

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CALLED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
BRADLEY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007, 5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

A called meeting of the Muscogee County Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 17, 2007, 5:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

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

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education, Greg S. Ellington, Legal Counsel, Robin Pennock, Deputy Superintendent of Education, Eddie Obleton, Chief Student Services Officer, Peggy Connell, Chief Academic Officer, Myles Caggins, Chief Operations Officer, Don Cooper, Chief Human Resources Officer, Ellen Reames, Coordinator for Student Services, Marilyn Brannon, Counselor at Northside High, Harry Franklin from the Ledger Enquirer.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously excused the absence of Mrs. Green and Mr. Wells from the called meeting.

Mr. Walker stated that the purpose of the called meeting was for the Board to go into executive session to discuss an individual student's educational records and in open session to discuss and take action on a waiver of the graduation ceremony requirements and establish a policy consistent with State Board policies for waivers and variances in similar unique and extraordinary cases as are presented at this time.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session to discuss an individual student's educational records and a potential litigation matter.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

Mr. Walker stated that the Board will now vote on (3) requests that have been considered regarding a waiver of the graduation ceremony requirements.

Mr. Whiteside made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Storey to grant a waiver in the case of the student with medical issues. The vote was (5) opposing and (2) affirming, (Whiteside, Storey).

Mrs. Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roberson to grant a waiver in the case of the (4) students that were recommended by the State Department of Education. Dr. Phillips stated, "The name of these four students was just sent to us today from Wanda Barrs, State School Board Chair. She states that a positive recommendation will reflect that the student variance package reveals that the student has satisfied all the administration requirements for a variance. There is a requirement that the names have to be posted on the Secretary of States web site for fifteen days. The State Board does not meet until June 14 and they can't take formal action until then but by way of this letter, there's a strong presumption that the variance will be granted. That is why we are recommending waiver for them since the State Board said that they will grant them. This is a first from the State." The vote was (6) affirming and (1) opposing, (Schley).

Mrs. Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roberson to grant a waiver in the case of the military student transitioning from California. Dr. Phillips, "In this case, the student came from California, spent (3) years there, passed the High School Graduation Test that they administer in California, just came here for her senior, met all the requirements for graduation here in Georgia except one GHGT that she did not pass and was not apprised by the school that they had other opportunities to take the test. It was through our fault that the student didn't have other opportunities to attempt to pass it. The vote was unanimous to grant the waiver.

Mr. Whiteside, "Also on the agenda is another item to establish a policy. I don't think we'll be taking action on that." Mr. Walker, "Correct."

Upon motion of Mrs. Williams, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to go back into executive session for pending litigation.

Greg S. Ellington, Legal Counsel