MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 21, 2003, 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, July 21, 2003, 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, Brenda P. Storey, Philip T. Schley, David E. Ebron, Fife M. Whiteside, John Wells, Naomi Buckner and Owen Ditchfield.

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr. Superintendent of Education, James E. Humes, II, and Charles T. Staples, Legal Counsel, Del Parker, Treasurer, Robin Pennock, Chief Academic Officer, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant, Bill Hortman, Associate Superintendent, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs 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 Rigdon Road Elementary. Dr. Polleys recognized visitors in the audience such as Mr. and Mrs. Halouska who represent Friends of the Libraries and League of Women Voters; the Garrison Commander from Fort Benning, Rick Riera, and the CSM Donald Fortson, also present were PTA representatives.

Dr. Polleys called on representatives from Congressman Sanford Bishop's office that recognized the award won by Mrs. Phyllis Jones, Principal at Rigdon Road Elementary for the Congressional Black Caucus Unsung Hero for Education. Dr. Phillips recognized The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation represented by Ms. Susan Patterson for their contribution of a new program at Marshall Middle School. Dr. Polleys called on Dr. Becky Champion who informed the Board of a new education partnership by Oxbow Meadows with the School District.

Dr. Polleys called on Ms. Kim Cannon, a parent who wanted to speak regarding the transfer of Ms. Sheila Evans from Double Churches Elementary School.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting held on June 16, 2003 and called meetings held on June 2, and June 30, 2003.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Rodney Steward as Assistant Principal at Allen/Johnson Elementary Schools.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Margaret Ledford as Assistant Principal at Baker Middle School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Molly Hart as Assistant Principal at Clubview/Gentian Elementary Schools.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Janice Miley as Assistant Principal at Double Churches Elementary School.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Tonya Douglass as Assistant Principal at Downtown Elementary School.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Mary Avery as Assistant Principal at Martin Luther King, Jr./South Columbus Elementary Schools.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the transfer of Ms. Sheila Evans from Double Churches Elementary to Edgewood and Wesley Heights Elementary Schools as Assistant Principal. Mr. Wells noted that "when parents don't want to lose an employee from a school, it says a lot for that individual".

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the transfer of Ms. Dianne Sharpe from Allen/Mathews Elementary Schools to Forrest Road/Mathews Elementary Schools as Assistant Principal.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the lease of twenty-nine portable classrooms from Williams Scotsman, Inc., for selected schools at a total cost of $322,108.00. Dr. Phillips commented on the necessity of these portable classrooms at this time including, growth from different areas in the community, population shifts, class size that requires additional teachers and additional space and the need to serve special needs children.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved Jordan Electric Company to provide electrical work for thirty-one portable classrooms at a total cost of $51,700.00. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, Mr. Whiteside. Mr. Whiteside noted for the record, "I am not voting against the Jordan Electric Company because I like those folks. I just have some issues with the process that is used here."

Mr. Ditchfield asked that the Board move to the addendum that included some additional personnel appointments.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Paula Shaw-Powell as Elementary Mathematics and Science Instructional Specialist.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Cassandra Reynolds as Secondary Language Arts and Social Studies Instructional Specialist.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the FY 2004 budget for the Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library (Marion County Branch) in the total amount of $43,043.00.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved VirtuCom, Inc. as the volume purchasing vendor to provide IBM ThinkPad laptops at a price of $1,703.00 each during FY04.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved Micro Technology Consultants, Inc. as the volume purchasing vendor to provide desktop computers.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for eleven months ending May 31, 2003.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved change order #24 to credit the total amount of $339.20 for Key Elementary School. This change order covers deleting the addition of VCT, carpet and base in selected classrooms at the school.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously awarded a contract in the total amount of $17,300.00 to Newton Aaron and Associates to provide construction management services for the Wynnton Elementary construction project.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a resolution for the exchange of several sites at the North site property between the School District and the City as per the Inter-governmental Agreement dated January 23, 2001.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the various purchase orders that are needed to implement volleyball as a part of the physical education and athletic curriculum. Mr. Whiteside asked if these items are of an emergency nature as indicated on the cover page or have they been bid out according to the bid tabulation sheet? Mr. Parker clarified that there were RFP's on the floor servicing work and emergency purchase orders were issued on the other items needed. Dr. Phillips commented that this program will be implemented in every high school and middle school for girls. This is continuing compliance to Title IX requirements.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items with the exception of item L1:

- Personnel Report. (Appendix A)
- Confirmation purchase order, Climate Control Heating & A/C, $35,300 purchase (4) heat pumps at North Branch Library.
- Naming of auditorium at Wynnton Elementary, Dr. A. C. Hobbs, Jr., Center for Performing Arts.
- Payroll Deductions of MAE membership dues.
- State Instructional Extension Program, $1,088,539 allocated.
- Upgrade indoor air quality at various schools, $27,974.

- Renewal of lease agreements with organizations that lease from MCSD on annual basis.
- Donation, $500 from Delta Sigma Theta for audio videos at Mildred Terry Library.
- Diverse Power Foundation, budgets for Shaw ($3,384.95) and Double Churches Middle ($596.16 and $2,444.00) to implement additional curriculum.
- Grant reduction for Horticulture at Kendrick High School.
- Grant awarded, English Literacy/Civics Education Renewal, $6,100.
- Grant awarded, Unused Title I Accountability, $1,198.14.
- Grant awarded, Federal, State, and local funds for Adult Education.
- Contract renewal, ALC Controls, Web CTRL for Gentian Elementary, $29,950.
- Contract renewal, ALC Controls, Web CTRL for River Road, $37,892.
- Contract renewal, various vendors, School Nutrition Program, linen, bread, juice, paper.
- Contract renewal, Data Supplies, $13,392 and The Procurement Group, $1,208.70, special paper.
- New budget, Adult Education, WIA funds Dislocated Workers, $32,814.
- New budget, Adult Education, WIA bunds for Adults, $32,814.
- New budget, Technology/Career Education, FY04.
- New budget, Elementary Magnet/Special Programs, $773,014.
- New budget, Start-up funds for Northside Media Center, $50,000.
- New budget, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, $78,000, FY04.
- New budget middle school magnet programs, Arnold($75,000);East Columbus ($75,000).
- New budget high school magnet programs; Carver, Columbus, Hardaway, Jordan, Kendrick, Northside, Shaw and Spencer, $836,772.
- New budget Woodall Center, State, FY04; Federal FY04.
- Budget adjustment, Northside High Media, $50,000; Contingency Reserve.
- Budget adjustment, middle school textbook adoption software, $69,887.
- Financial Assistance, $705.86.

Dr. Phillips clarified the new budget request for start-up funds at Northside High School's Media Center. The total amount for this new budget would be $50,000.00 from the contingency. The system has three years to meet the standards for Southern Association.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board awarded the contract renewal in the total amount of $43,056.00 to Southeastern Facility Management for floor care at Northside High School. The vote was (7) affirming and (2) abstaining, Dr. Polleys and Mr. Whiteside.

Dr. Polleys noted that at this time the Board would like to make public the Tentative Summary of Expenditures for the proposed SPLOST projects. Dr. Polleys commented that it is tentative in that the Board would not be voting on it at this time and there are copies available for the media and some extra copies for those in attendance. Dr. Polleys added that this information would be available on the web site in the morning for public viewing and the Board invites public input. It was the consensus of the Board to hold a town hall meeting to gather input from the public prior to voting on the proposed list of projects. Mr. Ebron said that he would like to "encourage citizens to compare the figures from the 1997 SPLOST projects, what the Board projected it was going to do and see if the Board has spent the money in the way that was promised and have been good stewards of the last SPLOST".

Mr. Wells asked for discussion on surplus properties. Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously voted to modify the agenda to discuss a swap with the City regarding certain properties. Mr. Wells made the motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteside to authorize the Administration to seek appraisals and negotiate with the City regarding the swap of selected properties. The vote was unanimous.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session to hear a student discipline appeal.

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

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

James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel