

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 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, March 22, 2005, 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the former Bradley Library.

The following Board Members were present: James Walker, Brenda P. Storey, Philip T. Schley, Pat Hugley Green, Fife M. Whiteside, John Wells, Naomi Buckner and Joseph Roberson.

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education, Chuck Staples, Legal Counsel, Del Parker, Treasurer, Brenda F. Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Peggy Connell, Chief Academic Officer, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Don Cooper, Chief Human Resources Officer, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant, Mark Rice from the Ledger-Enquirer and other media.

Mr. Walker called the meeting to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance led by students from Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School. The Character Education word for March is Patience.

Mr. Walker recognized visitors in the audience; two visiting teachers at Columbus High from Hiroshima, Japan; John Lincoln, representing the PTA for St. Elmo; Mr. and Mrs. Halouska representing the League of Women Voters and Friends of the Libraries; Dr. Joe Coley, representing the Citizens Construction Committee; and Owen Ditchfield, representing Concerned Citizens of Southeast Columbus.

The following recognitions were presented: Saint Leo 2005 Professional Achievement Award; Kendrick High Girls 2nd Place State Basketball Champions; AAASP's Wheelchair Basketball; Columbus High Start Student and Star Teacher; Columbus High Southeast Japanese Bowl winners; Columbus High Magnet School of Excellence; Columbus High State Academic Decathlon winners; and the ABCD award.

Dr. Philips noted that last week was National School Board Appreciation Week and he thanked Board Members along with tokens of appreciation for their dedicated service to the school district.

Mr. Walker noted that Mrs. Valeria Ready who had asked to be on the public forum had made it known she would not be at the meeting. Mrs. Alison Dowe, Mathews PTA president spoke to thank the Board for the playground equipment at Mathews Elementary.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the absence of Dr. Polleys because of out of town business.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting held on February 22, 2005, as amended.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a proposal to establish the Wynnton Magnet Academy for the 2005-2006 school year.

Upon motion of Dr. Schley, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved Clubview Elementary to apply for a charter school planning grant.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board approved Dawson Elementary School to implement the year-round school calendar for the 2005-2006 school year, with the understanding that no further Muscogee County Schools will be allowed to consider a non-traditional calendar before the system-wide impact is assessed. The vote was (7) affirming and (1) opposing, Mr. Wells.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved school calendars for 2006-2007 and revised calendars for 2005-2006.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the continuance of the Employee Assistance Program with the Pastoral Institute and approval of a budget adjustment in the amount of \$12,000.00 to cover the increased usage of the program.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved a purchase order to Okuma & HOWA Machinery, Inc., in the amount of \$27,794.00 for a CNC Vertical Milling Machine at Jordan High. The vote was (7) affirming and (1) opposing, Mr. Whiteside.

Dr. Phillips informed the Board that it has been brought to his attention that, “because of a technicality WCCI, Inc., low bidder did not meet the contract qualifications for the Johnson Elementary School construction project.” Dr. Phillips commented that he recommends awarding a contract to Denson Contracting in the amount of \$3,035,000.00 who complied with all qualifications for the construction, renovations and addition at Johnson Elementary School. Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Denson Contracting Company in the amount of \$3,035,000.00 for construction, renovations and addition at Johnson Elementary School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously approved a tentative funding plan for completing Phase III of the construction, renovations at Jordan High School. This would call for the re-direction of \$4,953,663.00 from the 2003 Performance Contract Savings to fund the completion of this project.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved tentative funding plan to renovate the gymnasium at Columbus High School. This would call for the re-direction of \$1,250,000.00 from the 2003 Performance Contract Savings to fund the renovation of the gymnasium at Columbus High School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board approved a request to the State Department of Education to allow the use of proprietary specifications in the specifications for construction projects. Mr. Wells asked that an evaluation of this project be done after one year. The vote was (6) affirming and (2) opposing, (Mr. Roberson, Mr. Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the funding of \$14,321.00 from the FY05 Capital Projects Funds – Not Project Related to assist in the purchase of playground equipment at Mathews Elementary School. The total cost of the equipment is \$27,321.00. The Mathews PTA has raised \$13,000.00.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the following requests for easements:

1. Columbus Water Works easement at Benning Hills, Dawson and Spencer to provide water service to Fort Benning.
2. BellSouth Communication, Inc., an easement enlargement at Blackmon Road Middle School.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items with the exception of item C/ 1-6:

- Human Resources Report (Appendix A).
- Request for Special Olympics to use Kinnett Stadium.
- New budget Even Start Literacy, \$5,060.00 TANF payment; \$118.06 donation and FY04 carry-over, \$11,826.00.
- New budget FY05 Capacity Building, FY04 funds, \$14,081.00.
- New budget TANF additional \$822.00 for Adult Education Program, FY05.
- Staff Development budget adjustment in excess of \$25,000.00.
- Audit of Financial Statement of 1997 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund.
- Sales Tax Construction Program Report.
- Report on Transfer from FY03 SPLOST Critical Needs.
- FY97 Sales Tax Construction Program Report
- Report on Transfers from Capital Projects and Debt 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 Funds.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board awarded the following contracts. The vote was (7) affirming and (1) opposing, Mr. Whiteside:

1. Orkin Pest Control for termite control, \$21,240.00; from FY06 Plant Budget.
2. Orkin Exterminating for system-wide pest control, \$56,760.00 from FY06 Plant Operation M&O.
3. Waste Management of Alabama-Opelika for garbage compactor at Eastway and Rothschild, \$5,500 from FY06 Plant Operation.
4. Environmental Partners, Inc., for disposal of solid waste system-wide, \$191,448.00 from FY06 Plant Operation M&O.
5. Reaves Wrecking Company, Inc., for the use of construction dumpsters, \$10,080.00 from FY06 Plant Operation M&O.
6. Pure Aire Filter Sales & Services, Inc., for the system-wide air filtration, \$114,699.20 from FY06 Plant Services.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, the Board unanimously voted to modify the agenda to take action on two budget parameters.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the following as budget parameters:

- Set aside ½ mills for capital projects.
- Fund balance of 16 days.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session to hear two student discipline appeals and a legal matter.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

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

Charles T. Staples
Legal Counsel