,432.62

Mr. Walker wanted to know what the purpose of an energy upgrade for Downtown Elementary. Mr. Caggins stated that this would improve and control energy costs for the school, which has never been there. Mr. Wells asked where the funding would come from. Mr. Caggins the amount has been budgeted and 30% savings should be realized. Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved item C3, a purchase order to ALC Controls, Inc., \$63,816.00 for the upgrade energy management control at Downtown Elementary.

Mr. Whiteside commented that he wanted to publicly thank those in attendance for the efforts at Hardaway. Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved item D, a project to improve the campus at Hardaway High School. This is a project sponsored by the Hardaway High School PTA. Mrs. Storey commented that she would also like to thank Midland Middle School PTA for a similar project that was approved tonight.

Mr. Walker asked what the FY01 Rule 10 means. Mrs. Dozier commented that this budget provides services for students being served out at West Central Georgia Regional Hospital. Mr. Walker asked if the Safe and Drug Free Schools budget amount of \$13,250.00 would be used to establish a drug free office. Mrs. Dozier commented that an office already exists this would be used for prevention programs. Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved items G, and 8, the new budgets for FY01 Rule 10, Relations and Safe and Drug Free Schools.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session to hear (1) student discipline appeal.

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

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the regular February Board of Education meeting.



James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel