

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
BRADLEY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2002, 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, October 21, 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, Linda Parker, Fife M. Whiteside, John Wells, Brenda Storey, and Owen Ditchfield.

Others present: Robert L. Bushong, Interim Superintendent of Education, Charles Staples, Legal Counsel, Del Parker, Treasurer, Brenda Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Gordon Stallings, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant, Bill Hortman, Associate Superintendent 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 River Road Elementary. Dr. Polleys recognized visitors in the audience.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to approve and amend with an attachment the official actions taken at the regular meeting held on September 16, 2002 and a called meeting on October 1, 2002.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously excused Dr. Schley from this regular meeting due to out-of-town business.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a contract of employment to Dr. John A. Phillips, Jr. as Superintendent of Education to be effective January 1, 2003. Dr. and Mrs. Phillips attended this meeting. Dr. Phillips thanked the Board and said he's looking forward to coming to Columbus as soon as possible. Dr. Polleys commented on behalf of Dr. Schley who expressed great regret that he could not be here tonight for the appointment of Dr. Phillips but if there was a provision to vote in the affirmative he would like to do so.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Margaret Gummere for the position of Educator Coordinator at the Columbus Museum.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board approved the appointment of Mrs. Pat Jackson-Turner for the position of Principal at the Teenage Parenting Center.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board approved the new position of fund raiser at the Teenage Parenting Center. The vote was (7) affirming and (1) opposing, (Mr. Wells).

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved travel for students from Columbus High to Costa Rica during Spring break contingent upon security issues. The students will miss (2) days of school.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the waiver of the requirements cited in Policy IDE for Interscholastic Athletics. This will allow middle schools to participate in the Percy E. Griffin, Jr. Basketball Tournament.

Upon motion of Mrs. Parker, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the revision to the library board resolution by omitting paragraph (s) that required renewal every two years. Mr. Whiteside noted that this revision has also been approved by Counsel and approves of the change.

Mr. Parker asked that the Board revisit the policy regarding the school nutrition program at the next Personnel/Policy Committee meeting regarding the feeding of students peanut butter sandwiches when they can't purchase a hot lunch. It was the consensus of the Board to review this procedure at the next meeting.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mrs. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the materials, Choosing the Best Way, Abstinence-Focused Sex Education Program for seventh graders. Mr. Ditchfield commented that there are other sex education programs at the lower grade levels.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for two months ending August 31, 2002.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 3, 2002, and seven-year trend information. Mrs. Storey commented that the Auditors made a recommendation that the Board establish an audit sub-committee and asked that this be on the agenda at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved change order no. 15 in the amount of \$1,747.94 and change order no. 16 in the amount of \$1,080.14

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved change order no. 13 in the amount of \$282.45 and change order no. 14 in the amount of \$954.45 for Northside High School.

Mr. Walker asked if all monies have been received from the City on the North site project? Mr. Caggins commented that monies have been received that the school district has billed the City for. Mr. Walker asked for an idea of how much money is owed the school district to date. Mr. Caggins said he would get the figures.

Mr. Wells commented that there seems to be some problems regarding accessibility of the Woodruff Farm property for use by the schools for soccer. Mr. Wells said it has been difficult for the local high schools to use the property when they are playing out-of-town teams. Mr. Wells asked that the Administration look into this. Dr. Bushong said Mrs. Dozier has gathered some information regarding this. Dr. Bushong said that he spoke with Mr. Cavezza concerning the use of facilities between the school district and the City. Dr. Bushong said that "it is time to open some dialogue with the City regarding some of the agreements regarding facility use that seem to be unwritten and agreed upon on by certain individuals other than the Council and the School Board. From my point of view equity is not there. The school district perhaps is giving a little more than they are receiving." Mr. Wells commented, "it seems we are getting further and further away from cooperation. We have opened up all of our cafeterias, all of our auditoriums, all of our playgrounds, all of our after-school programs. We get the same remark, build your own. I would like to follow that avenue of opening that dialogue with the City." Dr. Bushong said, "they use all of our elementary school gyms for after-school programs and we charge nothing for the utilities, nothing for the lights, a/c, nothing for the custodial services and then we go down and play high school football games at Memorial Stadium and they charge us for rental of the stadium." Mr. Whiteside commented, "the after-school program was started about 1991 or 1992 and what was supposed to happen back then was a joint use agreement that was to be struck between the City and the School District. For whatever reason, it just never got struck. We created a policy about two or three years ago that was designed to require all business relationships with the City to be reduced to at least some kind of document. But we really haven't paid much attention to that policy." Mr. Ebron commented, "I certainly agree that we need to figure out ways to negotiate with the City. With two elected bodies, it appears that until the public demands, because it becomes I'll let you use this if you let me use that and it's almost that we all forget it is all public dollars. I would love to find a way to get together to work things out. I know that to be well-rounded you have to have sports but I want to see money in other areas and work things out with the City." Mrs. Parker commented, "we've done all we can to throw the olive branch but until the City Council accepts that the School Board is an elected body, I don't think we're going to get anywhere." It was the consensus of the Board to have such a joint meeting, be prepared and include in the discussion the tax collection fee.

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

- Personnel Report. (Appendix A)
- New budget English Literacy/Civics Education Renewal Grant, \$26,000.00.
- New budget Health Literacy Project for Adult Education, \$31,400.00.
- New budget Wal-mart, \$1,000.00 for Tillinghurst Adult Education.
- New budget Region 9 FY03, \$20,000 for Peer Helpers Program.
- New budget Georgia Department of Public Safety, \$2,000 for SADD Chapter at Kendrick High.
- New budget Homeless Grant, \$50,000 from GDOE.
- New budget Title III/Part A, \$35,661.00 for ESOL Program.
- Budget adjustment Reading Excellence Program \$312,399.00 for Wynnton and \$315,000.00 for Dawson .
- Budget adjustment National Center on Education and the Economy for Georgia's Choice, \$7,316.00.
- Budget adjustment FY03 Title VI-B Flow Through Budget and FY03 Capacity Building Grant for Special Education Program.
- Budget adjustment Budgeted Reserve for new laptops, software, printers for Board and Interim Superintendent.
- Budget adjustment reclassification of expenditures for Department of Systems & Data Processing budgets.
- Budget adjustment additional funds, \$6,000.00 from AmeriCorps.
- Confirmation purchase order Summit Systems, \$30,176.00 for cabling at Lorenzo Road
- Confirmation purchase order, Pomeroy Computer Resources, \$43,968.00 for hardware at Lorenzo Road.
- Confirmation purchase order, York International, \$13,571.00 for compressor at Kendrick High.
- Purchase order to ALC Controls, Inc., \$19,829.00, DDC controls at Dimon Elementary.
- Purchase order to ALC Controls, Inc., \$34,782.00, DDC controls at Key Elementary.
- Re-establish \$25,000.00 "Provision for Insurance Deductibles".
- Contract awarded to various vendors for food and supplies in School Nutrition Program.
- Financial audit on SPLOT Capital Projects Fund for twelve months ending June 30, 2002.
- Financial assistance, \$2,290.00.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session to hear three student discipline appeals and a legal matter.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

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

Charles Staples
Legal Counsel