

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CALLED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COLUMBUS HILTON – CHATTAHOOCHEE ROOM
SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2002, 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

A called meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Saturday, May 25, 2002 at the Columbus Hilton in the Chattahoochee Room.

The following Board members were present: Mary Sue Polleys, Chairman, James Walker, Vice Chairman, David E. Ebron, Linda Parker, Fife Whiteside, Philip Schley, John Wells, Brenda Storey, 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, Del Parker, Incoming Treasurer, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Sharon Adams, Director of Financial Services and representatives from the media.

The Board discussed and consider by way of interviews three firms to assist with the superintendent search process, Brock, Clay, Calhoun, Wilson & Rogers from Marietta, Georgia; Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd. From Glenview, Illinois and Ray and Associates, Inc., from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Board did not take action on a firm at this meeting.

Dr. Polleys brought the called board meeting to order. She stated that the purpose of the called meeting was to take action on a contract for construction at Spencer High School and select an alternative financial arrangement for financing technology needs at East Columbus Magnet and Arnold Middle Schools.

Mr. Ebron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield to award the contract in the amount of \$1,952,600.00 to Holley Construction Company, low bidder for construction at Spencer High School and approve the budget in the amount of \$3,579,712.00. Dr. Bushong suggested to the Board that before a decision is made regarding this project that the Board allow the Administration to bring back information on projections and the budget. Mr. Whiteside said that he was "concerned about the bidding that continues." Mr. Ebron said that his concerns are with "overspending and there are alternates on every bid." Mrs. Storey said that she "cannot continue to look at the projects in isolation and at this time she cannot vote for this project." Mr. Sims said that "this is a tough call because Spencer is expecting the renovations." Mr. Walker said that "it appears that cuts are being made in some places and not being made in others and this concerns me." Dr. Polleys asked that the Board "remember that the things promised to the voters are in the base bid." Mr. Wells commented that "promises to voters was to complete the project. We should give the voters what they have asked for and not overspend." Mrs. Parker said that she is, "for keeping the promise and staying within the budget but to be consistent. Kendrick will be delayed this year. We don't want to do more for one school than another, we need to be mindful of this and we will over-budget if we do the Spencer project." Mr. Walker said, "it appears that we weren't watching what we were doing. We've allowed money to be spent haphazardly. I hope we can look at this and go on with the Spencer project." Mr. Ebron said, "this didn't just happen. I think it does no good to battle with the Administration. We all have to be held accountable. We are the ones that are going to be held accountable. We budget money ahead of time. Is this legal?" Dr. Polleys commented, "Mr. Humes has told us that it is not illegal but we need to ask ourselves if it is the wise thing to do." Mr. Wells asked if the Administration would bring a plan of action to the Board regarding the remaining projects? Mr. Sims said, "yes."

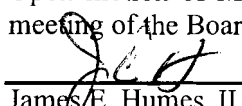
Mr. Wells made a substitute motion, seconded by Mrs. Storey to delay the decision on Spencer and allow the Administration to come up with a formulated plan to prioritize the (16) future projects.

Mr. Walker said, “we received sound advice from Sharon over a year ago that informed us that funds were short. This is not something new.” Dr. Polleys commented, “the difference is that we have asked that projects be brought in line. The Board should be taken seriously that we are not going to take projects out of line.” Mrs. Storey commented, “I am planting my feet and locking my knees, I cannot vote to approve this project.” Dr. Polleys said, the Board has said that we are empowering all personnel. Mrs. Rutledge should have been involved in the process.” Mr. Jones commented, “Myles has had Olivia involved meticulously since the beginning.” Mr. Whiteside asked that, “fundamental fairness be used to the bidders when they meeting regarding the projects.”

The Board voted unanimously on the substitute motion to delay the decision on Spencer and allow the Administration to come up with a formulated plan to prioritize the (16) future projects. It was the consensus of the Board to have a called meeting to take action regarding this issue on May 29, 2002 at 5:30 p.m.

The Administration informed the Board that the issue of financing technology needs at East Columbus and Arnold has been worked out with SunTrust.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously adjourned the called meeting of the Board of Education.


James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel