MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2002, 6:30 PM.
BRADLEY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday< May 20, 2002, 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, Philip T. Schley, Linda Parker, Fife Whiteside, John Wells, Brenda Storcy, and Owen Ditchfield.

Others present: Guy W. Sims, Superintendent of Education, Robert L. Bushong, Interim Superintendent of Education, James E. Humes, II, Legal Counsel, Fred M. Jones, Treasurer, Brenda Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant, Bill Hortman, Associate Superintendent, Gordon Stallings, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and representatives from the media.

Dr. Polleys recognized visitors in the audience; those from the Leadership Columbus Class, Mr. and Mrs. Halouska representing the Friends of the Libraries and League of Women Voters, official PTA representatives, Mrs. Annie Askew.

Dr. Polleys called on Mr. Wells as Chairman of the Finance Committee to conduct the final public hearing on the budget, the third that is required by law (§48-5-32.1).

Mr. Wells read the press release advertising the public hearing and commented that the Board of Education has adopted a property tax assessment that will give the Board a 2.7% increase in revenue. Mr. Wells invited anyone that was in attendance to speak regarding this issue. There was no one in attendance to speak. Mr. Wells called the public hearing adjourned.

Dr. Polleys called on Mr. Sims to recognize the Muscogee County Teacher of the Year, Joe Mills. The Board went on to recognize the following; MCSD First Year Teacher Award, GSU Award for Reading Recovery, GASP Psychologist of the Year, Teaching with Technology Award, National History Day Winners, State Science Olympiad Winners, State Social Science Fair Winners, Georgia Science & Engineering Fair Winners, State Technology/Career Education Winners, State Track Champion, State Golf Championship, and ABCD Award Winners.

Dr. Polleys called on Brenda Jenkins, Lisa Cotton, Curtis Burris, Debbie Clausen (parents Mr. & Mrs. Davis had asked to speak but were not present.) these parents spoke on the public forum regarding the high school graduation policy. The Board allowed all parents in attendance to speak regarding the graduation policy. Mr. Jarrett Lee spoke to the Board regarding scholarships for students.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting on Monday, April 22, 2002 and a called meeting on Saturday, March 23, 2002.
Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the Student Behavior Code and Discipline Policy handbook for the 2002-2003 school year.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the increase in ticket prices for middle school athletic events for the 2002-2003 school year.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the change in the bell times for middle schools allowing more time between bells to run routes. Mrs. Storey asked the Administration if before school care would be provided due to the fact that by moving the time forward, there will be parents getting their children there early. Mr. Caggins commented that the Superintendent suggested that the principals manage this situation within their staff by rotating duty to allow for students arriving early for some students. Mrs. Storey asked Mr. Caggins to check with Parks and Recreation to see if they could assist in this matter.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved the Technology/Career Education local plan grants for Shaw and Kendrick High Schools and the local plan and one-year funding application for improving vocational and technical education.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for nine months ending March 31, 2002.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved an exit audit to be conducted by Robinson, Grimes & Company. This will provide an audited financial record for the new Superintendent and the Board.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the funding of the Leadership Academy at Columbus State University in the amount of $50,000.00.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously awarded a contract in the amount of $114,400.00 to ATF Construction Company, low bidder for renovation of the Broadcasting Lab at Shaw High and approved the project budget in the amount of $128,984.00.

Mr. Wells, made the motion, seconded by Mr. Walker to award a contract in the amount of $1,952,600.00 to Holley Construction Company for construction at Spencer High and the budget in the amount of $3,579,712.00. Mr. Whiteside commented that "after going over the bid tabulation for Holley Construction the alternate no. 1 was to remove and replace tile and is this redundant to item c on the tabulation which speaks also to the removal of tile." Mr. Caggins said, "the two items are different." Mr. Whiteside asked "why wasn't it included together?" Mr. Caggins said this was "identified in the base bid." Mr. Whiteside commented that "it appeared that there was some re-configuring and if this is the case then other bidders should be included." Mr. Caggins said there was no re-configuring. Mr. Walker asked if there would be "any possibility in the near future that the tile would need replacing again?" Mr. Caggins said this "should not be a concern." Mrs. Storey said she "will not vote for another project until the source of the money could be identified." Mr. Whiteside commented that he "didn't know how much longer he could do this." Dr. Bushong commented that if the "Board by approving this Spencer project, the Board will be obligating out of next years funds $2,400,000.00 and that he is concerned legally for the Board obligating money that is not really available." Mr. Whiteside offered a substitute motion, seconded by Mrs. Storey to table this item until Saturday, May 25, 2002 at the called school board meeting. The vote was (7) affirming, (1) opposing, (Ebron), and (1) abstaining, (Parker).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved change order no. 4 in the amount of $27,468.00 to be added to the original contract for construction at Northside High.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved change order no. 6 in the amount of $5,199.30 to be deducted from the original contract for construction at South Columbus Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board approved the request from the Columbus Water Works for an easement across a portion of Wynnton Elementary for a sewer line and across a portion of Northside High for a sanitary sewer extension to the New Fire Station.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved temporary SPLOST budgets for (14) projects in order to monitor and control developmental project expenditures prior to bid competition for construction and Board approval of the final budget for each school.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board approved the updated report on the amount of funds borrowed from FY02 HVAC and roof sinking fund to cover deficits in several SPLOST Projects due to change orders.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved the audit on financial statements for SPLOST Capital Projects for seven months ending January 31, 2002.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Shores Professional Painting, Inc., low bidder in the amount f $22,680.00 for painting at Woodall.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Stevens Gymnasiums, Inc., in the amount of $29,050.00 to perform scrub and recoat of various building sites.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board awarded a contract to Southeastern Facilities Services at a rate of $.10 per sq. ft. for carpet cleaning in schools and support buildings within the system. The vote was (6) affirming (Wells, Ebron, Parker, Ditchfield, Walker), (3) opposing (Whiteside, Polleys, Storey) and (1) abstaining (Schley).

Upon motion of Dr. Schley, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously voted to table the item regarding financing technology for East Columbus and Arnold Middle Schools until the Saturday, May 25, 2002 called board meeting.

Dr. Polleys called on Mr. Ditchfield to speak regarding the meeting time for the Superintendent Search Process. Mr. Ditchfield made a motion seconded by Mr. Ebron to accept the time, place and date for the Board to interview the three Superintendent Search firms, Saturday, May 25, 2002 at the Hilton starting with the first firm at 10:00 a.m. then, 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Dr. Polleys said this would be in the form of a called board meeting. The vote was unanimous.

There was no executive session.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items including the consent addendum:

- Personnel Report (Appendix A)
- New budget Title VI Grant from GDOE, $6,000.00 for Columbus High School
- New budget Pre-K Funds, FY02 Expansion budget and disbursement of T&E funds.
- Budget adjustment Local Assistance Grant, $7,000 for TAPP Center.
- Budget adjustment janitorial supplies, $873.00 for Marshall Middle.
- Budget adjustment Staff Development, $633,044 from GDOE.
- VirtuCom as volume purchasing vendor for MCSD during FY03.
- Mainline Information System as vendor for Data Processing Department needs.
- Contract to Environmental Partners, Inc., $211,405.39 for system-wide waste disposal.
- Contract to Waste Management, garbage compactor at Eastway and Rothschild.
- Contract to Fuller Fire and Safety, Inc., $8,309.50 for system-wide fire extinguisher service.
- Contract to Terminex, $55,020.00 for extermination of pests system-wide.
- Contract to Knox Pest Control, $25,125.00, system-wide.
- Contract to Sericycle for system-wide medical waste disposal.
- Financial Assistance grant, $1,656.00.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storcy, seconded by Mrs. Parker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the regular May meeting of the Board.

James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel