

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2003, 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, December 15, 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, 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, Charles T. Staples, Legal Counsel, Del Parker, Treasurer, Don A. Cooper, Jr., Chief Human Resources Officer, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, 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 and the character education word for the month- honesty led by students from Waddell Elementary School.

Dr. Polleys recognized visitors in the audience, Mr. & Mrs. Halouska representing the Friends of the Libraries and League of Women Voters, and Mr. John Lincoln representing St. Elmo Gifted Program.

The Board recognized those for the following achievements: National Teacher Certification; nominees for National Blue Ribbon Schools; Columbus High First Place in State One Act Play Competition; Larry Hendrickson as Region 8 Psychologist of the Year; Carver, Hardaway and Shaw for Learn and Serve America grants; Shaw High School as the Knox Culpepper Sportsmanship Trophy Winner.

Dr. Polleys recognized those to speak on the public forum, Ms. Audrey Palmore on the Volunteer Recruitment Program and Mr. James Loudermilk on Pre-K programs.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting held on November 17, 2003.

Mr. Wells made a motion seconded by Mrs. Storey to approve the continued planning to establish International Baccalaureate Programs at Clubview Elementary and Richards Middle Schools. Mr. Ebron made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Buckner to table this item until after the January, 2004 board meeting. There was some discussion because of concerns regarding the budget for this item. Dr. Polleys called for a vote on the substitute motion. The vote to delay the item was (7) opposing and (2) affirming, Mr. Ebron, Ms. Buckner. Dr. Polleys called for a vote on the original motion. The original motion to approve this item was (8) affirming and (1) abstaining, Ms. Buckner.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved a group of Hardaway High School staff, parents, and alumni to proceed with the construction of an athletic practice facility on campus and the naming of that facility the “Sarah Madeline Pound Athletic Facility”. The project will be totally funded through fund raising and private donations.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved a plan from Hardaway High and their PTA to renovate the courtyard on campus. The project will be funded by voluntary donations.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for four months ending October 31, 2003.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the change in Board meeting dates, Tuesday, January 20, 2004 and Tuesday, February 17, 2004.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a Civil Action Settlement and approved for the law firm to proceed in filing the necessary documents to conclude the matter in the courts.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the amendment to suspend the current board committee governing structure for six months to provide for suspension through the end of January, 2004.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items with an amendment for item J:

- Personnel Report (Appendix A)
- Workers’ Compensation Settlement, \$15,000.
- Renewal of (8) library board members expiring terms.
- Local School Council appointment for Hannan Elementary.
- Price increase to confirmation purchase order, \$11,485.56 to Jordan Electric.
- Resolution/Certificate for East Columbus Magnet Academy.
- Resolution/Certificate for Northside High School.
- New budget, Jordan High SADD Chapter, Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, \$1,370.

- New budget, Allen Elementary, Recycling Award, \$1,000.
- New budget, FY04 Georgia's Choice Grants for (5) schools, \$65,000.
- New budget, TANF funding, \$7,966.
- New budget, Altrusa Club for Adult Education, \$750.
- Budget adjustment, contingency reserve, \$11,741, Property & Records.
- Budget adjustment, contingency reserve, \$11,486, electrical hook-up for (7) portables.
- Budget adjustment, Plant Services, \$77,500 for air quality, two depleted accounts.
- Budget adjustment, contingency reserve, \$14,660 for continued funding of nursing position at TAPP.
- Financial Assistance, \$2,946.82.

The Board had some brief discussion regarding a board workshop scheduled tentatively for Saturday, January 10, 2004.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session to hear student discipline appeals.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

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

Charles T. Staples
Legal Counsel