

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 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 Tuesday, January 16, 2007, 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Bradley Library.

The following Board members were present: Cathy Williams, Fife M. Whiteside, Patricia Hugley Green, Brenda P. Storey, Philip T. Schley, James Walker, John Wells, Naomi Buckner, and Joseph Roberson.

Others present: John A. Phillips, Jr., Superintendent of Education, Greg S. Ellington, Legal Counsel, Eddie V. Obleton, Robin Pennock, Peggy Connell, Don Cooper, Myles Caggins, Billy Kendall.

Mr. Walker called the meeting to order with an invocation. The pledge to the flag and the character education word was led by students from Blanchard Elementary and a musical tribute for the Troops that have been deployed and those to be deployed.

Dr. Phillips called on Mr. Ellington to conduct the Board election of officers for 2007.

Mr. Ellington asked for a nomination for Board chairman. Mrs. Storey made the motion to nominate Mr. James Walker as chairman, seconded by Mr. Wells. Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to close nominations for Board chairman. The vote was unanimous for James Walker to serve as Board chair for 2007.

Mr. Ellington asked for a nomination for Board vice chairman. Ms. Buckner made the motion to nominate Dr. Philip T. Schley, Sr. as vice chairman, seconded by Mr. Roberson. Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously voted to close nominations for Board vice chairman. The vote was unanimous for Dr. Philip T. Schley, Sr. to serve as Board vice chair for 2007.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted for Dr. John A. Phillips, Jr. to serve as Board Secretary, Del Parker, Treasurer, Greg Ellington as Parliamentarian and further engagement of Hatcher, Stubbs as Legal Counsel.

Mr. Walker recognized visitors in the audience. The Board recognized Waddell, Gentian and Spencer for the Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Achievements; Michael Brown and Tonya Hawkins for ABCD Awards. Mr. Glen Wells spoke regarding the restoration of the old Baker High School building.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board of Education meeting held on December 3, 2006. Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously voted to amend the motion to include the resolution for Dr. Polleys appended to the minutes.

Ms. Buckner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roberson to add the addendum item to the regular agenda. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Ms. Storey to approve the policy revisions. Dr. Phillips noted that changes have been made as recommended at the Board Work Session. Mr. Whiteside asked that a separate vote be taken on Policy JBCBA. Mr. Whiteside made a motion, seconded by Ms. Buckner to amend the motion to exclude Policy JBCBA – Student Tuition and vote on this policy separately. The vote on the amended motion was unanimous.

Mr. Whiteside stated, “I’m not comfortable with the language of this policy that deletes the responsibility of the parents for damages caused by their children. I understand it’s contained in other documents but, I just prefer to vote against it.” Dr. Pennock, “Mr. Whiteside raises a very good point. We felt that it didn’t belong here because it’s a policy about tuition and not about discipline and criminal penalties for parents. The part about the student and parent being monetarily libel does exist in other parts of our policies. I’d like to get with Mr. Ellington and bring this back in February.” Mr. Roberson, “I agree that we should table until we can get a legal opinion and consensus on this.” Upon motion of Mr. Roberson, seconded by Mrs. Green, the Board voted to table Policy JBCBA – Student Tuition to a date certain. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Storey).

Upon motion of Mrs. Green, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board approved the adoption of a calendar for the 2007 School Board meetings. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of replacement school buses; (14) 84-passenger Thomas Freightliner (\$88,197.00); (1) IC Corp International/Special Needs (\$92,550.00); (5) IC Corp International (\$65,128.00) for a total of \$1,652,948.00 to be taken from SPLOST, State and General Funds.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of services from the U.S.D.A. Commodities to process ground beef, and barrel cheese to be used in the School Nutrition Program, total cost \$31,890.00.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the continuance of the Teacher Insight System offered by the Gallup Organization for the HR Division. The total amount for this service is \$35,000.00 and is budgeted in the Title IIA.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for five months ending November 30, 2006.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for four months ending October 31, 2006.

Mrs. Williams offered a motion regarding Item H, Analysis of Surplus Property. Mrs. Williams stated, "I'd like to offer a motion that we authorize the Administration to proceed with bidding on stabilization of Baker High School." Mr. Roberson seconded the motion. Mr. Walker said, "The motion is lost due to lack of a second." Mr. Roberson stated, "I seconded that." Mrs. Buckner, "I'd like to make a motion that we amend this motion to deal with Baker High School separately." Mr. Walker, "When you say separate, what do you mean?" Ms. Buckner, "That we vote on stabilizing Baker separately and that it not be contingent on all of the properties." Mrs. Williams, "That was my motion. My motion was to authorize Administration to proceed with bidding on the stabilization of Baker High School. That's one thing." Mr. Walker, "At our last meeting, did we not tell Administration to come up with something?" Mr. Wells, "The motion would be the one that's typed here. Any other motion would be one that has not gone through committee yet." Mr. Roberson, "According to Roberts Rules of Orders, you can amend by deletion an existing document if you get a second on it, if you get a second on that. This is what Mrs. Williams and Ms. Buckner are doing. You're amending by deletion." Ms. Buckner, "I'd like to second the motion." Mrs. Williams, "I made a motion inaccurately. The motion that is before you is separating the plan from the stabilization." Mr. Ellington, "The motion as amended has to be debated and voted on." Mr. Wells, "My amendment was not to allocate any money but to get an assessment and a plan of all of our surplus property including Baker but, not allocate any money." Mr. Whiteside, "Everybody's got a motion in. I'd like to table this item until the next meeting if I can get a second." Mr. Wells, "I'll second to table until the next meeting." Mr. Whiteside, "We have an offer from Jim Evans to buy the property. I feel like if we're going to keep the Baker building then we need to spend the \$175,000. The question that's on the table is whether we should keep the Baker building. If we're not going to keep it then we shouldn't spend the \$175,000. I can't sort out what I've been told enough to make a competent decision." Mrs. Williams, "I'd like to ask a procedural question. Dr. Phillips can we and just going on a hypothetical assumption that we do table the discussion of allocation of any funding for thirty days or until the next meeting? Can we proceed with obtaining bids for the stabilization without allocating funds for such work? Can we just start the process so that when we come back to the table, we'll have good numbers?" Dr. Phillips, "I don't think we can do that in all practicality. We're asking people to take their time and effort to give us responsible bids and we don't know whether we're going to do the work or not. When we have a motion to table, that's not for discussion." Mr. Walker, "The motion is to table this item until next month." The vote was (5) affirming, (Whiteside, Wells, Storey, Schley, Walker) and (4) opposing, (Buckner, Roberson, Green, Williams). Mr. Whiteside, "Between now and next month, we read about a couple of appraisals in the paper. Can we have this information next month?" Dr. Phillips, "We'll provide that." Mrs. Williams, "Will you bring the list being gathered of surplus property?" Dr. Phillips, "Yes, we'll provide that."

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved the acceptance of an additional ten-foot strip of land along both sides of Old Guard Road and one side of the Extension of American Way from Synovus Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee for Elmer Reese Tompkins for the necessary Right of Way. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Storey).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board approved that the Muscogee County District deed the new Old Guard Road and the Extension of American Way to the Columbus Consolidated Government. The CCG will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of these roads. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside).

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to Ben B. Gordon Construction, \$19,740.00 for construction of stairs and ramp to connect the North Columbus Branch Library and the Britt David Elementary parking lot for public parking.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 7, \$279,206.12 to be added to the original contract for construction at Johnson Elementary for a bus loop/fire lane and canopy for bus drop off/pickup will be installed.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 4 in the total amount of \$154,102.20 to be added to the original contract for the air conditioning of the gymnasium 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 total amount of \$292,981.88 to be added to the original contract to cover the installation of smart boards, related equipment and associated electrical work at New Elementary School No. 6.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 5 in the total amount of \$174,902.12 to be added to the original contract to cover the installation of data cabling at New Elementary School No. 6.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved the closing of the Benning Hills Elementary construction project and deposit \$78,720.32 in the 1997 SPLOST NPR Fund to be used for other 1997 SPLOST Projects and \$36,363.45 in the 2003 SPLOST NPR Fund to be used for other 2003 Projects. Mrs. Green, “A question came up at the work session about the odor that is in the school. Is this action going to hinder this or will the problem is eliminated?” Dr. Phillips, “Mr. Caggins has gone out there and he and Mr. Tanksley are looking at this.” Mr. Roberson, “It’s hard for citizens and parents to conceive of us closing out a project and a problem still exists with security, no fencing and a lingering odor. We want to make sure that the money is expended for these issues and that’s why I’ll abstain.” The vote was (8) affirming and (1) abstaining, (Roberson).

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mrs. Green, the Board unanimously approved the closing of the New Road Project at the North Site Property and deposit \$28,221.99 in the 2003 SPLOST NPR Fund to be used for other 2003 SPLOST Projects.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mrs. Green, the Board unanimously approved the closing of the Carver High School Low Voltage upgrade project and deposit \$27,410.02 in the Capital Projects NPR Fund to be used for other Capital Projects.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board approved a purchase order to Virtucom in the amount of \$37,500.86 to purchase equipment for the implementation of the electronic Board agenda Project and to prepare the room to serve as an Emergency Operations Center for the School District. Mr. Whiteside, “I support the concept but, I’ll vote against this because this is another no-bid off the state bid list purchase.” The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the reimbursement to the Columbus Consolidated Government \$147,971.95 to assist in the re-surfacing of driveway and parking areas at Shaw, Cusseta Road, Dawson, Eddy, and Fort Schools. The Georgia Department of Transportation will reimburse the CCG a total of \$154,828.05. The City has contracted with Southern Asphalt for a total cost of \$302,800.00 for the project. The funds are available in the Other Purchased Property Services Account in Plant Services Budget.

Mrs. Williams, “I have a procedural question. We have a contract before the Board for the purchase of Baker High. It’s not in the consent agenda. We have a contract pending that requires action prior to January 26th.” Dr. Phillips, “This Board has to make a decision to surplus the property before you can do anything with it. Once you surplus the property then we have to put it out on bid. We can’t just put it out on bid.”

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items with the exception of Item I-6, 7, 8 and this will include the addendum item:

- Human Resources Report/Professional and Classified. (Appendix A)
- New Horizons to use Kinnett Stadium on May 19, 2007.
- Budget adjustment, over \$25,000, FY07 Regular Title I purchase of smart boards for Muscogee Elementary.
- Renewal of software licenses for technology at Columbus Library and Branches, \$67,962.00.
- State Reimbursement Funds, \$20,000, Programs for Exceptional Students.
- Contract awarded, Leadership Development and Program Planning, \$27,000.00, Programs for Exceptional Students.
- Financial Assistance, \$2,942.00.
- Grant, Homeless Youth Hurricane Ed. Recovery Act, \$10,875.00.
- Industry Certification, \$60,000.00, Career & Technical Education.
- American Association of Adapted Sports, \$5,000, Athletic Department.
- Bell South, \$64,218.36 on-line preparation course for students, GHGT, DOE.
- Purchase order, Jenkins Services Company, LLC, \$59,600.00, replace sewer line at Allen Elementary.
- Purchase order, Columbus Consolidated Government, \$19,724.15, landfill fees.
- Purchase order, Columbus Regional Mathematics Collaborative, \$16,045.00, math/science for teachers and students.
- Purchase order, Learning Labs, Inc., \$22,022.25, computer equipment/software upgrades, Arnold Magnet.
- America's Choice, \$19,877.36 for instruction materials at Baker Middle.
- 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 SPLSOT 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 Fund
- New budget, State-wide K-8 allocations, Systems Initiatives and Individual Schools to support Reading and Mathematics

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved Consent Items I-6, 7, and 8, Purchase Orders. The vote on these items was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Whiteside):

- Virtucom Corporation, \$68,191.02 for computers and printers at Baker Middle School, Department of Title I.
- Dell Marketing, \$31,198.88, software and hardware for Records Department.
- DeBest Plumbing Company, \$72,500.00, replace water main and sewer line at Gentian Elementary.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session for one student appeal.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, 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 Board meeting for January.

Greg S. Ellington