

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 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 Tuesday, February 20, 2007, 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

The following Board Members were present: Cathy Williams, Fife M. Whiteside, Patricia Hugley Green, Brenda Storey, James Walker, 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, Myles Caggins, Del Parker, Billy Kendall and Harry Franklin of the Ledger Enquirer.

The Board recognized Charles Flowers for being inducted into the Georgia dugout Club Baseball Hall of Fame; Dr. Phillips recognized Board Members for School Board Appreciation week in March; Shaw High football team as Georgia AAA State Runners-up and Region 2-AAA Runners-up; and Carver High School second in Region 2-AAA; Rothschild Middle School City Championship Girls basketball team; Outstanding Southeast Region AP Student from Columbus High, National Board Certification teachers; and ABCD Award winner.

The Board recognized those that spoke on the public forum; Carson Hand, Northside High need for an auditorium; Abdul Hasan, commendation to Board for their work in education; Mrs. Battle, Shaw High School parent regarding issues with her son at the school.

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 Tuesday, January 16, 2007 and a called meeting held on January 29, 2007.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to amend the agenda for an addendum item.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to excuse Dr. Schley for personal reasons.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Robbie Keith Holt to the position of Director of Arts & Humanities.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Doreen Sears to the position of Instructional Specialist for Reading Literacy K-12.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved the appointment of Elisa Peoples to the position of Title II A Specialist. The vote was (7) affirming and (1) abstaining (Buckner).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Kristen Miller Zohn to the position of Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at the Columbus Museum.

Upon motion of Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Gary Wortley to the position of Chief Operations Officer for the Columbus Public Library.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the revision to Policy JCBN Non-resident Students and Policy JBCA Resident Students.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved revision to Policy JBCBA Tuition deleting information pertaining to care of books and Instructional Materials and Penalty for Abuse of Property. The statement will be incorporated into Policy JCDA Student Behavior Code.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved class size waivers for Blanchard, Edgewood, Muscogee, Arnold, Blackmon Road and Richards.

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteside not to approve the Channel One Network for Carver and Spencer High Schools. The vote not to approve was (6) opposing and (2) affirming. Mrs. Storey made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Green to approve the Channel One Network for Carver and Spencer High Schools. The vote was (6) affirming and (2) opposing, (Wells, Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the summer school program for 2007.

Mr. Whiteside made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board voted to authorize with an adjustment in the discretionary limit a request for Local Legislation to enable the Board threshold for purchasing approval to be placed at \$15,000 and authorized the Law Firm to move ahead and advertise. Mr. Whiteside asked that procurement issues be dealt with at the next work session. The vote was (5) affirming and (3) opposing, (Green, Buckner, Roberson).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved the name of new elementary school no. 6 on Schomburg Road to Eagle Ridge Academy.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved budgetary parameters for the FY08 General Fund budget with priority for (1) target goals for the number of days of fund balance at June 30th; (2) target number of mills to be transferred to the Library; (3) target number of mills to be transferred to the Capital Projects Fund; and (4) target millage rate.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously authorized the administration to negotiate a renewal of the audit contract with Robinson, Grimes & Company for a period not to exceed three years. This renewal, if approved, would cover the audits of FY07 through FY09.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the renewal of contracts for system-wide telecommunications services for e-rate.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for six months ending December 31, 2006.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved Newton Aaron and Associates to serve as project manager for the Mildred L. Terry Branch Library 2003 SPLOST expansion project. The fee for this initial planning is \$4,800.00 and will be funded by library reserve funds until the 2003 SPLOST funds are available.

Upon motion of Mrs. Green, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the assignment of Kersey and Luttrell, Architects to prepare plans and specifications to upgrade the auditorium and resurface driveways, parking areas and other construction improvements at Spencer High School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mrs. Green, the Board unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding between the Columbus Consolidated Government and the Muscogee County School District to construction improvements on a portion of Schomburg Road located at New Elementary School No. 6.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved the closing of the construction project at Columbus High School and deposit \$926,831.73 in the 2003 SPLOST NPR Fund to be used for other 2003 SPLOST Projects.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved the closing of the construction project at Mathews Elementary School and deposit \$2,440.41 in the 2003 SPLOST NPR Fund to be used for other SPLOST Projects.

Upon motion of Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved authorization to disburse \$809,016.00 for lease purchase payment for energy systems retrofitting. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) abstaining, (Roberson).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items with the exception of Items H, I, N-3,7-10, 12 and O-3(band uniforms):

- Human Resources Report/Professional and Classified
- Use of Kinnett Stadium by Georgia Special Olympics
- Use of Kinnett Stadium by March of Dimes
- Use of Classrooms at Northside High School
- Donation from David Rothschild for Reading Bowen, \$3,200.00
- Workers' Compensate Settlement, \$15,000.00
- Executive Coaching Program, \$20,260.00
- Purchase of chicken for School Nutrition Program, 42,802.78
- Purchase of chicken products for School Nutrition Program, \$35,000.00
- Budget adjustment, Plant Services, \$500,578.00
- Budget adjustment, 21st Century, \$298,682.00
- Budget adjustment, Title I, over \$25,000
- Budget adjustment, Northside High to cover deficits
- Purchase order, United States Postal Service, \$20,000.00
- Purchase order CTAE Resource Network, Inc., \$18,150.00
- Phonak, Inc., \$31,970.00, units for Deaf/Hard of Hearing students.
- Jenkins Service Company, \$21,625.00 sewer line repair at Edgewood and Richards.
- Title I, Pearson Scott, \$12,231.30, instructional materials at Edgewood.
- National Study of School Evaluation, \$11,559.75, for surveys.
- Malone Contract Floor covering, \$7,303.00 for carpet, Columbus Roberts, and \$3,142.00 for carpet at Facilities Building.
- Grant, McKinney-Vento, \$148,300.00, Homeless Children needs.
- Grant, Aerospace Education Foundation, \$250.00, Johnson.
- Grant, Career, Technical and Agricultural, additional funds, \$64,453.00.
- Grant, Literacy Alliance Programs, \$20,000.00.
- Grant, GDOE Middle School Remediation, \$33,634.00.
- New budget, Career, Technical and Agricultural, \$61,453.00.
- New budget, Woodall Program State Amendment, FY07.
- New budget, Woodall Program Federal Amendment carryover, FY07.
- New budget, Statewide, K-8, \$512,610.00.
- 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.

Upon motion of Mrs. Williams, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board approved band uniforms for Hardaway High School, (\$36,241.50) and Jordan High School, (\$39,919.70). The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved the following purchase orders: The vote was (7) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside).

- Virtucom, (\$14,434.34), Hardaway and (\$5,778.90) Teenage Parenting Center to purchase computers.
- Title I, Virtucom, \$10,564.02, computers, Marshall Middle
- Title I, Virtucom, \$16,380.45, computer equipment, Waddell
- Title I, Virtucom, \$25,427.16, computers for Rothschild Middle
- Title I, Virtucom, \$34,469.18, computers for Eastway

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a purchase order to Strick IV Plumbing in the amount of \$18,765.44 for a gas line at Arnold Middle School.

Mr. Wells, “Sometime ago, the Board agreed unanimously to ask the leadership, Mary Sue to write a letter to the Library Board and ask them if they would basically, it wasn’t going to get consensus to build a whole park over there. We asked them to concentrate their efforts on the footprint they have and try to move quickly in closing out the balance of it without holding it out another couple of years. Would anybody have a problem if we were to write the chairman of the library again and ask them to go ahead and move? They took up a major portion of a facilities committee today on talking about the library park and there’s no consensus that we are going to approve this.” Mrs. Green, “Why don’t we ask them to resend that letter.” Mr. Wells, “They didn’t pay attention to that letter. Let’s write them another letter. Mr. Chairman can you and Dr. Schley get together on doing a letter? Asking them to confine their resources to equipping, building and maintaining the new library and finish the project up.”

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session for three student discipline appeals.

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

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