

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2008, 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, January 22, 2008, 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

The following Board Members were present: James Walker, Philip T. Schley, Sr., Joseph Roberson, Naomi Buckner, John Wells, Brenda Storey, Cathy Williams and Fife M. Whiteside.

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education, Jorge Vega, Legal Counsel, Eddie Obleton, Robin Pennock, Peggy Connell, Don Cooper, Don Hall, Billy Kendall, and representatives from the media.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously excused Mrs. Green from the meeting due to her maternity leave.

Mr. Vega conducted the Board Elections and asked for nominations.

Mr. Wells moved the nomination of James Walker to serve as chairman of the board with a second by Mr. Roberson. The vote for Mr. Walker to serve as chairman of the board for 2008 was (6) affirming and (2) abstaining, (Williams, Buckner).

Mr. Wells moved the nomination of Philip T. Schley to serve as vice chairman of the board with a second by Mrs. Storey. The vote for Dr. Schley to serve as vice chairman of the board for 2008 was (6) affirming and (2) abstaining, (Williams, Buckner).

Mr. Vega stated that the Superintendent of Education will serve as secretary of the Board and the Chief Financial Officer will serve as Treasurer. He then called for a nomination on the engagement of legal counsel.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to approve the engagement of Hatcher, Stubbs to continue as legal counsel for the board.

Mr. Walker recognized visitors in the audience. The Board recognized the following; G. W. Carver High Football team State Champions; Spencer High Knox Culpepper Sportsmanship; Columbus High Cross Country, Cheerleaders and One Act Plant State winners; Georgia Council for Administrators of Special Education and the ABCD Award.

Mr. Walker called on Dr. Schley for a statement. Dr. Schley, "There has been a lot of public concern expressed about our anticipated new administration building and the degree of concern has been very distressing to me. Over the weekend we did a good bit of thinking and trying to decide how we could address those concerns. It seems that the concerns fell into two areas, lack of textbooks in the school system, existence of portable classrooms. I believe we can ask on the first issue of textbooks, Dr. Connell. Will you let us know whether there is a lack of textbooks and if so, why and what we can do about it." Dr. Connell, "Our goal is that every student will have a textbook to take home. We have a process in place that has helped us to reach that goal.

The Destiny software allows us to index and catalog all of our textbooks. We can determine how many textbooks we have, how many are checked out and how many we need. We monitor this weekly and we can determine if there is a need for textbooks in the school. Each school has appointed a textbook manager. We are pretty much aware of our textbooks and whether there is a shortage. To our knowledge, there is not a shortage.” Dr. Pennock, “We have two kinds of portables, those that we lease and those that we own. As we build new schools, we have been able to turn back leased portables, those at Double Churches Elementary, Double Churches Middle and Blackmon Road. We have (4) at Midland Academy but since Eagle Ridge has opened, we are in the process of returning the leased portables. The portables we own, we sometime leave in place. It is an expensive proposition to move a portable from one place to another. We are in the process of making projections for next year.”

Mr. Walker then called on the following who spoke on the public forum; William Madison, Joshua McKoon, Charles Lawhorn.

Upon motion of Mrs. Williams, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved official actions at the regular Board meeting held on December 4, 2007 and a called meeting on December 21, 2007.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Sharon Adams to the position of Chief Financial Officer.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved two proposed leadership positions for the Department of Technology; Director of Application Support Services and Director of Customer Support Services.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the revision of Policy BCAB-Regular board meetings.

Ms. Buckner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells to approve the revision of policy BCAC-Special Board Meetings. Mr. Whiteside asked that the motion be amended to add the language to include a 24-hour notice to be given to Board members in the case of a called meeting. The amended motion was seconded by Ms. Buckner and the vote was unanimous. The vote on the main motion to approve the revision to policy BCAC Special Board Meetings with the additional language was unanimous.

Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously approved the revision of Board policy JGI-Child Abuse or Neglect. It was the consensus of the Board to send a letter to the District Attorney along with a copy of the revised policy.

Upon motion of Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved a revision to Board policy JS-Student Fees, Fines, and Charges.

Upon motion of Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, the Board unanimously approved a revision to Board polices; CEB-Superintendent Duties; DJEA-Purchasing Authority; DJED-Bids and Quotations.

Upon motion of Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Whiteside, the Board unanimously approved the adoption of a calendar for 2008 School Board Meetings as amended with suggested changes.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously awarded a contract in the amount of \$1,099,337.00 to SunGard for the implementation of a new integrated Enterprise Resource Program for Financial Services and Human Resources.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of (8) 84-passenger regular and (2) 72-passenger Special Education replacement school buses from Thomas Freightliner, \$1,005,302.00 for the FY08-09 budget year.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of fuel from various vendors, \$307,026.72 for district-wide vehicles that are used.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Wawona, low bidder, \$25,747.20 for the commodity processing of cherries to be used in the School Nutrition Program.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for October, 2007 and November, 2007.

Dr. Phillips noted that Action Item O-Commercial Purchase and Sale Agreement for the property declared surplus, (1544 Benning Drive-old Baker High, 96 40th Street and 1200 Alexander Street) is canceled because, the company withdrew the offer.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the continuation of a telecommunications service agreement with BellSouth for ongoing district services at an estimated monthly cost of \$2,440.50.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved the continuation of project management services provided by CELT to assist the Department of Technology for the duration for the FY08 school year, at a total cost not to exceed of \$35,000.00. The vote was (7) approving and (1) opposing, (Whiteside).

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roberson to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Williams offered a substitute motion to add the addendum items. The vote on the substitute motion was unanimous to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Human Resources Report Professional and Classified
- Library Board member appointment, Barbara Kaminsky
- Transfer of funds for construction of new Mildred Terry Library construction
- Renewal of software licenses for CVRLS, 3M Library Systems, \$26,684.80
- Renewal of contract for Grounds maintenance service at Columbus Public Library
- Renewal of contract software, Columbus Public Library, Logicalis,\$38,919.05
- Budget adjustment, Elementary Education, over \$25,000.00
- Budget adjustment, CTAE, \$32,045.00, labs at Carver High
- Budget adjustment, Title I, FY08 carryover funds, \$1,436,824.00
- Grant, Target Field Trip, Dimon Elementary, \$1,000.00

- Grant, Target Field Trip, Fort Middle, \$1,000.00
- Grant, Charter Conversion, Reese Road, \$5,000.00
- Grant, Pay It Forward, North Columbus, \$500.00
- Grant, GA Virtual School, Columbus, Hardaway Northside, \$125.00
- Grant, Cornerstone, \$50,000.00 (5) MCSD elementary schools
- Purchase order, Pearson Digital Learning, \$18,560.00, software, Downtown Elementary
- Purchase order, Multi-Media, \$319,501.00, white boards, (13) Title I schools
- Purchase order, Frazier, Service, \$25,000 climate control repair, (5) schools
- Purchase order, Jenkins Service, \$9,800, sewer repair, Columbus High
- Purchase order, Xerox Corporation, \$20,664.00 copy paper, system-wide
- Financial Assistance, \$2,675.00
- Resolution of personnel claim by (5) individuals, \$145,795.73
- Emergency Purchase Order, Holbrook Company, \$70,000 replace boilers at ASC
- Audit of Financial Statement of 1997 SPLOST and 2003 SPLOST Capital Projects
- Sales Tax Construction Program Report
- Report on Transfer from FY03 SPLOST Critical Needs
- Report of Change Orders/Changes in Project Contingencies
- Report on System-wide Technology Plan
- Report on Forecasted Revenue Collections
- Report on Transfers from Capital Projects Fund
- Status Report for Projects under Construction

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

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

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