

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2004, 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Muscogee County School District was held on Monday, August 16, 2004, 6:30 p.m. in 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, John Wells, Naomi Buckner and Owen Ditchfield.

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education, James E. Humes, II, Legal Counsel, Del Parker, Treasurer, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Brenda Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Don Cooper, Chief Human Resources Officer and Richard Hyatt from the Ledger-Enquirer.

Dr. Polleys called the meeting to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag led by students from Hannan Academy. The Character Education word—Sportsmanship was introduced by a student from Hannan Academy.

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 St. Elmo Gifted Program.

Dr. Phillips recognized the Financial Services Division of the School District for winning the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award by the Government Accounting Office. Dr. Phillips noted that this is the eighteenth year that the school district has received this award.

Dr. Polleys noted that there was no one to appear on the public forum.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously excused Mr. Ditchfield for personal reasons.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved official actions held on July 19, 2004, and called meetings held on July 9 and 21, 2004.

Dr. Phillips asked if the Board would amend the agenda to take action on addendum items.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously voted to amend the agenda to take action on addendum item regarding the library request for reserve funds.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the RFID Technology for the Bradley Library and all branches of the Chattahoochee Valley Library System from 3M in the amount of \$127,969.00 from the Library Reserve Fund.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Richard Green to the position of Interim Assistant Principal at midland Middle School.

Dr. Phillips asked if the Board would take action on the two addendum items regarding the appointment of an assistant principal at Blanchard Elementary and a grant for Technology/Career Education.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously approved Ms. Jan Marie Thomas for the position of Assistant Principal at Blanchard Elementary School.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved State Capital Equipment Grant funding amendment to the FY05 Local Plan/Application in the total amount of \$440,000.00, and subsequent assignment of funds for expenditures.

The Board went back to the regular board agenda.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the position of Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator for Technology/Career Education.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved policy revision for policies DCCA-Budget Deadlines and Schedules; DCC-Budget preparation Procedures and DCCC-Public Involvement in Budget Making.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously awarded a contract in the amount of \$76,450.00 to Tunnell-Spangler-Walsh & Associates who will provide a development plan for property surrounding the Educational Services Center and New Main Library. It was the consensus of the Board that once the contract is developed it should be circulated to Board members.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for twelve months ending June 30, 2004.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously awarded the Short-Term Disability Insurance and Long-Term Disability Insurance programs to Aetna, the Dental Passive PPO to Mutual of Omaha and the Dental DMO to Assurant/Fortis as recommended by Flowers & Herndon, insurance consultants.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved an application to the State for FY06 Capital Outlay funding at Columbus High School.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the continuation of a State pilot project for Health Literacy and funding in the amount of \$15,700.00.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved FY05 State Instructional Extension Program Funds in the amount of \$1,108,546.00.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously approved Amendment No. 1 the Construction Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$5,131,000.00 between the Muscogee County School District and Freeman & Associates, Inc., Construction Manager for the Shaw High School renovation project.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously approved Amendment No. 1 the Construction Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$3,639,660.14 between the Muscogee County School District and Holley Construction Company & Associates, Inc., Construction Manager, for the Jordan High addition and renovation project.

Upon motion of Dr. Schley, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$59,158.29 including architect's fee for the construction project at Jordan High School. Mr. Whiteside had a concern that this construction work was done at the end of 2003 by Holley Construction Company without proper authorization by the Board or by the Superintendent. The Georgia Code Section is very specific in saying, "any contractor who performs any work of the kind in any other manner meaning not bid and who knows that the public works construction contract was let out without complying with the notice and competitive award requirements of this chapter shall not be entitled to receive any payment for such work. The law to me seems clear that the contractor here is not entitled to be paid which is a bad thing. I don't know of another way to enforce the law the requirements of the law and our own policy that require significant construction work to be bid except just not to pay them. For the voters of the 5th district, I have to vote no on this." Mr. Wells commented that, "the principal who has since retired thought he had every legitimate base covered. It was a project that needed to be done so that the children would have the ability to learn in those classes. I think what has happened is exactly what Mr. Whiteside has said. The contractor has done the work and he needs to be paid. We need to get this thing behind us and move ahead." Dr. Schley commented, "Everybody in this matter acted in good faith. The gentleman that did the work deserves to be paid for it. If we have a problem that we're trying to solve, I don't see hurting this gentleman in order to continue on. I think Dr. Phillips has done the correct thing. We need to move forward. I'm going to vote for the motion." The vote was (7) affirming and (2) opposing, (Mr. Whiteside, Dr. Polleys).

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$41,101.50 for construction at Cusseta Road Elementary School.

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

- Human Resources Report (Appendix A).
- MAE Membership Dues Payroll Deduction.
- Special Education Comprehensive Plan
- Davis Broadcasting, Inc., to broadcast high school football games.
- Contract for ambulance services at high school football games.
- Kinnett Stadium used by American Cancer Society.
- Hardaway High students to travel to England.
- Hardaway High students to travel to New York City.
- Confirmation purchase order, \$13,500 to Williams Underground for repair work at Downtown Elementary.
- Contracts awarded for computer paper.
- Budget adjustments for elementary textbooks.
- Purchase order to IBM and Mainline Information Systems for mainframe equipment, \$174,304.46.
- Purchase order to Secure Computing Corporation for leasing system-wide filtering software, \$40,300.00.
- Purchase order to Future.Com Corporation for system-wide anti-virus software, \$75,173.75.
- Purchase order to IBM for system-wide maintenance of equipment, \$12,175.28.
- Purchase order to Novell Academic Services to renew system-wide software lease, \$82,500.00.
- Purchase order to NCS Pearson, Inc., system-wide student software lease, \$101,379.60.
- Purchase order to Computer Associates International, Inc., for system-wide mainframe software, \$17,342.00.

- Purchase order to Cisco Systems, WAN, \$14,170.10.
- Purchase order to VirtuCom, maintenance for eligible schools, \$11,130.00.
- Purchase order to Blue Torch Network Solutions, software lease at schools, \$64,660.00.
- New budget, FY05 GLRS Title VIB Federal Discretionary Funds, \$208,063.00.
- New budget Safe and Drug Free Schools, Peer Helper Conferences, \$26,000.00.
- New budget Magnet/Special Program Schools, \$2,605,522.00.
- New budget Allen Elementary, Bradley Turner Foundation and local matching funds, \$500.00.
- New budget Dimon Elementary, Bradley Turner Foundation and \$250.00 local match, \$1,500.00.
- New budget Northside High, Diverse Power Foundation, \$6,000.00.
- New budget Alternative Schools Allotments from GDOE, \$56,482.00.
- New budget FY05 Homeless, \$87,363.00.
- Grant awarded, WIA for Adult Education through Columbus Consolidated Government, \$70,980.00.
- Grant awarded, State Capital Outlay Grant for Technology/Career Education, \$200,000.00.
- Grant awarded, Carl Perkins/GDOE for Technology/Career Education, incoming \$754,871.00 local math \$198,000.00.
- Grant awarded, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant, \$605,487.00.
- 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 from 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 and projects in the planning/design stage.
- Financial Assistance, \$1,275.77.

Upon motion of Mr. Walker, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session to hear a legal matter.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously rescinded the vote to excuse Mr. Ditchfield from this regular meeting.

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

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

James E. Humes, II
Legal Counsel