

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CALLED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
BRADLEY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2002

MINUTES

A called meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Saturday, March 23, 2002 in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

The following Board members were present: Mary Sue Polleys, Chairman, James Walker, Vice Chairman, David Ebron, Brenda Storey, Linda Parker, Owen Ditchfield, John Wells, and Fife M. Whiteside.

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, Myles Caggins, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant, Gordon Stallings, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Bill Hortman, Associate Superintendent, and representatives from the media.

After the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag, Dr. Polleys stated that the purpose of the called meeting was to have a public forum, re-election of professional employees for 2002-2003, request for proposal to retain a superintendent search firm and the high school attendance zones.

Dr. Polleys invited the citizens attending to speak to the Board on their concerns. Many of the public citizens spoke regarding the superintendent appointment, school re-districting, schools zoned from public housing, suspension of students, and transportation.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the re-election of professional employees for the 2002-2003 school year. Dr. Polleys noted for the record that those Board members who may have relatives employed for the first time would not be voting.

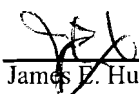
Dr. Polleys asked the Board to consider the item on high school attendance zone changes since the remaining citizens are waiting regarding that issue. Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteside to approve the alternative proposal for the change in the high school attendance zone. Mrs. Storey asked if students would be allowed to request a transfer. Mr. Sims commented that the transfer process would be made available. Mr. Ebron asked how this would affect students and GHSA rules. Mrs. Dozier said that students would be eligible according to GHSA if they are assigned to another school.

Mr. Ebron offered a substitute motion seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the alternative proposed map for high school attendance zones with exceptions and commitments that would; 1)leave the attendance zone for Shaw the same as was drawn on the original proposed map. 2)understand that renovation of Shaw High could result in the loss of classrooms. If so, the Board will have to assign an area to Kendrick from Shaw. 3)Students living in the area between Kendrick and Shaw where the change on the alternative map was made will have a choice of Shaw or Kendrick High Schools. 4)Students currently in the 9th grade at a school will be permitted to use the transfer process if they want to remain at the current school they attend; provided there is space available. The Board voted unanimously on the substitute motion.

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteside to approve the Request for Proposal with the date of May 1st. The vote was (3) affirming, (4) opposing, (1) abstaining. Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board voted approval for the Administration to proceed with a Request for Proposal to retain a superintendent search firm with suggested changes to the proposal prior to submission with April 12th remaining as the deadline for receiving responses. The vote was (6) affirming and (2) opposing.

It was the consensus of the Board to have a public forum for teachers and others interested to talk to the Board on Saturday, May 18, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously excused the absence of Dr. Schley due to out of town business. Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the called meeting of the Board of Education.


James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel