

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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, December 4, 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, Greg S. Ellington, Legal Counsel, Del Parker, Don Cooper, Eddie Obleton, Peggy Connell, Myles Caggins, Billy Kendall, 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 Mathews Elementary School and Ms. Judy Nail introduced the Wynnton Elementary Arts Magnet Show Choir who performed holiday selections.

The Board extended a Special Farewell to Dr. Mary Sue Polleys on the occasion of her retirement from the School Board after 13 years of service, January 1, 1994 through December 31, 2006. Dr. Phillips called on Dr. Buddy Cooper who presented a gift to Dr. Mary Sue Polleys from the Friends of Mary Sue (A monument in Dr. Polleys honor to be placed at Baker Middle School reflecting the Horace Mann quote, "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity"). Dr. Schley read a resolution from the School Board, it was unanimously accepted. Dr. Phillips read a proclamation from Mayor Poydasheff. (Appended to minutes)

The Board recognized the following organizations and those representing them for their support and commitment to public education; Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation, Teddie Ussery; Drug Free You & Me Volunteers; Nancy Buntin; Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Jim Daugherty; and Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Mike Gaymon.

The Board recognized; Columbus High School for winning the Knox Culpepper Sportsmanship Trophy for 2006; Columbus High State winners for One Act Play; Cross Country AAA; Cheerleading; and Volleyball; Instruction Technology Spotlight Award; and ABCD award for Alisa Brown.

The Board honored Miss Karen P. Jones, the Executive Assistant to the Board and Superintendent of Education for her years of service in the Muscogee County School District.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting held on Monday, October 16, 2006 and a called meeting on October 30, 2006.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved the acceptance of gift from local citizens in honor of Dr. Mary Sue Polleys. This gift of a monument citing a Horace Mann quote will be placed on site at Baker Middle School. The vote was unanimous with the Chairman abstaining.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the Legislative Priorities.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved the Eastwood Academy charter petition for transmittal to the Georgia Board of Education. The vote was (6) affirming, (2) opposing, (Green, Roberson) and (1) abstaining, (Buckner).

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a new high school course offering in the Mandarin Language.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved class size waiver requests for Benning Hills, Brewer, Blanchard and Hannan Elementary Schools. The requests will be forwarded to the State Board of Education. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) abstaining, (Buckner).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the High Points Learning, Inc. to provide supplemental educational services for students attending Title I schools that are in year two or greater of Needs Improvement. The total amount of the contract is \$70,750.00.

Upon motion of Mrs. Green, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a budget for the purchase of new school buses. Muscogee County School District has earned (13) additional buses based on a FTE calculation and will receive \$650,000.00 for the sale of bonds. The Board approved \$65,226.00 from the Contingency Reserve for this project.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Moore-Warren Equipment Company, low bidder in the amount of \$111,899.67 for school nutrition equipment at various schools.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved in one motion the following purchases for the School Nutrition Program. Mr. Whiteside commented, "This is about \$85,000.00 worth of items that were purchased without satisfaction of State procurement laws. They were caught on audit and this is a curative item to clean that up. This is not the first time that this has happened. It happened with a building that was not procured properly and I voted against it then and I'm going to vote against this." The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside):

- Brookwood Farms, Inc., \$41,553.00 for process of meat commodities
- Agora Foods, Inc., \$24,849.60, meat supplies
- High Liner Foods, Inc., \$14,000.00, cheese products
- S.R. Rosati, Inc., \$6,000.00, juice products

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved a purchase order to FLIR Systems, \$20,500.00 for an Infrared Camera at Columbus High School. Mr. Whiteside noted that there was sole source documentation at the Committee meeting and this should be attached to the item. Dr. Polleys so noted this for the record.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Holbrook Service Company, Inc., \$28,800.00 for a new water heater at Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary. Mr. Whiteside asked that a copy of the warranty document be provided to him.

Upon motion of Mrs. Green, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved Financial Statements for three (3) months ending September 30, 2006.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$166,673.00 to be added to the original contract for construction at New Elementary School No. 6. This change order covers additional grading and rock excavations necessary to complete the site development phase for the project.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$58,468.54 to be added to the original contract for construction at New Elementary School No. 6. This change order will cover a/c for the multi-purpose room.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$198,032.10 to be added to the original contract for construction at New Middle School No. 5. This change order covers the installation of data cabling and telephone system and cabling.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$101,466.75 to be deducted from the original contract for construction at New Middle School No. 5.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$272,445.60 to be added to the original contract for construction at New Middle School No. 5. This change order will cover the installing smart boards, related equipment and associated electrical work.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Holbrook Service Company, Inc., responsive bidder in the amount of \$132,615.00 for the air condition/de-humidifying work needed in the cafeteria/kitchen areas at Brewer and Hannan.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the assignment of architects to prepare the plans and specifications for re-roofing seven schools using 2003 SPLOST Funds.

Dr. Phillips called on Board Attorney for clarification on the contract with Sunesys, Inc., Mr. Vega noted, “We need to add in working out an agreement a guarantee of indemnity with the parent company of Sunesys. If there is some major default then the indemnity would apply and the parent company would have to pay.” Mrs. Green, “I have some reservations because I am not comfortable with the level of participation of our Community Technology group. I’m not sure that they have had any real level of participation. At the work session one or two people showed up. I’m not sure we’re making the right purchase. The person that was the spokesperson for Sunesys who originally began as a Community Technology person has raised a red flag for me. Maybe it was CELT.” Dr. Phillips, “CELT’s role is to make sure that we get the best product and service at the best price.” Mrs. Green, “It just raises a red flag for me. We have people in our community who work for major corporations in their IT department not being able to deliver us some kind of opinion.” Dr. Phillips, “They all got the information and they all pretty much corresponded with us.” Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board awarded a contract to Sunesys, Inc. in the before e-rate amount of \$6,918,304.00 for delivery of high speed digital Wan services. This will also include negotiations with the contract to work out an agreement of indemnity with Sunesys, Inc.’s parent company. The vote was (6) affirming, (3) opposing, (Green, Roberson, Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board approved a purchase order in the amount of \$30,574.40 to Dell Marketing, Inc. for (10) servers that will replace problem servers in the schools and support facilities. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside).

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved a purchase order in the amount of \$125,664.14 to NCS Pearson, Inc., for the annual renewal subscription fee for InteGrade software and SASI software at schools in the district. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) abstaining, (Green).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously approved the name of New Middle School No. 5 located at the North Site Property to that of Veterans Memorial Middle School. Mr. Wells represents District 2 and has recommended this name for the new school.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved a change in Board meeting dates to Tuesday, January 16, 2007 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday and to Tuesday, February 20, 2007 in observance of President’s Day holiday.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items with the exception of items B and H:

- Human Resources Report/Professional and Classified (Appendix A)
- Financial Assistance, \$1,218.00
- New budget, Safe & Drug Free Schools, \$232,239.00
- Purchase order, NCS Pearson, \$24,420.00, Muscogee Accountability Plan
- Budget adjustment, FY07 Woodall State budget amendment
- Budget adjustment, M&O, transfer funds
- Budget adjustment, Northside High, \$43,245.12
- Budget adjustment, Title IIA FY07, carryover, \$883,376.00
- Budget adjustment, Title I FY07, carryover, \$1,546,922.00
- Grant, School Improvement, Eddy (\$164,500; Baker (\$159,500); Marshall (\$159,500); Rothschild (\$55,000) and South Columbus (\$30,000)
- Grant, GA Dept. of Human Resources, Peer Helpers, \$33,359.00
- Grant, FY07 IDEA Flow, FY07 Federal Pre-school, FY07 State Pre-school
- Grant, Title V Part A (Improving Teacher Quality), \$60,236.00
- Grant, Statewide K-8, State Grant Allocation, \$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 Transfers from Capital Projects/Debt to SPLOST Fund, Scope Changes
- 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

The Board had discussion on Item B of the Consent Agenda regarding the appointment of new members to the Library. Mrs. Storey made a motion seconded by Mrs. Green to approve the re-appointments but to delay a vote on any new members until the Library Board can look at a reduction in the number of members. The vote was unanimous.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session for three student discipline appeals, a legal matter and property acquisition.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board voted unanimously to come out of executive session. Dr. Polleys asked security to check to see if anyone in the hallway would like to return to the meeting.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to delay any action on Consent Agenda Item H as it relates to a Workers' Compensation Settlement.

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

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

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the regular December meeting of the Board.

Greg S. Ellington, Legal Counsel