

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 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, December 3, 2007, 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

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

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education, Greg S. Ellington, Legal Counsel, Eddie Obleton, Robin Pennock, Peggy Connell, Don Cooper, Don Hall, Billy Kendall, and representatives from the media. Mr. Walker recognized visitors in the audience.

The Board recognized the following; Student Achievement as Single Statewide Accountability System, Columbus High State Volleyball champions, Communications Award and Mr. Jesse Martin who won the ABCD Award.

Mr. Walker called on Bobsie Swift who spoke on the public forum, giving the Board an update from the Library.

The Board took action on the addendum item. Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Green, the Board unanimously approved the re-appointment of Library Board members, Bobsie Swift, Kelly Pridgen and Jimmy Elder.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting held on October 15, 2007 and called meetings held on October 10, November 5, November 19 and November 20.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the 2008 Legislative agenda as presented.

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Ms. Buckner to adopt the Strategic Plan for the Muscogee County School District. Mr. Whiteside offered a substitute motion, seconded by Mrs. Green, to approve the proposed intermediate Strategic Plan as recommended by the Superintendent, but with the direction that the Plan be supplemented to reflect, as an additional sixth goal, the following: Recognizing that public education in a community necessarily involved including the public in policy level decision making, that the only legitimate, legally recognized mechanism by which the public can be included in that process, is through its duly elected school board, and that the administration may not function effectively without being free to make management and administrative decisions, in implementation of board and community driven policies, without inappropriate interference with the board, the Muscogee County School District commits to the continuing development and refinement of an appropriate working relationship between and among the community, the Board and the Administration. And to develop appropriate goals and sub-goals, strategies, resources, and responsibilities, as well as a time line implementing that strategic goal. The vote was unanimous for the substitute motion.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Gayla Childs to the position of assistant principal at Blackmon Road Middle School.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously approved a review of current job rankings, internal compensation equity, market comparison, and salary structure by the Hay Group at a total cost of \$25,000.00 plus 2% travel and expense. Mr. Whiteside, "I am correct in my understanding that the approval of this compensation study will not in any way impair our commitment to operating a performance based compensation plan for central office?" Dr. Phillips, "It will not."

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2007.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a purchase order in the amount of \$174,165.00 to Yancey Power Systems and a budget for the retrofitting of 2005 and 2006 school buses.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved Financial Statements for three months ending September 30, 2007.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved an adjustment in Change Order No. 8 for savings that will be deducted from the original contract for the construction project at Veterans Memorial Middle School.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a purchase order to Mainline Information Systems, in the amount of \$15,760.00 for equipment to accommodate new servers and server racks.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board approved Drama Kids to use single classroom space at various schools for drama instruction during the 2007-2008 school year. Ms. Buckner, "I have a problem with this. It seems that the public is subsidizing this private business. The only criterion here is there is a learning activity. We haven't established any type criteria opening the way for any business to come up with any profit making." Mr. Caggins, "Ms. Buckner, we have a policy that allows for profit business to use our schools to help children." Ms. Buckner, "What does the policy say about the criteria to be used? Is it at the principals' discretion?" Mr. Caggins, "The parents are buying into what is being offered." The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Buckner).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the final payment of \$66,743.17 to Holbrook Service Company and Energy Savers of Columbus for repair son system-wide HVAC.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously approved a split of legal fees between the Muscogee County School District and the Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System associated with the Education Park Coalition Lawsuit.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items with the exception of H, 1, 2, and 5:

- Human Resources Report Professional and Classified
- Workers' Compensation Settlement, \$24,000.00
- OCLC/NetLibrary, supplier for CVRLS, \$15,000.00
- Donation, Carl Gregory, \$3,920.00 to Marshall Middle School
- Budget adjustment, Professional Learning, exceeds \$25,000.00
- Budget adjustment, Georgia Learning Resources Center, \$33,036.00
- Budget adjustment, CTAE, Capital Outlay and Local Funds
- Budget adjustment, Northside Auditorium, \$1,573,752.00
- Budget adjustment, CVRL, \$1,000,000 Library Reserve for Mildred Terry Library
- New budget, Title I FY08 School Improvement, \$495,000 for (4) schools
- New budget, Title III, Park A Immigrant, \$32,251.00 for ESOL teacher training
- New budget, Title III, Park A Limited English Proficient, \$84,788 Bilingual liaison
- New budget, GLRS, \$48,529, graduation/dropout prevention
- New budget, \$8,326, Capacity Building Improvement
- New budget, \$12,337, Special Education Mentor Teacher Academy
- New budget, Georgia Teaching Force Program, \$9,000
- New budget IDEA Flow Through, Federal Pre-school, State Pre-school
- Grant, Title V, Park A Innovation, \$61,462
- Grant, Title II, Part A Improving Teacher Quality, \$2,585,640
- Grant, Marshall Middle, \$1,000, Target, Inc.
- Grant, Mental Health/Addictive Diseases, \$45,959, Peer Helpers
- Grant, Safe and Drug Free Schools, \$177,440
- Grant, SADD, \$20,000
- Purchase order, Nova Net, \$45,000 software at ASC
- Purchase order Columbus Regional Math Collaborative, \$16,245
- Purchase order, fuel for MCSD vehicles, \$202,898.38
- Purchase order, selected vendors, \$274,478.36, repairs to sewer at Columbus High
- Financial Assistance, \$1,894.00
- Audit of Financial Statement of 1997 SPLOST and 2003 SPLOST Capital Projects
- Sales Tax Construction Program Report
- Report on Transfer from FY03 SPLOST Critical Needs
- Report of Change Orders/Changes in Project Contingencies
- Report on System-Wide Technology Plan
- Report on Forecasted Revenue Collections
- Report on Transfers from Capital Projects Fund
- Status Report for Projects under Construction

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the following purchase orders: Ms. Callahan explained that the no-bid on the copy paper was because; it was treated under the volatile category like the fuel. She stated it will be bid next time.

- VirtuCom, \$49,469.38, computer, computer supplies various schools and locations
- VirtuCom, \$195,818.21, computer/equipment for new Rigdon Road Elementary
- Xerox, \$20,664.00, system-wide copy paper

Ms. Buckner, “On the Personnel report, I notice that there is a vacancy that has been open since 2003. Have we been having substitutes for that?” Mr. Cooper, “You talking about the Family Consumer Science position. We are working on finding someone.” Ms. Buckner, “How are we doing the standards that the State requires? Is there a substitute that has been given lesson plans that have the standards that need to be taught to meet Georgia standards? It seems like we’re offering a class without a teacher for five years.” Mr. Cooper, “The previous principal chose not to fill the position.” Mrs. Bergeron, “The person that we have in there now has a background in parenting and in Family and Consumer Science but, she’s not certified in Family & Consumer Science. We’re looking into getting her certified because she is good.” Ms. Buckner, “That’s fine. She’s not certified but she is trying to teach the course.”

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session for two student discipline appeals and a personnel matter.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to come out of executive session. The Board came back into open session.

At this time Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Storey, to deny an employee’s request for a Board hearing on a matter that the Board has determined, taking the employee’s allegations as true, does not satisfy the definition of a grievance as set out in the Board’s policy on complaints and grievances. The vote was (5) affirming and (4) opposing, (Whiteside, Williams, Roberson, Buckner). The motion was approved.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board voted unanimously to go back into executive session.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board adjourned the regular December meeting of the Board.

Greg S. Ellington
Legal Counsel