

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2004, 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, December 13, 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 Storey, Philip 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, Robin Pennock, Deputy Superintendent of Education, Brenda Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Peggy Connell, Chief Academic Officer, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Education, Mark Rice from the Ledger-Enquirer and other media.

Dr. Polleys called the meeting to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag led by students from Midland Academy. The Character Education word – Cleanliness was introduced by a student from Midland Academy. The students from Midland Academy performed holiday musical selections.

Dr. Polleys recognized visitors in the audience, Mr. & Mrs. Halouska, representing the Friends of the Libraries and the League of Women Voters.

The recognitions were as follows: Colonel Riera, Garrison Commander and Mr. Baldwin from Fort Benning regarding the Commanding General's Education Task Force; Distinguished Title I Schools/AYP, Dimon, Edgewood, Martin Luther King, Jr., Rigdon Road, and St. Mary's and Forrest Road, Benning Hills and Downtown; National Board Certification teachers; State One Act Play Award; Know Culpepper Award for Northside High School; Columbus State University Coach Herbert Greene; American Baseball Coach's Association; ABCD Award to Bobby R. Shackelford.

Dr. Polleys called on Ms. Smithie Vaughn, a Rigdon Road Elementary parent who spoke to the Board in support of the proposal to build a new Rigdon Road Elementary School on the old mall property rather than renovate the school.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the Board of Education meeting held on Monday, November 15, 2004.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to amend the regular agenda to take action on the three addendum items.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Whiteside the Board unanimously approved a resolution honoring and recognizing Mr. David Ebron for School Board member service from 1993 through 2004. (Appendix A)

Upon motion of Dr. Schley, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a resolution honoring and recognizing Mr. Owen Ditchfield for School Board member service from 2000 to 2004. (Appendix B)

Mr. Ebron made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells to approve a revision to policy DJEH Change Orders. After some discussion an amended motion was offered by Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Ebron to add the Statutory Definition for a change order. The vote was (7) affirming and (2) opposing, Mr. Wells and Dr. Schley. Without a unanimous vote the policy will be brought back in January for a final vote adding the Statutory Definition for a change order.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board approved a revision to policy GAE – Complaints and Grievances. Ms. Buckner was concerned with the issue of not having an appeal process before the school board for Library employees. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, Ms. Buckner.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved new policy IDDC – Hospital/Homebound Instruction.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a revision to policy JGI – Child Abuse or Neglect.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved proposed Library policies with the exception of Personnel #15 which will be brought back to the Board for review and a vote.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved board meeting date changes because of Martin Luther King, Jr. and President's Day holidays. The dates were approved as Tuesday, January 18, 2004, 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, February 22, 2005, 6:30 p.m.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for four months ending October 31, 2004.

It was the consensus of the Board that the tentative budget preparation calendar for FY06 is an information item. The budget calendar will be brought back to the Board with final dates.

Dr. Schley made the motion, seconded by Mr. Ebron to approve the proposal for electronic sealed bidding. Dr. Phillips stated that this proposal has been reviewed by Mr. Humes. Mr. Whiteside commented, "This is a departure from what we have done and I ask that this is done on a pilot basis and bring it back in a few months for an evaluation. Not a part of the motion but I ask that the administration bring back some figures for comparison." Mr. Wells commented, "This on-line bidding is a concern. I can see if it is bidding on school buses. I'm wondering if we will get a broad participation in the bid process. I'd like a straightforward review on this proposal." Mr. Walker asked, "There is a charge back to the School District. Do we pay this fee?" Mr. Askew commented,

“There is a fee that is charged to the winning bidder and the winning bidder will put this fee back into their cost and the system will end up paying the fee.” Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously approved an amended motion to approve the proposal for electronic sealed bidding on a pilot basis until the end of the fiscal year and evaluated.

Upon motion of Dr. Schley, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously awarded a Construction Manager at Risk Contract to Arco Builders, Inc., in the amount of \$6,465,912.00 for construction at Columbus High.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously awarded a contract in the amount of \$2,584,853.00, low bidder for construction at Muscogee Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker the Board unanimously approved the following deductions from the original contracts for construction:

- Change Order No. 4; \$64,596.09 for Cusseta Road Elementary.
- Change Order No. 5; \$70,284.65 for J. D. Davis Elementary .
- Change Order No. 3; \$192,026.43 for Shaw High School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved a commitment from funds in the 2003 SPLOST to construct a new elementary school in the northern section of Muscogee County. The vote was (7) affirming and (2) opposing, Ms. Buckner, Mr. Ebron.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation of Mr. John Dugger to serve on the Citizens’ Advisory Committee.

Dr. Polleys noted that the executive session to hear a legal matter is no longer needed.

Upon motion of Dr. Schley, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, the Board unanimously approved the Phase II and Phase III construction project at Jordan High School.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a new budget from FY04 carry-over grant funds for Safe and Drug Free Schools, \$30,703.00.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items with the exception of Item G-2:

- Human Resources Report. (Appendix B)
- State course added to Technology/Career Education Program.
- Library Board vacancies and reappointments.
- Contract for grounds maintenance at Library branches.
- Adjustment to budgeted contingency reserve.
- Grant awarded Literacy Alliance Program, \$20,000.00
- Grant awarded Early College, \$450,000.00 for Kendrick High.
- Contract awarded Mainline Information Systems, \$23,391.56.
- New budget FY05 Amended Federal Budget, Woodall Program.
- New budget Environmental Education, \$1,000.00 for Allen Elementary.
- New budget Title I FY05 School Improvement Grants, \$514,000.00 nine schools.
- Budget adjustment FY05 Capacity Building Grant.
- Budget adjustment Title I FY05 to include carry-over funds, \$1,503,793.00.
- Audit of Financial Statement of 1997 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund.
- Sales Tax Construction Program report.
- Report on transfer from FY03 SPLSOT critical needs.
- FY97 Sales Tax Construction Program Report.
- Report on Transfers from Capital Projects to SPLOST to cover scope changes.
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- Report of change order/changes in project contingencies.
- Status Report for projects under construction.

- Report on system-wide technology plan.
- Report on Forecasted Revenue Collections.
- Financial Assistance, \$3,227.42.
- Workers' Compensation Settlement, \$12,500.00 and three months medical.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board awarded a contract to Pearson Education, \$13,400.00 for Title II, Part A of NCLB. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, Mr. Whiteside.

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

Charles T. Staples
Legal Counsel