

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA
MAY 21, 2001 6:30 P.M., BRADLEY LIBRARY

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, May 21, 2001, 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, 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, Gordon Stallings, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Tom Walters, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, Bill Hortman, Associate Superintendent, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs and representatives from the media.

Dr. Polleys called the meeting to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag led by students from Dawson Elementary School. Dr. Polleys recognized visitors in the audience, Mr. and Mrs. Halouska representing the League of Women Voters and Friends of the Libraries, Command Sergeant Major Graham representing Colonel Torres who is the liaison at Fort Benning, and PTA representatives.

Dr. Polleys called on Mr. Sims who introduced the Muscogee County School District Teacher of the Year Mrs. Mary Moreland. Dr. Polleys recognized the following for recognitions and presentations: Teaching with Technology Awards, Georgia Humanities Council Teacher of Merit Award, State School Bell Award, Columbus Museum, Academic Success Center Presentation, Media Festival, National Art Competition, National History Day, State Science Fair, State Technology/Career Education, and Page One Award winners. Dr. Polleys called on Mary Beck Hercules who spoke regarding the elimination of para-professional positions.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting held on April 30, 2001 and a called meeting held on May 8, 2001.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Renee H. Mallory to the position of Principal at the New High School.

At this point Mr. Wells commented that since the new principal has been appointed he would like to recommend the name for the new high school as Northside High School. Dr. Polleys said it is noted that this is Mr. Wells recommended name for the new high school in accordance with Board policy regarding naming of facilities.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Joann Thomas-Brown to the position of Principal at Baker Middle School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. James Michael Hudson to the position of Principal at Double Churches Middle School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mrs. Cleo Griswold to the position of Principal at Eddy Middle School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mrs. Vanessa Biggers to the position of Principal at Marshall Middle School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Russell A. Curry to the position of Assistant Director of Transportation.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the Hay Group to conduct a seven phase study of the compensation structure of 1,500 classified employees. The project will cost approximately \$122,500. Mr. Ebron asked that the administration look at the issue of retirement for this group of employees to see how much additional funding would be needed. It was the consensus of the Board that the issue of employee retirement be researched by the administration.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the one-year plan and application for Vocational and Technical Education.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the Special Education Comprehensive Plan for FY02.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved three Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration grants for Brewer, Eddy and Marshall.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board approved for Hardaway High School to participate in the Channel One Program at no cost to the school district. The vote was (6) affirming and (2) opposing, (Mr. Wells and Mr. Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the Agriculture Education Grant in Technology/Career Education.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for nine months ending March 31, 2001.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously voted to table the item regarding the Employee Assistance Program.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the request from United Cities Gas Company for an easement at the corner of old Baker Middle School building.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the declaration of the Courtland Avenue property as surplus and available for sale. It was noted by Mrs. Parker that this property is zoned for residential. Mr. Whiteside asked Counsel if it is appropriate to dispose of property by means of a gift. Mr. Humes said that public property can't be given away and that he is with the understanding that this particular piece of property would be put out on bid. Mr. Whiteside commented that he asked this question for clarification to those residents in the area who inquired about the Board giving the property to them as a gift.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Parker, the Board unanimously awarded a contract in the amount of \$443,100.00 to A.T.F. Construction Company, low bidder for construction at Double Churches Elementary School and approved a budget in the total amount of \$1,254,665.00.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved change order no. 3 for \$339,952.20 and change order no. 4 for \$370,609.80 to be added to the original contract for early site construction package at North Site Project, and approved a budget adjustment to cover change order no. 4 for mass grading package at new high school. Mr. Wells noted that one is a city funded appropriation.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved change order no. 2 for \$63,183.42 for construction at Blanchard Elementary School.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the application for a QZAB bond program requesting \$1,000,000.00 to finance a construction academy at Jordan High School. Mr. Whiteside commented that he is with the understanding that this request is to only approve an application for the program and the approval of bonds would be presented at a later date to the Board. Mr. Walker commented that in the application it reads that no amount of interest would be paid for a certain amount of time and if it is not paid in that time what happens. Mr. Jones commented that with the QZAB program very low interest rates would be paid but the loan would be at a very low interest rate and possibly zero but for now it appears it would be a low interest rate at this point.

It was the consensus of the Board that at the next official meeting a vote would be taken on the proposed name of the Fox/Bibb replacement school as recommended by Dr. Schley, Highlands Academy. It was also the consensus of the Board to take action at the next official meeting on the proposed name of the new north Columbus high school as recommended by Mr. Wells, Northside High School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously excused Dr. Schley who is out of the country.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items with the exception of item B-3:

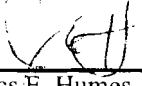
- Personnel Report (Appendix A)
- Contract awarded to Terminex International for pest control (\$55,020.00) and Knox Pest Control for spot treatment (\$240.00) per treatment.
- Contract awarded to Environmental partners for solid waste services (\$\$189,700.96); dumpsters (\$4,455.00). Waste Management of Alabama for compactor services (\$5,352.00).
- Contract awarded to Southeastern Facilities Services (\$53,430.72) for carpet cleaning.
- Contract awarded to Stevens Gymnasiums, Inc. (\$29,100.00) for refinishing gymnasium floors.
- New budget Title I Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Grants; Brewer (\$150,000); Eddy (\$165,000) and Marshall (\$150,000).
- New budget Baker Middle School (\$10,000) for school-wide discipline initiative.
- New budget Partners Improving Education Grants for seven schools at (\$1,000) each from Columbus State University.
- New budget Title VI (Innovative Strategies) carry-over funds.
- Budget adjustment for FY01 Title VI-B flow-through budget.

Mr. Wells commented on item B-3 relating to HVAC filter service. Mr. Wells said that a representative Charles Sanford from Con-Air Industries in Smyrna, Georgia wanted to speak to the Board. Mr. Wells said that this vendor had submitted a bid but failed to present the required security bid. Mr. Ebron commented that at the Finance Committee meeting it was established that they were not chosen because there was no bid surety. Mr. Sanford said that they did not submit the bid surety that is required with the contract. He said his company feels that it should not be required. Mr. Wells asked Mr. Askew if there was a viable security bid presented from this company. Mr. Wells asked Mr. Sanford if he had a security bid with him at this time. Mr. Sanford replied that the security bid has been applied for and approved but the hard copy has not been faxed to him but he could have it within 24 hours. Mr. Jones commented that this is not a technicality and he is not in favor of waiving the technicality and the bids should stand as they were received. Mr. Whiteside asked Mr. Sanford if he had a bid bond or a security bond that he can have faxed. Mr. Sanford said that he has both that are covered by the insurance company. Mr. Whiteside asked when this was done. Mr. Sanford said it has been a couple of weeks ago, it has only been verbally approved. Mr. Whiteside said that since Mr. Sanford does not have either of the bonds available at this time it is clear they were not available when the bids were received and the bids should stand as they were received. Mr. Ebron said that a commitment has been made since Mr. Sanford's company did not present the necessary information at the time of the bid. Mr. Sanford said that he had filed a request for the security. Mrs. Storey made the motion seconded by Mr. Ebron to award the contract to Kleen Air Research for HVAC filter service in the amount of \$120,283.30. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Wells made the motion seconded by Mr. Walker to go into executive session to hear one student discipline appeal. Mrs. Dozier informed the Board that the parent at this late date withdrew her appeal. Mr. Wells made the motion seconded by Mr. Walker to withdraw the motion to go into executive session. The vote was unanimous by the Board to withdraw the motion.

Mr. Whiteside commented that the item regarding the verification of the program for the library is not being omitted it was discussed at the construction committee and is not on the board agenda for tonight but will be on the June Board agenda.

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



James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel