

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CALLED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
BRADLEY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003, 6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

A called meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, February 10, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

The following Board members were present: Mary Sue Polleys, Chairman, James Walker, Vice Chairman, David E. Ebron, Naomi Buckner, Fife Whiteside, Philip Schley, John Wells, Brenda Storey, and Owen Ditchfield.

Others present: Charles Staples, Legal Counsel, John A. Phillips, Ph.D., Superintendent of Education, Del Parker, Treasurer, Brenda Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Robin Pennock, Chief Academic Officer, Bill Hortman, Associate Superintendent and representatives from the media Richard Hyatt, Mark Rice, Tim Chitwood, TV9 and TV3.

Dr. Polleys called the meeting to order with the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag. Dr. Polleys stated the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Board Construction Workshop and go into executive session should there be construction issues to vote on and a legal and a personnel matter.

Dr. Polleys called on Mr. Leon Siegel, Interim Director of Construction. Mr. Siegel informed the Board that he had visited all (13) remaining schools. The condition of the schools were average, very neat, clean and positive responses from the students and staff. The renovated schools appear to be new schools. Mr. Siegel said, "the reality is that there is an eight-year building program and five years of funding." Mr. Siegel said that the architects should reduce their budgets by 12 to 15 percent. It would not mean any less quality of renovations, it can be done on the same level as the schools that have already been finished. Mr. Siegel commented that, "the district tried to do too many projects at the same time, which caused too many changes and mistakes." Mr. Siegel reviewed the overall budgets, architects' plans, scope changes and additional architectural fees with Board members.

The Board discussed at length priorities for the construction program. Dr. Polleys commented that she is ready to commit and asked the Board for their "commitment to complete all thirteen (13) renovation projects if it takes Capital Outlay money or whatever it may take to doing the projects that we committed ourselves to doing". The Board voiced their concerns on the completion of the (13) construction projects. Mr. Ebron commented that he is ready to commit, "even if it means taking money from the fund balance." Mr. Whiteside commented, "Leon, it's implied in what you are saying that the two new construction projects on the bottom of the list you don't want to focus on these but you want to focus on the renovation projects. So what you're recommending that we do is take the last two projects and say we're not going to build them out of the SPLOST but we're going to take that money and re-direct it to the first thirteen renovation projects." Dr. Polleys said that the commitment to the voters was, "if we run out of money it will be the new schools on the bottom of the list that would have to be dropped off." It was the consensus of the Board that this was the commitment made to the voters. Dr. Phillips said that his recommendation is to "complete the thirteen renovation projects." Mr. Whiteside asked, "in order to do the thirteen renovations how are the changes or re-configurations on the thirteen renovation projects going to be made in order to get the prices down? If we're not successful in making those changes enough to do the (13) and there's no money in Capital Outlay funds. Where do we get the money?" Dr. Polleys commented, "I understand that Mr. Siegel is saying that they are going to try to get this \$35,000,000 reduced down to \$29,000,000 cutting them 15% each. This will mean that each principal will have to see where they can reduce 15 to 17 percent cuts." Mr. Walker said, "we must leave here today committed to finishing all (13) renovations projects."

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously voted to re-commit to complete all (13) renovation and construction projects with SPLOST funds. The motion was amended to include “funds would not be expended on the last two schools but the (13) renovation projects would be completed.” The vote on the amended motion was unanimous.

The Board had a lengthy discussion on the renovations for Wynnton Elementary. It was noted that the Board has been receiving calls and concerns from citizens and alumni of the Wynnton area. Mr. Siegel said that he would like to take the Boards preference back to the architect for the renovations at Wynnton. Upon motion of Dr. Schley, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved Scheme “B” for the renovation at Wynnton Elementary School.

Mr. Ebron recognized a representative from the Lindsey Creek Community Association.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session for a legal and a personnel matter.

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

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

Charles T. Staples
Legal Counsel