

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 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, September 17, 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, Fife M. Whiteside, and Cathy Williams.

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

The pledge of allegiance and character education word for the month were provided by students from Mathews Elementary and there was a musical performance of the Mission Statement by students from Eagle Ridge Academy. The Board recognized: International Media Festival Student winners, Financial Services Department for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reporting award and the ABCD Award.

Mr. Walker called on John Pound who asked to be on the public forum regarding construction bids.

Mr. Whiteside made a motion, seconded by Ms. Buckner to amend the agenda to move Action Item P (Proposal for Selection Method of Construction Projects) to the top of the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Whiteside made a motion, "I move that we direct the administration to develop a policy that strict or hard bid will be the presumptive method of letting construction contracts with the option of the Administration making a case for Construction Management at Risk or any other form of bidding as long as they do it at 30 days in advance of the time that the bid prospects hit the street and secondly that we develop a pre-qualification system which will be designed to prevent unqualified bidders from bidding." The motion was seconded by Mrs. Williams. Ms. Buckner, "This has nothing to do with the other items such as Mildred Terry?" Mr. Roberson, "The intent of this is allowing us to look each project and basically trying to get the lowest price and best work but with discretionary rather than being stuck in construction management, I think this is a great step. This board to our credit has not taken this lightly. I'm very concerned about local citizens involvement. But also diversity, I want to underscore. I want to ensure a system that would allow diversity persons, minority, such as racial ethnic as well as women. I hope that we won't be excluding other persons." Mrs. Williams, "I'd also like the administration to bring back their pre-qualifying methods." The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting held on August 20, 2007.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously voted to add an addendum item to the agenda.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Reginald Williamson to the position of Principal at Muscogee Evening School.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Sharen Kelly to the position of Instructional Specialist in the Special Education Department.

Mr. Wells made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Storey, to adopt the general goals for the Strategic Plan and the Administration will develop specific sub-goals and strategies in each of the identified areas. Mrs. Williams, “I just want to make sure that tonight’s action by the Board does not negate the work that was done, that the Vinson Report encompassed. And that what we are doing is we’re moving through a process that will incorporate what we adopt tonight as well as what was adopted previously into a strategic plan that will come back this Board for final approval.” The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the Columbus Fire and EMS to use the old Baker High School building for a maneuver for sixteen days.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved a group of citizens to renovate the Pitts Chapel School in memory of the late Nancy Housand.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Chattahoochee Valley to sue Wesley Heights Elementary for their after school program beginning the fall of 2007.

Upon motion of Mrs. Green, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved a proposal to raise eleven Professional Hay employees to 80% of market value.

Mrs. Williams made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Green to accept fiscal responsibility for legal fees incurred by the Columbus Public Library as a result of a lawsuit filed by citizens. The vote was (3) affirming, (Whiteside, Green, Williams) and (6) opposing. The motion failed.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the continuation of project management services provided by CELT to assist the Department of Technology for the months of September, October, November and December at the total cost of \$20,000.00.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for one month ending July 31, 2007.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for twelve months ending June 30, 2007.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously awarded the following contracts:

- Newton Aaron & Associates, Project Manager for Mildred Terry Branch Library, \$110,400.00.
- Freeman & Associates, Construction Manager at Risk, Mildred Terry Library Construction.

Mr. Wells offered a motion on Action items N and O. It was the consensus of the Board to do a separate vote on these items.

Mr. Wells made a motion on action item N, seconded by Ms. Buckner, to approve a purchase order to Alexander Contracting and a new budget for the not to exceed amount of \$90,000.00. Mr. Whiteside, “Which one of the exceptions of the bid requirement does this fall under?” Dr. Phillips, “This is the contractor that started the project.” Mr. Hecht, “Alexander is the company that did the construction and they are the ones that will have to furnish the maintenance for the City. It just stands to reason that they would be the company to be used.” Mr. Whiteside, “This is more than \$50,000.00. All I’m saying is can’t we track this to one of the exceptions so that we know that it’s appropriate not to bid it? You can’t treat it as a change order.” Mr. Parker, “There’s no funding source also associated with this.” Mr. Caggins, “There is one provision in the policy. If this work was opened at the same unit cost, we could use him within a year from the last transaction.” Mr. Hecht, “At the work session, the Synovus Trust will off-set this by \$75,000.00. This would be a funding source for this.” Mr. Parker, “You have \$498,000 in NPR Capital Projects.” Mr. Wells, “If we have this, we can use NPR and move the money back once you receive it. The City tells us that this is an unsafe area. We need to get those guard rails out there.” Dr. Phillips, “We’ll take it out of NPR.” Mr. Whiteside, “What about the bid requirement?” Mr. Caggins, “According to the policy, we can do it.” Mrs. Storey, “Did Alexander Contracting pave the road up to this point? It wouldn’t make good sense to get someone else out there because it’s going to cost more. If Alexander contracting has already laid out the road and done the paving then the policy would apply. This would be a completion of the project, putting the guard rails. Another company would want a design cost.” Mr. Ellington, “I have not reviewed this item with statute in hand. If you want me to, I will.” Mr. Wells, “Let me re-state my motion. My motion is to approve this item contingent upon a review by the Legal Firm of the policy.” The vote was (6) affirming and (3) opposing, (Roberson, Williams, Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the revision of the budget for paving the parking lots at Spencer High.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Coldwell Banker-Kennon Parker Duncan & Key for commercial real estate services to sell certain Muscogee County School District Properties as per their proposal. Mr. Wells, “I’d like a report on the status of the reversionary clauses. We asked for that sometime back. I’d like to ask also for the appraisals once the administration receives them.”

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items and the addendum item:

- Human Resources Report Professional and Classified
- Additional members for Student Discipline Tribunal
- American Cancer Society to use Kinnett Stadium
- Renewal of maintenance agreement, purchase servers from SirsiDynix, \$29,565.01, CVRLS
- Renewal of maintenance agreement, Tranquility, Inc., \$26,677.20, PES
- Renewal of system maintenance agreement, Integral Systems, \$86,200.00, payroll/personnel package
- Budget adjustment (\$40,000.00) and purchase order to Virtucom, (\$47,278.92), for computers at Kendrick High in CTAE Program
- Grant, State Instructional Extension, \$566,216.00
- Grant, John S. & James L. Knight, \$37,721.27, Marshall Middle
- Grant, Georgia Reach to Teach, \$10,000.00, HR Dept.
- New budget, Woodall, Federal, \$331,741.00
- New budget, Woodall, State, \$1,373,825.00
- New budget, Early College, \$100,000.00
- New budget, GLRS, \$332,952.00
- New budget, 21st Century, \$1,037,671.00
- New budget, Elementary Magnet/Special Programs, \$1,276,342.86
- Budget adjustment, Plant Services, \$132,440.00, system-wide HVAC
- Budget adjustment, Property and Risk Department, \$25,500.00, premium quote increase
- Budget adjustment, DOTS, \$48,884.00, various accounts
- Purchase order, USPS, \$40,00.00, system-wide postage
- Purchase order, Multi Media, \$61,119.00, electronic board equipment
- Purchase order, Whatley, T&W, \$72,782.81, system-wide fuel, Transportation
- Purchase order, Xerox, \$36,444.00, system-wide, copy paper
- Purchase order, A&S Carpet, \$16,990.00, carpet, Carver High
- Purchase order, Secure Computing, \$54,995.00, filtering software, DOTS
- Purchase order, Columbus Consolidated Government, \$18,000.00, landfill fees
- Purchase order, CISCO Systems, \$19,584.03, technology support, DOTS
- Purchase order, Charter Business, \$15,915.00, technology support, DOTS
- Leadership Development Program, \$53,000.00, PES
- Purchase order, Turf Solutions Group, \$19,920.06, turf at Kinnett Stadium
- Purchase order, Holbrook Service, \$47,089.00, grease trap at Carver High
- 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 and Debt to SPLOST Fund to Cover 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 Funds
- Workers' Compensation Settlement, additional \$15,000.00

Mrs. Green, "I'd like to know the number of special education students in all the categories at each school. I'm still getting complaints about not having paper and ink cartridges. Of course, they didn't want to reveal their names. This should be standard supply without having to get the three quotes or whatever. We should have some type of regular supply of those items. They were told they had to get three quotes." Mr. Parker, "If it is more than \$500 dollars then that is in the policy." Dr. Phillips, "We're going to put some things on a cycle but some things should be handled at the school." Mr. Parker, "If they call me, I'll work with them."

Mrs. Williams, "Dr. Phillips, Where are we on getting the Sears building down?" Dr. Phillips, "We're putting the bids out and will bring you an item in October."

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

Greg S. Ellington
Legal Counsel