

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CALLED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
BRADLEY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2002, 5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A called meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, June 3, 2002 in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

The following Board members were present: Linda Parker who presided over the called meeting, David E. Ebron, Owen Ditchfield, Philip T. Schley, Brenda Storey, and Fife Whiteside.

Others present: James E. Humes, II, Legal Counsel, Guy W. Sims, Superintendent of Education, Robert L. Bushong, Interim Superintendent of Education, Fred M. Jones, Treasurer, Brenda F. Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Gordon Stallings, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and representatives from the media.

Mrs. Parker called the meeting to order with the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag. Mrs. Parker stated that the purpose of the called meeting was to vote on a resolution setting the millage rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, and to adopt tentative budgets for the General Fund and Debt Service Fund for FY03 and take action on the local facilities plan.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the resolution setting the millage rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the tentative budgets for the General Fund and Debt Service Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003. Dr. Bushong commented that the budgets were drafted with the vision and mission statements of the Board in mind and directions given at the budget workshop.

Mrs. Parker asked that the item regarding the Local Facilities Plan be delayed until the next called meeting on Monday, June 10, so that all board members will be present. Mr. Whiteside asked for comments from counsel in regards to the deadline that the State Department of Education would need the plan. Dr. Bushong said that as he understands, the State would need it on June 11, 2002.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the absence of Dr. Polleys, Mr. Walker and Mr. Wells for personal reasons.

Mr. Ditchfield asked Mr. Humes if he has any additional information on the re-districting. Mr. Humes said that it is now official and the district lines have been changed.

Mr. Whiteside commented that in response to questions that he has received regarding the drinking water at J. D. Davis from teachers and the media, he has asked the Superintendent to give the Board a formal report on the nature of the discoloration of the water and safety. Mr. Sims commented, "we wanted to make sure for our own selves that everything was safe after the information was presented. The first thing that was asked to me was, why had not the Board been informed of the drinking water problem. We did not address this to the Board because it was going to be a part of the recommendation that we were going to bring as far as the construction project there. But with the new priorities that never came to the Board. It will be coming this month. The system administrators were not overly concerned about the safety of the water because we have had it tested on a regular basis and knew that the water was safe. So the discoloration is one thing but the safety of the water we knew was not an issue. We did have the Health Department back out that tested the water for drink ability. We also asked the Columbus Water Works to come and test the water for drink ability. The Columbus Water Works has if not the finest, one

of the finest labs to test water. I'll be glad to read the statement, but according to them the sample meets the requirements fit for drinking that the Georgia Department of Environmental Protection sets for drinking water. Mr. Whiteside asked what are our plans to address this since we are not going to be able to do the construction project. I met with Mr. Caggins and people from plant services today and spent about an hour and a half at J. D. Davis going over what their recommendations were and looking at concerns that were at J. D. Davis. One thing that we are going to do this summer is put filters on drinking fountains that will capture most of that rust from the galvanized pipes that coming out causing the discoloration that'll help greatly with that. In addition to that we're going to be working with the schools with the custodians first thing in the morning before students come in to run the water through those so that the discoloration can clear on out and with the filter it will be very little discoloration. We've also made plans for bathroom fixtures will be corrected during the summer. We also plan to send in a care team to go in to do some clean-up and general sprucing up of that building so that when teachers, students and parents walk back in the fall they're going to see a clean environment an environment that looks good. Also the air conditioning heating units that were not working properly, we are making arrangements to use some of the barred units at the old Baker Middle school and replace those that we are having trouble with. We are also going to contract with a service provider that is going to come in and clean those air conditioning vents and in addition and this will be in all of our schools to control our humidity problems when a/c is not working during the summer. We're going to keep the a/c going at a minimal level all summer long at all of our schools so that we can control the mildew problem. Those are some of the things that we are going to be doing."

Mr. Ebron commented that with six other elementary schools facing the same problem he would like for the Board to meet to make some decisions about how to handle this. Mr. Whiteside said that he agrees and these issues can be addressed after we know how well we do with capital outlay funding.

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

James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel