

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CALLED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
BRADLEY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2007, 5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

A called meeting of the Muscogee County Board of Education was held on Monday, November 5, 2007, 5:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

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

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education, Jorge Vega, Legal Counsel, Robin Pennock, Deputy Superintendent of Education, Karen P. Jones, Executive Assistant for the Board and Superintendent, Sharon Adams, Director of Finance, Myles Caggins, Chief Operations Officer, Peggy Connell, Chief Academic Officer, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Jim Houston from the Ledger Enquirer and other media.

The meeting opened with an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mr. Walker stated that the purpose of the called meeting was for the Board to receive a report from Mr. Vega regarding the Needs Improvement Contract and take action on several construction items.

Mr. Vega updated the Board on his negotiations with the General Counsel for the State Board of Education regarding the Contract Monitored Schools.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved a budget adjustment from the contingency budget, \$1,129.00 to cover change order no. 1 for the auditorium electrical modifications at Spencer High School.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the assignment of Peach Engineering to prepare the plans and specifications for repairs and replacement of the HVAC systems at (12) schools using 2003 SPLOST funds.

Dr. Phillips, "I wanted to explain about Items C and D. I think Mr. Whiteside sent an e-mail out addressing these two issues. I want to say up front that he is right and we've discussed it with our attorneys and the policy states, bids will be received and brought to the Board for final approval. What we are doing here would require the Board to waive its' policy. It's not an emergency but it is work that needs to be done. The only time that it can be realistically be done is during the Christmas Holidays. These bids won't be taken until November 13th and then the other one will be taken the later part of November. If the Board would allow us to go ahead and receive these bids and then select the lowest, responsible bidder and we would not go over the money that is allowed in the budget. We would bring this back to the Board at the December meeting. If we don't get approval, we will not be able to do this work in an expeditious manner." Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Dr. Schley to approve the items:

- Contract for Inter-communication systems at selected schools
- Contract for freezer cooler replacement at Richards Middle

Mr. Walker asked for any discussion. Mr. Whiteside. "I'm not clear on the timetable. What confused me most about this was the fact that it caused for us to pre-approve the bid amount. Then we come back in December and confirm a bid that had already been accepted. That is purely rubber stamp function. It doesn't mean anything. I hear what you say about needing the work done over the Christmas Holiday. If we just opened the bids and we entertain an approval of them at the December 3rd Board meeting why wouldn't that give you Christmas to do the work?" Dr. Phillips, "What I've been told is that it's necessary for these vendors to get the materials, installation plan, all those things together in order to be ready to step in when school is out." Mr. Whiteside, "We could just as easy as we're having this called meeting, we could have another called board meeting. I've done this long enough that when you do something one way like not have a November board meeting it tends to end up getting incorporated in the fabric of how we do business. This idea that we will pre-approve bids is really dangerous. I don't want to set a precedent that this is ok to do. The other thing I'm concerned about. When we put this \$95,000 in here and the \$200,000 for the freezer, aren't we in effect tipping off potential vendors the range to bid in?" Dr. Phillips, "That maybe a legitimate question but it's the practice that we've always put into effect". Mr. Whiteside, "This is new for me, this idea of pre-approving vendors." Dr. Phillips, "You're right, this is new." Mr. Whiteside, "What we need to do is come back after the last of the two bids have been opened. We can do this same thing in 15 minutes." Dr. Phillips, "We can. We were just trying to avoid another meeting." Mr. Whiteside offered a substitute motion to table these items until after the bids have been opened, the motion was seconded by Mrs. Williams. The vote was (5) affirming, (3) opposing, (Storey, Wells, Walker) and (1) abstaining, (Green). The substitute motion passed.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Smith Raymond Company, low bidder, \$154,904.00; approved the transfer of \$52,713.00 from the FY03 SPLOST NPR and the budget for Phase II HVAC Project at Richards Middle.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Alexander Contracting, low bidder, \$77,875.00 and approved the budget for the installation of guard rails at Old Guard Road on the North site property.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a lease agreement between the Muscogee County School District and River Mill, for the lease of 33,849 sq. ft. of warehouse space in the old Bibb Mill from November 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 at a total cost of \$39,490.48.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the called meeting.

Jorge Vega
Legal Counsel