

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 18, 2005, 6:30 P.M.
BRADLEY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, July 18, 2005, 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the former Bradley Library.

The following Board members were present: Mary Sue Polleys, Chairman, James Walker, Vice Chairman, Brenda P. Storey, Fife M. Whiteside, John Wells, Naomi Buckner and Joseph Roberson.

Others present: Robin Pennock, Deputy Superintendent of Education, Greg Ellington, Legal Counsel, Del Parker, CFO, Don Cooper, Chief Human Resources Officer, Eddie Obleton, Chief Student Services Officer, Myles Caggins, Chief Operations & Facilities Officer and representatives from the media.

Dr. Polleys noted that Dr. Kendall had suffered a mild heart attack. She called the meeting to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance that was led by students from Hannan Magnet Academy. The character education word for July is self respect.

Dr. Polleys recognized visitors in the audience; Mr. and Mrs. Halouska representing the League of Women Voters and Friends of the Library, and Mr. Wayne Baker, President of the Inter-Denominational Ministerial Alliance. Dr. Polleys noted that Dr. Pennock was sitting in for Dr. Phillips who is attending a Superintendent's meeting out of town.

Dr. Polleys called on Mr. Obleton for the following recognitions: Columbus High School-GHSA Class AAA State Baseball Champions; Shaw High School-GHSA Class AAA State Baseball Second Place and Peggy West, Director of PES as President-Elect of G-CASE.

Dr. Pennock called on Dr. Carol Bradshaw who presented the AYP Report for the system.

The Board noted that Mrs. Green was absent because of the birth of her son. Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the absence of Mrs. Green due to the birth of her son and Dr. Schley who is out of town.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting held on June 20, 2005, and a called meeting held on July 11, 2005.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Keith Seifert to the position of Director of Secondary Education.

Mr. Walker noted that there are several items labeled new on the agenda that have not gone through the work session and he asked that the Administration will take under consideration getting the items on the agenda for the work session. Ms. Buckner commented that “when there are new items, things are done hurriedly; the application process is clear and fair.” Mr. Roberson noted, “Mr. Flowers is a wizard, great educator and coach for this position. I appreciate Dr. Phillips and Dr. Pennock considering the timing of this so that the Shaw family will not have such an upheaval at the beginning of the school year.” Mr. Whiteside asked for clarification, “the appointment of Coach Flowers as Athletic Director will become effective on January 1, 2006 and that it is agreeable with Coach Flowers?” Dr. Pennock confirmed that she spoke with Coach Flowers this weekend and this is agreeable with him to take the position effective January 1, 2006. Mr. Whiteside commented, “I would like to thank the Administration for considering our sentiments on this. I would like to echo though a strong sense of concern that there are items on the agenda that did not go through the committee process. If we are to satisfy our function as both oversight and policy makers unless we have procedures that insure that we and the public get adequate comment, it doesn’t work. This is concerning to me.”

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Charles Flowers to the position of Director of Athletics effective January 1, 2006.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Alonzo James to the position of Assistant Principal at Eddy Middle School.

Mr. Wells noted, “History reflects that this is the occasion that we do this every year. There are a lot of new items that come before us in order to get school started. I’m for running them through the committee but we need to get school started.”

Dr. Pennock noted that the Instructional Specialist positions (Action Items D and E) for the Special Education Department will be re-advertised and brought back to the Board.

Dr. Polleys noted that policy BBC – Board Committees has been drafted after receiving input from Board members. Ms. Buckner said that she would like to amend the draft to include a personnel committee, seconded by Mr. Roberson. Dr. Polleys noted that a motion was needed on the main motion. Mr. Whiteside made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the policy as formulated. Ms. Buckner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roberson to amend the motion to include a personnel committee. Mr. Whiteside asked, “Is this amended motion to set up a consolidated personnel/policy committee as it was done in the past?” Ms. Buckner said, “Yes, personnel/policy committee together.” Mr. Wells noted, “I haven’t had a chance to review this or discuss it with anybody. I don’t like the way it is proposed. I don’t like committees of the whole. Why split it up four or five ways. We have everyone attending the work session now.” Dr. Pennock

asked for clarification as to what the agenda item should reflect. Mr. Whiteside commented, "It should be a repeat of Ms. Buckner's amendment." Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, the Board voted to table the motion as amended until the next work session. The vote was (6) affirming and (1) opposing, Ms. Buckner.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for eleven months ending May 31, 2005.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved a 2% cost of living adjustment to the Hay 100 Group. Following consultation with the Hay Group, these employees may be given up to an additional 2% retroactive to July 1, 2005. This increase will depend on the results of the Hay Study and on the individual performance of each employee.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved utilizing the Hay Group to provide a proposal of current practices, compensation model, and conduct training related to performance management. The estimated cost is \$65,000.00 with project-related expenses of 2% to 3% of consulting fees.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the use of \$6,000.00 from Contingency Reserve to fund the DARE Program for the 2005-2006 school year. It was noted that the G.R.E.A.T. Program will also continue along with assistance from the Columbus Police Department.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved a \$50,000.00 stipend to the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce for the Partners-In-Education Program.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board awarded a contract to Williams Scotsman, Inc., sole bidder for set-up, delivery of (3) portable classrooms at Midland Middle School. The vote was (6) affirming and (1) opposing, Mr. Wells.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to B&H House Movers in the amount of \$44,161.00 to relocate portable classrooms from Allen, Muscogee, Wesley Heights, and Wynnton to Double Churches, Midland Middle, Richards and Northside.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the FY06 Revenue Budget for the 1997 and 2003 SPLOST.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the fee of \$150 an hour for a services proposal from Tunnell-Spangler-Walsh & Associates to provide the Muscogee County School District's Construction Department their professional opinion as to the appropriate placement of the New Rigdon Road Elementary School and the Educational Services Center on the 15-acre site at the old Columbus Square Mall.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the assignment of Hecht, Burdeshaw, Johnson, Kidd & Clark, Inc., to prepare the plans and specifications for the construction of the Educational Services Center to be built on the old Columbus Square Mall property.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Gordy Construction, low bidder in the total amount of \$192,755.00 to replace the storm and sewer lines at the Bradley Library.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved Change Orders #9, #10, and #11 in the total amount of \$31,771.38 including a 6% architect fee to be added to the original contract for construction at Muscogee Elementary School.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$31,323.00 including a 6% architect fee to be added to the original contract for construction at River Road Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$977.17 including a 6% architect fee to be deducted from the original contract for re-roofing at Columbus Museum.

The next two action items (U and V) were taken as one motion. Mr. Wells made the motion, seconded by Mr. Roberson, to approve Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$96,147.78 including a 6% architect fee to be added to the original contract for construction of American Way Extension and New Road A at the north site property and approve additional funds in the amount of \$140,000.00 to be added to the budget to remove additional rock from the new road at the North Site Property and approve the revised budget. The vote was unanimous on both item U and V. Mr. Whiteside asked if the rock problem at the North Site Property could be eliminated with re-locating the road. Dr. Pennock commented, "They did take soil samplings for rock in the road. The rock in that area is uneven, it's every 50 feet. There would be no guarantee if we moved the road and took the proper soil samplings of that road. Is that right Mr. Hecht? Mr. Hecht commented, "Yes, that is correct. Actually we didn't have a choice on the location of the road."

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the additional funds of \$100,000.00 from SPLOST-NPR to be added to a revised budget in that unsuitable soil has been uncovered in the new parking area along Forest Avenue for the Columbus High School project. This approval is contingent upon a review of the contract by the Law Firm.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Ken Broda and Mrs. Betsy Ritch-Reed to the Citizen's Construction Advisory Committee to fill two vacancies.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved a resolution to amend the current 2001-2006 Local Facilities Plan to include the construction of New Middle School #5 (North Site Property) and to make application for State Capital Outlay Funds for this project. The vote was (6) affirming and (1) opposing, Ms. Buckner.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a resolution to update the five-year Local Facilities Plan.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items:

- Human Resources Report/Professional and Classified. (Appendix A)
- Special Education Comprehensive Plan
- Appointment to Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Student Discipline Tribunal Members for 2005-2006
- High School Football Ambulance Service Contracts for 2005-2006
- Broadcast High School Football Games
- National Alliance for Mentally Ill to use Kinnett Stadium
- Payroll deduction of School Nutrition Program Dues
- Payroll deduction of PAGE Dues
- Payroll deduction of MAE Dues
- Resolution for FY06 Board Travel
- Resolution and Budget for Peer Helpers Grant
- Budget adjustment for School Nutrition Program
- New budget Pre-K Resource Coordinator budget, in excess, \$25,000
- New budget Pre-K FY05 Year End T&E Funds, in excess, \$25,000
- New budget Woodall FY06 Federal
- New budget Woodall FY06 State
- New budget Woodall FY06 Capacity Building
- CRCT Remediation Grant, \$60,697.00
- Reading First, GLRS, \$37,700, FY06
- Purchase order to NCS, \$41,495.69 for testing materials
- Audit of financial statement of 1997 SPLOST Capital Projects
- Financial Assistance, \$931.98
- Sales Tax Construction Program report
- Report on Transfer from FY03 SPLOST Critical Needs
- FY97 Sales Tax Construction Program report
- Transfers from Capital Projects and Deb to SPLOST Fund to cover scope changes
- Report of Change Orders/Changes in Project Contingencies
- Status Report for Projects under Construction
- Report on system-wide technology plan
- Report on forecasted revenue collections
- Report on transfers from capital projects fund

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session to hear a student appeal and litigation matter.

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

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Greg S. Ellington
Legal Counsel