

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007, 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 19, 2007, 6:30 p.m. conference room at the Bradley Library.

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

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education, Greg S. Ellington, Legal Counsel, Eddie Obleton, Robin Pennock, Peggy Connell, Don Cooper, Del Parker, Billy Kendall and media.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Gentian Elementary and the Character Education word for March. Mr. Walker recognized visitors in the audience.

The Board recognized the following; Jordan High State Basketball Champions; Hardaway High State Final Four Girls Basketball; Kendrick High State Final Four Girls Basketball; Hardaway High and Columbus High State Wrestling Champions; Columbus High Cheerleading Sportsmanship; School Psychologist of the Year; ABCD Award.

The following were recognized on the Public Forum; Mr. C.A. Hardmon spoke regarding the Board Policy on use of abusive language; Ms. Ollie Tarver, spoke regarding an issue at Baker Middle School; and Mr. Chad Bryant spoke on behalf of the Ministerial Alliance regarding an issue at Baker Middle School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting held on Tuesday, February 20, 2007.

Mrs. Green asked that the Board move Item Y to the front of the agenda for action.

Dr. Phillips noted that there were (3) new items that have been added to the agenda, a GMP for Rigdon Road; Funding source to air condition the gym at Columbus High; MOU with the CCG. It was the consensus of the Board to vote to put these items on the agenda individually.

Mrs. Green made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Williams to add the GMP for the New Rigdon Road to the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Storey to add the air-conditioning of the gym at Columbus High School to the agenda. Mr. Roberson, "I didn't know that this item came out of committee. We had some discussion but as it related to a/c gyms we would wait until the end of the SPLOST and determine the allocations to be fair to all high schools. I think we have a point of order." Mr. Whiteside, "If the idea is that this item should be passed to committees next month. I think it should be because; I'm partly responsible because I brought this up. We learned that the bid that's going to be used at Carver has a provision in it for an added alternative for a/c so that if that bid comes in under the Carver budget then Carver would be allowed to have the a/c which is exactly the treatment that Columbus High was denied. I just said it ought to be done consistently. I'd like to offer a substitute motion." Mr. Whiteside made a substitute motion to table this item until a date certain so that action can be taken on this along with Carver High, Mr. Roberson seconded this substitute motion. The vote was (6) affirming and (3) opposing, (Wells, Schley, Storey).

Upon motion of Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Green, the Board voted unanimously to add the Memorandum of Understanding to the agenda.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Joint Property Committees of the City of Columbus and the Muscogee County School District to exchange parcels of property. Mr. Whiteside commented, "I want to say first this is really good work and the City Manager and the Superintendent need to be applauded for their effort to come to consensus on something apparently that had been in deadlock for something that seems like a lifetime but it's been two years. I was in attendance at the Joint Property Committee meeting last Thursday. I was proud of the way that worked out and I support all the comments that were made at that meeting. I do want to get one thing straight here. I got an e-mail from a parent a couple of months ago who was absolutely furious at me because I had voted against building a natatorium. I sent an e-mail back to her that was a little terse. I told her I didn't remember voting on a natatorium and I didn't want to be jumped on for something I didn't do. In the Memorandum of Understanding it talks about a pool/natatorium and I believe people such as me who are in strong support of having a natatorium have read this to mean a natatorium. Is this what we are talking about here?" Dr. Phillips, "Yes that is what the City is talking about building here. The City of Columbus is. I talked with the City Manager, Isaiah today and he's here. He told me directly that this is the full commitment and intent to do so." Mr. Whiteside, "I wanted to say that the City of Columbus has been very good about keeping your word on your commitment and that's been your source of success on your sales taxes. If you say it's going to be done then I know it's going to be done. That's the end of discussion for me."

Mr. Walker asked that the Board return to the beginning of the action agenda. Mr. Ellington pointed out that if any Board Member had a family member on the re-election list for refrain from voting on the entire list until they could be taken off the list.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mrs. Green, the Board unanimously approved the 2007-2008 re-election of all employees as presented with the exception of Cherry Wells, Emily Whiteside and Philip T. Schley, Jr.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved the re-election of Ms. Cherry Wells for the 2007-2008 school year. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) abstaining, (Wells).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board approved the re-election of Mrs. Emily Whiteside for the 2007-2008 school year. The vote was (8) affirming, and (1) abstaining, (Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board approved the re-election of Mr. Philip T. Schley, Jr. for the 2007-2008 school year. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) abstaining, (Schley).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Valerie Williams to the position of Principal at Dimon Elementary Magnet.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mark Hanner to the position of Principal at Johnson Elementary.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Diane Sharpe to the position of Principal at Mathews Elementary.

Mrs. Storey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve the appointment of Mary Avery to the position of Principal at Baker Middle School. Mr. Roberson, "I think Mrs. Avery is an outstanding educator and serves in the district that I represent at South Columbus and M. L. King. I feel given all of the situations that have been said not only by Mrs. Tarver but Rev. Bryant about Dr. Brown's situation, I have to abstain. I want publicly to say that because what affects one does affect the other. Dr. Brown is an outstanding educator and I think that needs to be also underscored. I not only represent Joe Roberson and not only the faith community but the entire community and even though I don't want to rain on Mrs. Avery's parade, please understand that but yet in terms of other factors and other situations, I have to abstain at this moment." Ms. Buckner, "Same here." The vote was (5) affirming and (4) abstaining, (Green, Buckner, Williams, Roberson).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Michael Barden to the position of Principal at Blackmon Road Middle.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Richard Green to the position of Principal at Midland Middle.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Marietta Webb to the position of Principal at Academic Success Center.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Richard Stone to the position of Principal at Jordan High.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Shelia Barefield to the position of Director of Professional Learning.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Jimmie Barnett to the position of Director of School Nutrition.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Kerri Van Pelt to the position of Research & Evaluation Data Specialist.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ben Jordan to the position of Supervisor of Plant Operations/Safety Coordinator.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved policy revisions as they relate to offensive language. It was the consensus of the Board that the Administration include language in the policy for employees as it pertains to their conduct in relation to offensive language.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the proposed attendance zone for Eagle Ridge, Veterans Memorial and an attendance zone adjustment for Midland Middle. Ms. Buckner confirmed that this would also include the proposed attendance zone change for Fort and Rothschild Middle Schools.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a request to the State Board of Education for class size waiver requests at Benning Hills, Brewer, and Hannan.

Upon motion of Mrs. Green, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the re-naming of Eastway Elementary in honor of the late Lonnie Jackson. The new name will be Lonnie Jackson Academy. Mr. Whiteside suggested that the Board adopt a resolution regarding this action.

Upon motion of Mrs. Green, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously voted to prepare and adopt a resolution to the family of Lonnie Jackson at the next meeting.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously approved a Muscogee Career Academy on the campus of Jordan High.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board awarded a contract to CELT to procure a Curriculum Mapping Software System as part of the Comprehensive Local Education Improvement Plan. The vote was (6) affirming and (3) opposing, (Green, Storey, Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved an agreement with CELT to provide appropriate oversight in the Department of Technology. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Green).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved financial statements for seven months ending January 31, 2007.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved a resolution/certificate for Columbus High certifying that all payments have been paid in full to the contractor and architect.

Mrs. Storey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roberson to approve the consent agenda with appropriate notation that items B and C are settlements of legal action and exclude items D, G-7 and J-3 & 4: The vote was unanimous.

- Human Resources Report Professional/Classified
- Legal Action Settlement, \$25,000.00
- Legal Action Settlement, \$5,000.00
- Hewlett Packard, \$33,690.00, computer purchase in Library System
- 3M Library Systems software license renewal for CVRLS, \$14,706.00
- Grant, John S. & James L Knight, \$56,500.00, Marshall Middle
- Grant, Board of Regents, \$500.00 Summer Reading Program at Library
- Grant, AFLAC, \$16,000.00 vacation reading program at Library
- Grant, Title II AP Teacher, \$2,500.00 (Jordan) and \$225,00.00 (Spencer)
- Grant, GA Science Teachers' Association, \$500.00, Columbus High
- Grant, Elizabeth Fray and Dupont Kirven, \$5,000.00, Columbus High
- Grant, SBOE, Clubview Charter, \$200,000.00
- New budget, Title I FY07 Distinguished Schools, \$64,174.00
- New budget, Title I FY07 School Improvement System, \$58,741.00
- Budget adjustment, Elementary Education, over \$38,000.00
- Budget adjustment, Adult Education Program, \$85,976.00
- Purchase order, Multi-Media, \$89,133.00 Title I, whiteboards (8) schools
- Purchase order, Multi-Media, \$12,430.98, Title I, software for Gentian
- Purchase order, GA Virtual School, \$11,000.00 graduation course
- Purchase order, GA Supt. Association, \$16,720.00, executive coaching
- Purchase order, PSAT, \$24,921.00 for testing materials.
- Audit of Financial Statement of 1997 SPLOST Capital Projects.
- Sales Tax Construction Program Report.
- Report on Transfer from FY03 SPLOST Critical Needs.
- FY97 Sales Tax Construction Program Report.
- Report on Transfer from Capital Projects and Debt to SPLOST Fund.
- 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.

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Ms. Buckner, to approve a confirmation purchase order to Turner Plumbing, Heating and Air, Inc., in the amount of \$12,000.00 to furnish and install a new sewer system at the Woodall Program. Mr. Whiteside asked how many bids were received. It was noted that two bids were received. The vote was unanimous.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a grant for Best Buy Project Teacher, \$2,500.00 for the St. Elmo Center.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved purchase orders to Virtucom, \$55,323.85, Title I, for selected Title I schools; and Virtucom, \$36,031.85, laptop computers, online GHSGT review. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session for a discipline appeal, and litigation and personnel matters.

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

Upon motion of Mrs. Williams, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the regular March board meeting.

Greg S. Ellington
Legal Counsel