

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 24, 2006, 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, July 24, 2006, 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

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

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education; Carter P. Schondelmayer, and Charles T. Staples, Legal Counsel, Robin Pennock, Deputy Superintendent, Del Parker, Chief Financial Officer, Don A. Cooper, Jr., Chief Human Resources Officer, Eddie Obleton, Chief Student Services Officer, Peggy Connell, Chief Academic Officer, Myles Caggins, Chief Facilities & Operations Officer, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Education, Harry Franklin and other representatives from the media.

Dr. Polleys called the meeting to order with an invocation. The pledge to the flag and the character education word was led by students from Hannan Magnet Academy. Dr. Polleys recognized all visitors in the audience.

The Board and Dr. Phillips recognized Dr. Pennock as being appointed to the National ROTC Sub-Committee; Mr. Roberson introduced Jim Wink, of the Boys and Girls Club who presented an appreciation award to the School District; Hannan Magnet Academy was recognized for State Awards in Move Academy; and Shaw for Regional Awards in Robotics.

Dr. Polleys called on Teresa Tomlinson representing Midtown, Inc. who presented a proposal that the Board requested on the use of the land around the old Sears property and new library.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to excuse the absence of Mrs. Storey due to illness.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to modify the agenda to add an addendum item relating to uniforms at Dimon Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Green, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board meeting held on June 19, 2006 and a called meeting held on July 17, 2006.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Green, the Board unanimously approved the following personnel appointments:

- A. Tim Smith, Assistant Principal at Clubview/Gentian Elementary Schools.
- B. Terri Massa, Assistant Principal at Arnold Magnet Academy.
- C. Tamura Magwood, Assistant Principal at Marshall Middle School.
- D. Miranda Banks, Assistant Principal at Spencer High School.
- E. David Hicks, Assistant Principal at Spencer High.
- F. Suzanne Evans, Secondary Instructional Specialist for Math and Science.
- G. Debra Van Pelt, Supervisor Printing, Graphics and Mail Department.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the revision to policy GBRH Professional Personnel Leaves and Absences and Policy GCRG – Classified Personnel Leaves and Absences.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the addition to the staff ethics policy pertaining to the exercising of free speech.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously authorized the administration to fund an increase in liability insurance premiums in the amount of \$34,489.00 to be taken from General Fund Contingency Reserve Fund.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved a multi-tiered leadership development program in partnership with the Leadership Institute of the Cunningham Center at a cost of \$25,000. The approval is contingent upon receipt of Consolidated Grant Funds.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved a purchase order to Tranquility Solutions in the amount of \$18,678.90 for the annual maintenance of Clarity special education software by Tranquility.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved a purchase order to Follett Software in the amount of \$114,511.77 to renew maintenance, and upgrade costs for Follett Destiny Library Manager and Textbook Manager Programs at (54) sites.

Mr. Wells made a motion seconded by Mr. Walker to approve the purchase of a cargo delivery truck for the warehouse. Mr. Whiteside asked, “I was rather confused by this when I read it in committee and when I read it in the agenda packet. The source of the confusion is the bid tabulation on page 59 is not a bid tabulation for this truck. It’s a bid tabulation for a similar truck that was bought in March. There was no bid for this truck and the theory is that if we bought a truck on bid in March for a price that ought to be good enough evidence that it’s the right price and we can buy it on a purchase order without re-bidding. It makes bad economic sense. I visited with Greg Ellington about this and I’m sorry he’s not here tonight. There was some issue about this being an illegal purchase. It doesn’t fall under any of the exceptions to the requirement for free and open competition. I’d like to call on counsel.” Ms. Schondelmayer, “We did some looking into it today and we do think there should be some process to bid each item and in this item because it does not meet the sole purchase exception requirement.” Dr. Phillips, “I want to say that Jim Askew has said to us that this is a legitimate process that the state uses all the time and that when you’ve purchased something from somebody previously and you go back to the market and they say they will honor the bid previously given that that’s an acceptable way to go about it. Heard is about the only one that will give us a bid on any of them. We’ve checked with them and we’ve found that the price will be about \$5,000 more if we go back to the table with it. If our attorney is recommending that we go back and bid it then I recommend to the Board that we pull this item and go back and bid it.” Ms. Schondelmayer, “I apologize, I misunderstood. Actually, you can meet an exception to that bidding requirement as long as you have a sole purpose justification and I do believe in this situation where you can show an actual tangible expense to the school district that you can meet this requirement.” Mr. Wells, “It is the recommendation of the Superintendent to pull the item.” Mr. Whiteside, “What I’m arguing is that we’re establishing a practice here that will cost us not just tens of thousands but hundreds of thousands.” Ms. Schondelmayer, “I think it may have been misunderstood as to what my opinion actually was to this bid process. We do think that you will need to bid out these jobs separately unless you can come up with under our own policies, there is a sole purchase exception justification and if you want to fall under that you’ve got to have the paperwork to do that. It would be our recommendation that you could move it provided all of the requirements of our policy could be met.” Dr. Phillips, “It does not fall under that. It is not sole source.” Mr. Roberson, “I would suggest that we do delay and wait. There are so many questions and at this point I do not want to set a precedence with this.” It was the consensus of the Board to delay a vote on this item.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board awarded a contract to ALC Controls, Inc., sole source, \$64,414.00 for the repair and upgrade of controls at Waddell Elementary. The vote was (7) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved Financial Statements for eleven months ending May 31, 2006.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved additional construction at Johnson Elementary. This would include a fire lane and bus loop and the transfer of funds from the 1997 SPLOST NPR Fund for the work. The estimated cost is \$280,000.00.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously awarded a contract in the amount of \$427,000.00 to Denson Contracting Company, low bidder for modifications to the auditorium at Shaw High; approve a tentative budget, \$473,970.00 and transfer additional funds, \$33,970.00 from FY07 Capital Outlay budget.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved a budget adjustment, \$361,000.00 from the Department of Technology FY07 budget to fund data cabling at Middle School No. 5, Elementary No. 6 and New Rigdon Road.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved a revision to budgets for Middle No. 5, Elementary No. 6 and New Rigdon Road for additional work that includes data cabling, telephone wiring and interactive white boards along with all peripherals to the construction contract and GMP.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the contractual agreement from the State to fund at the 100% level the amount of \$1,228,573.00 for construction of Middle School No. 5.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the construction project closing at Muscogee Elementary and depositing \$25,764.16 in the 1997 SPLOST-NPR Fund to be used for other 1997 SPLOST Projects and \$10,375.28 in the 2003 SPLOST-NPR Related Fund to be used for other 2003 SPLOST Projects.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to NetPlanner in the amount of \$83,754.07 for structured cabling in twenty portable classrooms.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board approved a budget adjustment and purchase order for unused funds from DOT to purchase computers for new teachers in MCSD for added classes during the 2006-2007 school year. The vote was (7) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved a purchase order in the amount of \$20,000.00 to CELT Corporation for assistance in re-submitting of WAN RFP, evaluation of the vendors, and presentation of the RFP and vendor selection to the Community Technology Committee.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the name of the new north site road at the North Site Property as Old Guard Road.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved Career, Technical and Agricultural Education to partner with Columbus State University, TSYS, AFLAC, and Omega Training for the purpose of developing computer science programming skills for middle school students.

Dr. Polleys asked for any discussion and vote on the addendum item. Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved a uniform dress code for students at Dimon Elementary for the 2006-2007 school year.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items:

- Human Resources Report/Professional and Classified.
- Payroll deduction for MAE membership dues.
- Payroll deduction for PAGE membership dues.
- Payroll deduction of School Nutrition State and Local membership dues.
- Payroll deduction for new School Nutrition employees.
- Payroll deduction for MEEF contributions.
- Resolution for Board travel.
- Student Discipline Tribunal for 2006-2007.
- Gates Foundation Grant, \$42,000.00 for Public Access Computing at libraries.
- Cornerstone Parent Involvement Grant, \$5,000.00 for Key Elementary.
- Water heater for Eastway Elementary , DeBest Plumbing, \$17,318.00.
- FY07 Revenue for 1997 and 2003 SPLOST, new budget.
- Pre-K FY07, \$3,542,037.00, new budget.
- Woodall, Federal FY07, new budget.
- Woodall, State FY07, new budget.
- Early College, \$100,000.00, new budget.

- Audit of Financial Statement 1997 SPLSOT Capital Projects.
- Sales Tax Construction Program Report.
- Report on Transfer from FY03 SPLOST Critical Needs.
- FY97 Sales Tax Construction Program Report.
- Transfers from Capital Projects and Debt to SPLOST Fund cover scope changes.
- Change Orders/Changes in Project Contingencies.
- Statues Report for Projects under construction.
- System-wide Technology Plan Report.
- Forecasted Revenue Collections.
- Transfers from Capital Projects Fund.

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

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

The lobby was checked for anyone that wanted to re-convene with the Board after the executive session. There was no one in attendance from the media or public.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Whiteside the Board unanimously voted to amend the regular Board agenda to take action on a property matter.

Dr. Schley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteside authorizing the execution of a letter of intent in the gifting of land from Blackmon Realty Company to the Muscogee County School District for the purpose of constructing an elementary school. The land is located in northern Muscogee County and is bordered on the north by Heiferhorn Creek and the west by River Road. The vote was unanimous.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the regular July Board meeting.

Carter Schondelmayer, Legal Counsel