

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 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, October 17, 2005, 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

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

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education, Greg S> Ellington, Legal Counsel, Robin Pennock, Deputy Superintendent of Education, Del Parker, CFO, Eddie Obleton, Chief Student Services Officer, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant, Myles Caggins, Chief Operations & Facilities Officer, Peggy Connell, Chief Academic Officer and representatives from the media.

Dr. Polleys called the meeting to order with an invocation. The pledge to the flag was led by students from Blanchard Elementary School and the Character Education word was determination.

Dr. Polleys recognized visitors in the audience; Mr. and Mrs. Halouska representing the League of Women Voters and Friends of the Libraries; Cathy Williams from Neighbor Works; Owen Ditchfield, Concerned Citizens of Southeast Columbus; Lindsey Creek Association and Leadership Columbus participants.

Dr. Phillips recognized Congressman Sanford Bishop for his efforts in obtaining a grant for the TAP Center. His representatives were Elaine Gillespie and Kenneth Cutts and student Nigel Williams who served as a congressional page for Congressman Bishop; Dr. Pennock recognized Rigdon Road for being named a National Blue Ribbon School; Dr. Tina Cross from Carver High who won a National Service Learning award; Mr. Obleton recognized the Youth Advisory Council members and Mr. Cooper recognized Ms. Debra McBride and Mr. Henry Countryman with the ABCD Award.

Dr. Polleys called on a representative from the Lindsey Creek Association, Ms. Gibson who asked that the Board consider re-building the Ardahlia Mack Recreation Center also, Mr. Joseph Foster spoke to the Board on behalf of Ms. Mack's family to re-place the center. Dr. Polleys also noted that she had received a letter dated September 28 from Mr. Robert Thompson with the same concerns.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved official actions at a regular meeting held on September 19 and called meetings held on September 8 and October 3.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a purchase order for \$50,000.00 to implement the Teacher Insight System in the Human Resources Division offered by the Gallup Organization.

Mrs. Storey made the motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve a new policy Administrative Personnel Ethics – CB. Dr. Phillips noted that a disclosure statement has been added at the request of the Board. Mr. Whiteside commented, “I have asked that a change be made and that’s one of the required items is that an employee maintain confidentiality of information as mandated by law. As that was originally written it read maintain confidentiality of privileged information. My concern about that is was it could mean almost anything including, we won’t tell people what our secrets are. The purpose of the change was to clarify that what is required is that the employee treat as confidential that narrow ban of things that the law requires to be treated as confidential. There’s about a half-dozen of them, I believe. My interpretation of this is consistent with that of the administration’s which is that this is not to be extended to; you’re required just to keep our secrets. That’s not what’s planned here, is it?” Dr. Phillips commented, “No, we struck the word privileged because it was ambiguous.” Mr. Whiteside continued, “I’ve already heard one person interpret this that we just have to keep our secrets. That’s not what I understand to be a part of this.” Dr. Phillips, “That interpretation is not what we intend to do.” Mr. Whiteside, “I want to extend this as an open invitation to any employee who finds that this is being construed this way by an administrator because this is not what I am voting for.” Ms. Buckner, “We want the employees to know that we are not trying to get into anybody’s financial business it’s just insofar if there is a conflict of interest.” The Board voted unanimously on the new policy - CB.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for two months ending August 31, 2005.

Mr. Whiteside made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Green to approve the next phase of an integrated finance and human resources software as recommended by CELT Corporation at the cost of \$65,000.00 consistent with the discussion at the Committee Meeting that the recommendation is approved subject to a review by the Technology Committee. The vote was unanimous. Dr. Phillips noted, “It is understood that we will be moving forward with this in terms of doing work to be prepared to initiate action upon review.”

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved a collaborative agreement with Vocational Rehabilitation as a part of a Georgia Department of Education Program for Exceptional students State initiative. The cost is \$13,000.00 and funds are available in the FY06 VI-B Flow Through.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Lynx System Developers, Inc., low bidder in the amount of \$13,710.00 for an electronic timing system at Kinnett Stadium and the purchase of (2) laptop computers for \$3,034.50 for a total of \$16,744.50.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the Title I FY06 regular budget in the amount of \$11,319,540.00.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the Title I budget to fund supplemental educational services/tutoring in the amount of \$202,897.00.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the receipt and expenditures of funds from the Rothschild Library Trust (\$4,338.00) to purchase books for the media center and the Rothschild Cultural Arts Trust (\$538.00) to purchase a laser printer to be used in the music departments at Rothschild Middle School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously approved change order no. 5 in the total amount of \$69,416.22 including architect fees to be added to the original contract for electrical modifications in the library and addition of a new storm drain system at Columbus High School.

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

- Human Resources Report/Professional and Classified. (Appendix A)
- Workers' Compensation Settlement, \$22,500.00.
- Library Board Appointments.
- Contract awarded for collection services at Columbus Public Library, \$11,266.25.
- Contracts awarded to various vendors for supplies in School Nutrition Program.
- New budgets for Middle School Magnet Programs; Arnold (\$71,636.00); East Columbus (\$90,712.00); and Richards (\$116,831.00).
- New budgets for High School Magnet Programs; Carver (\$221,067.00); Columbus (\$60,000.00); Hardaway (\$141,212.00); Jordan (\$24,500.00); Kendrick (\$86,536.00); Northside (\$96,447.00); Shaw (\$84,603.00); Spencer (\$152,160.00).
- Budget adjustment for Elementary Education Department to purchase newly adopted handwriting textbooks in first, second and third grades.
- Grant, TAP Center, \$197,329.00 from Office of Justice Programs.
- Grant, East Columbus, \$95,766.00-Title I FY06 Comprehensive School Reform.
- Grant, Northside High, \$1,500.00 – Target, Inc.
- Grant, Allen Elementary, \$2,700.00 – Target, Inc.
- Grant, Adult Education, \$15,022.00 Civics and Citizenship Renewal.
- Audit of Financial Statement of 1997 SPLSOT Capital Projects.
- 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.

Dr. Polleys noted that the executive session for the student appeal has been cancelled.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the regular October meeting of the Board.

Greg S. Ellington
Legal Counsel