MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CALLED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
BRADLEY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2001, 5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A called meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, June 4, 2001 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, Linda Parker, Fife Whiteside, John Wells, Brenda Storey and Owen Ditchfield.

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

Mr. Walker commenced with the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mr. Walker stated that the purpose of the called meeting was to hold a public hearing on increase in property tax digest, a resolution setting a millage rate for FY02 and to adopt tentative budgets for the General Fund and Debt Service.

Mr. Walker asked if there was anyone in attendance that would like to speak regarding the increase in the property tax digest. There was no one that wanted to speak. Dr. Polleys arrived shortly afterwards.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a resolution setting the millage rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002. Mr. Jones stated that this will be the 12th consecutive year of no increase in the millage rate. Mr. Whiteside asked if Mr. Sims would comment on the 15th day of fund balance. Mr. Sims stated that at the end of this year 15 days of fund balance would be available and the Board had set a target at 14. Mr. Sims commented that the focus of the balanced budget was on instruction in the classroom and he is recommending a para-professional for every first grade teacher and asks that the Board approve that he take the 15th day of fund balance to provide one para-professional in every elementary school for the second grades. Mr. Sims commented that this will send a strong statement to teachers that we are trying to support them. Mrs. Storey commented that next year if funding is the same then the same problem will be faced next year. Mrs. Storey asked if ways and areas can be looked at now to reduce. Mr. Sims commented that he has spoken with teachers and they are aware that there is no guarantee that there will be any para-professionals in the next budget other than kindergarten unless the state funds additional para-professionals because next year classes will have to be reduced even more and this will require additional dollars. Mr. Ditchfield asked if this will provide a para-professional in every second grade class? Mr. Sims said no, this will only provide one para-professional in every school for second grade teachers to share. Mr. Wells commented that considering future budget cuts, it is prudent at this time that the superintendent make the recommendation to apply a para-professional back to a classroom and it would be good to write it into the final budget. Dr. Polleys stated that at her request a revised resolution would be signed to change some grammatical errors.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the adoption of tentative budgets for the General Fund and Debt Service with the understanding of applying the one day of fund balance toward second grade para-professionals.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the absence of Dr. Schley because of being out of the country.

Mr. Sims asked if the Board will consider an adjustment in the school calendar for the 2001-2002 school year to add Memorial Day and exclude (1) day of Christmas holidays. Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the revision to the 2001-2002 school calendar to include Memorial Day.

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

James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel