

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2004, 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2004, 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 Ebron, Fife Whiteside, John Wells, Naomi Buckner and Owen Ditchfield.

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education, James E. Humes, II, Legal Counsel, Del Parker, Treasurer, Don Cooper, Chief Human Resources Officer, Robin Pennock, Chief Academic Officer, Brenda Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, 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 Georgetown Elementary and the character education words for the month – fairness by a Georgetown student.

Dr. Polleys commented that as provided under Georgia Law, the annual election of officers and legal counsel will be held. Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously appointed; Mary Sue Polleys, Chairman, James Walker, Vice Chairman, John A. Phillips, Jr., Secretary, Del Parker, Treasurer, James E. Humes, II, Parliamentarian and the firm of Hatcher, Stubbs, Land, Hollis and Rothschild as Legal Counsel for the School District.

Dr. Polleys recognized visitors in the audience, John Lincoln representing St. Elmo gifted program.

Dr. Phillips presented a brief overview of the CRCT scores in comparison to other comparable school districts.

The Board recognized the following; Georgia Softball Coach of the Year, Georgia AAAA Softball Player of the Year, All State Softball Team, Georgia Athletic Coach's Association All Star Winners, New York Times 2003 Librarian Award, Georgia Schools of Excellence, Pay for Performance Awards, and Adequate Yearly Progress Certificate and Award.

Dr. Polleys recognized Mr. Lonnie Jackson for MLK clean-up drive and an anti-litter campaign; Mrs. Annette Walker-Carter, a parent.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting held on Monday, December 15, 2003.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Robert G. Hecht as Director of Construction.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mrs. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mrs. LaVerne Brown as Principal of Georgetown Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved six (6) school calendars for the school years of 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 representing high, middle, elementary, and year-round schools.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved a revision to policy JBCC(2) as it relates to Unsafe School Choice Option.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved a request from the March of Dimes to use Kinnett Stadium for the annual Walk America.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously awarded contracts to Blue Bird Body Company in the amount of \$1,113,244.20 for (15) 84-passenger buses, and a contract to Nalley Motor Trucks in the amount of \$404,296.70 for (5) 57 passenger Exceptional Student lift buses.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously awarded a contract in the total amount of \$95,485.00 to Blue Torch to provide switch maintenance services at (38) schools and approve the administrations' submission of an application for year-7 e-rate funds.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for five months ending November 30, 2003.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the amendment of the Board's resolution to suspend the current board committee governing structure until April, 2004.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items with the exception of item D-4:

- Personnel Report. (Appendix A)
- Anti-bullying Pledge.
- New budget, Georgia Learn and Service Grants, (GDOE), Carver(\$12,766.00); Hardaway(\$2,959.81); and Shaw(\$11,781.35).
- Even Start Family Literacy, FY03 carryover, \$18,000.00 and TANF, \$11,935.00.
- Special Education General Fund, FY04, \$44,000.00.
- Budget adjustment, Woodall Program, FY04, Federal Budget.
- Budget adjustment, Plant Services for an unexpected expense.
- Budget adjustment, SPLOST (Not Project Related).
- Grant , Technology/Career Education, Industry Certification, \$165,000.00.
- Grant, Homeless, \$19,530.00.
- Donation, Wal-Mart Corporation, \$750.00/Rothschild Middle athletic program.
- Donation, Estate of Mrs. Annie Velma Klayder, \$2,000.00 for Bradley Library.
- Sales Tax Construction Program Report as of November 31, 2003.
- Financial Assistance report.

Dr. Phillips asked that consent agenda item D-4, Jordan High Construction be put on hold until further information can be obtained.

Dr. Polleys noted that the Board work sessions will now be held around the district at various schools. The Board work session for February will be held on the 9th at Reese Road Elementary School in the cafeteria with public input at the beginning of the meeting. The school council. The regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2004.

Mr. Whiteside asked that the strategic planning process be included as an item on the next Board work session along with the local existing anti-bullying policies in light of new legislation.

Mr. Walker reminded the Board that the GSBA session to meet with State Legislators is January 29 in Atlanta and arrangements have been made

Mr. Wells informed the Board that there is a public hearing scheduled for February 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Northside High School on a possible four lane highway at Williams Road which could impact the school in the area.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session to hear four student discipline appeals.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, 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 regular meeting of the Board.

James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel