

OCTOBERMINUTES
MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2004, 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, October 18, 2004, 6:30 p.m. I the conference room at the Bradley Library.

The following members were present: Mary Sue Polleys, Chairman, James Walker, Vice Chairman, Brenda P. Storey, Philip T. Schley, David E. Ebron, Fife M. Whiteside, Naomi Buckner and Owen Ditchfield.

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education, Charles T. Staples, Legal Counsel (Mr. Humes was absent), Del Parker, Treasurer, Brenda F. Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant, Don Cooper, Chief Human Resources Officer, Richard Hyatt from the Ledger-Enquirer and other media.

Dr. Polleys called the meeting to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag led by students from Dimon and Cusseta Road Elementary Schools. The Character Education word-Generosity was introduced by a student from Dimon Elementary and students from Cusseta Road presented the Board with gifts.

Dr. Polleys recognized visitors in the audience, Mr. & Mrs. Halouska, representing the League of Women Voters and Friends of the Libraries, John Lincoln, PTA president for Gifted Program at St. Elmo, Johnny Hemmingway, Ginger Starling with Teacher Cadets from Shaw High.

Dr. Phillips arranged an update from Carol Bradshaw for the Board on the increase in SAT scores for all MCSD schools. Dr. Pennock introduced the following recognitions: Carver High and Kendrick as Region winners of the Governor's; Kendrick AYP; Shaw GHRAD Award for Excellence; 2004 Hardaway High Fulbright Teacher Program, Ms. Pam Carter; Columbus and Hardaway 2004 Fulbright-Hays participants, Ms. Robbie Holt and Ms. Bonnie Stiff; Mrs. Dozier introduced members of the Youth Advisory Council and their Advisors; Mr. Caggins introduced Mr. Jerome Biggers as the Driver of the Year from the Transportation Department; Mr. Cooper presented Mr. Eddie Griffin with the ABCD Award.

Dr. Polleys called on Mr. Ed Dubose and Ms. Ollie Tarver who requested to appear on the Public Forum. Dr. Polleys called on Ms. Patrice Dawson in the audience who wanted to speak to the Board regarding construction at Muscogee Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved official actions held on Monday, September 20, 2004.

Upon motion of Dr. Schley, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Peggy Connell as Chief Academic Officer for the Muscogee County School District. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, Ms. Buckner.

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Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Shelia Baker to the position of Assistant Principal at Rothschild Middle School.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the forgiveness for student instruction days lost due to inclement weather.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved Financial Statements for two months ending August 31, 2004.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) as presented for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004. Mr. Pease concurred that this was a good audit and there were no significant findings. Mr. Whiteside commented, "The Board needs to note that we missed our fund balance target this time by a figure of \$2.2 million. It is always a warning sign when we miss a fund balance target by that much money; we need to be watch things." Mr. Wells commended the Financial Services division for the work that they do in the financial area.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the transfer of \$13,080.00 from the Reserve for Future Employee Benefits fund to Human Resources accounts for the purpose of upgrading the sub-finder software system.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron seconded by Mr. Walker the Board unanimously approved the renewal of the system maintenance service agreement in the total amount of \$52,000.00 for the Payroll/Personnel Package software provided by Integral Systems.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved budgeted funds in the total amount of \$34,000.00 to provide resources to implement the Middle School Connections Program. Ms. Buckner noted, "The amount of funding that each school receives is contingent upon enrollment at the school."

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the renewal of contracts with Blackboard in the amount of \$22,500 as the Application Service Provider and Class.com in the amount up to \$77,000 for curricular offerings.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved a purchase order in the amount of \$18,236.00 to Georgia Vocational Staff Development Consortium for membership dues.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved change order no. 3 in the amount of \$29,453.71 to be added to the original contract for construction at Cusseta Road Elementary School. Mr. Whiteside noted that this will come from the project related contingency fund.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the reassignment of the River Road Elementary construction project to the architectural firm of Hecht, Burdeshaw, Johnson, Kidd and Clark. Mr. Whiteside noted that with the assignment of this architectural firm, Bobby Hecht who was formerly with this firm is no longer an equity holder and is now a school district employee therefore, there is no conflict.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Ms. Buckner the Board unanimously approved the assignment of the architectural firm of Hecht, Burdeshaw, Johnson, Kidd and Clark, Inc., to prepare plans and specifications for the re-roofing of Carver High. It was the consensus of the Board that the Administration set up a checking system if one does not exist as to the number of assignments given to a particular architectural firm and rotations made.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the line item adjustments for facilities and instructional improvements at Rose Hill and Academic Success Center.

Dr. Polleys noted that the Board will take action on the item regarding a new Advisory Committee for Construction at the November agenda.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously voted to modify the agenda to include an action addendum item and a consent addenda item.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously awarded a contract in the amount of \$494,330.00 to Webb Construction Group, Inc., low bidder, for the re-roofing of Cusseta Road Elementary and approves the project budget in the amount of \$545,645.00.

Mr. Ebron asked if the Board would consider a workshop to discuss the 1997 SPLOST projects. Dr. Phillips commented that this is a plan that he is working on to gather information and set a Board workshop for this purpose. Mr. Whiteside asked for an update on hiring a consultant to cost out the technology. Dr. Phillips commented that interviews are ongoing and at the next board meeting information should be available. Mr. Whiteside asked that discussion and possible action on the topic of what impact an employees criminal misconduct might have on employment with the school district be placed on the next agenda.

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

- Authorize participation with Trees Columbus, Inc., on a grant funded project, related to the Library Property, subject to approval of Tunnell-Spangler-Walsh & Associates.
- Human Resources Report/Professional and Classified.
- Shaw High students to travel to Jonesboro for Thespian Conference.
- Library Board vacancies filled.
- Vender contracts for School Nutrition Program.
- New budget Title I FY05, \$10,357,645.
- New budget GLRS FY05, additional VI-B Funds, \$37,700.00 Reading First.
- New budget Title II-D Formula Grant, FY05, \$275,365.00.
- New budget Capital Projects Fund, FY05.
- New budget Homeless Grant, \$60,000.00.
- New budget Safe & Drug Free Schools Grant, \$236,410.00.
- New budget Adult Education ESOL/Civics Education, \$15,000.00.
- Budget adjustment for Woodall Program adjusted Federal budget for FY05.
- Audit of financial statement of 1997 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund.
- Sales Tax Construction Program Report.
- Report on Transfer from FY03 SPLOST Critical Needs.
- FY97 Sales Tax Construction Program Report.
- Report on Transfers Capital Projects to SPLOST Fund to cover scope changes.
- Report of Change Orders and Changes in Project Contingencies.
- Report on System-wide Technology Plan.
- Status Report for Projects under Construction.

- Financial Assistance, \$2,728.00.

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Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session to hear three student discipline appeals and a legal matter.

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

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

Charles T. Staples
Legal Counsel