

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Monday, May 19, 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 Monday, May 19, 2008, 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at the old Bradley Library.

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

The pledge of allegiance and the character education word were led by students from Key Elementary School.

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

The Board recognized visitors in the audience. The Board also recognized the 2008 Teacher of the Year, Melissa Wilks, and a resolution for William R. Flewellen, GAE 2008 Legislator of the Year, Carolyn Hugley, Outstanding First Year Teacher, Governors Honors, History Day Winners, CTAE State Winners, PAGE One Winners, PTSA Reflections Winners, T. Hiram Stanley, State Track, Shaw Silver Star, Mathematics, and ABCD.

Dr. Schley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells to amend the regular agenda to add the addendum item. The vote was unanimous to amend the agenda.

Dr. Schley stated, "This past Saturday at a called board meeting, the Board interviewed three firms, Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Harold Webb Associates, and Brock, Clay, Calhoun & Rogers, P.C. to conduct an executive search for the next superintendent. The Board was asked to rate the three firms and the Brock firm is the favored. At this time I am ready to make a motion.

Mrs. Williams, "I was not one of those Board members that ranked Brock as high. In looking at the other two firms who was national in scope. The Brock firm is not. I'd like to understand why the other board members voted for this firm." Mr. Roberson, "The Hazard, Attea firm will make the process more transparent. Initially in the proposal by the Brock firm, they wanted to get a consensus of the Board. Sometimes with a consensus some members are left out. BWP represented diversity. That is also the reason that I wanted to give them a chance. This is not to put the Brock firm down. Because I am selecting Hazard, Young, Attea is not that I don't appreciate Dr. Phillips by not selecting the Brock firm." Mr. Whiteside, "Let me understand what is on the table. The motion is to hire the firm of Brock, Clay. Then, the only thing that I need to talk about is the reason that I can't support the motion. The procedure that the Brock firm uses is one by which the candidate that will be recommended to the Board is not disclosed until other candidates have been eliminated. The law requires that the name be released. The public really gets excluded from the process. That is a problem inherent to the process.

Once we announce the name it is thought that the person announced would have a problem with his employer. I listened to the discussion from the three firms. Both Webb and Hazard said they would conduct focus group discussions. The approach that Brock used in the last search is that he will poll the Board and do a self selective survey either of the staff, public or both. I do happen to have this theory that the strongest indicator of how successful the superintendent will be is the fit between him and the community. My concern here is lack of proper through involvement of the public which leads me to the next point. I asked to get information from Glenn Brock over what superintendents' they have placed and what history they have of the superintendent's staying in the positions for more than five years."

Upon motion of Dr. Schley, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board voted to employ Brock and Associates to perform an executive search for the new superintendent of education. The vote was (5) affirming, (Schley, Green, Storey, Walker, Wells) and (4) opposing, (Roberson, Williams, Buckner, Whiteside). The motion passed.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular Board meeting held on Monday, April 21, 2008.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mrs. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the following principals for the 2008-2009 school year:

- Joe Myles, J.D. Davis
- Penny Thornton, Fox
- Janice Miley, Midland Academy
- Tim Smith, Blanchard
- Cleo Griswold, Kendrick
- Melanie Knight, Veterans Memorial
- Pam McCoy, Benning Hills
- Alonzo James, Eddy
- Molly Hart, Double Churches
- Patrick Knopf, River Road

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mike Hudson to the position of Director of Student Services.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved the Charter School petition for Reese Road Elementary.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously approved the revised Charter School Petition for Wynnton Arts Academy.

Mrs. Storey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells to approve the Midtown Mater Plan Concept as presented with the understanding that the design illustrated is a concept only. Changes may occur to the massing and program of the illustrated buildings or other site features pending design development. The associated cost with the development of the green space (approximately 19 acres) will be borne by private funding and may be done in phases as the funding is available. Mr. Wells, "I'd like to suggest that we take out the artist rendering that has concept on the green area. I'd really rather have the word concept written in bold, black letters and take out the green color." Mrs. Green, "I can support that." Mrs. Williams, "I will not vote for the plan as presented tonight and we have not identified the funding for this plan. I would like to see the entire area in which no funding is currently available nor identified removed from the plan. I hear often that the definition of insanity is to always do the same thing and expect different responses. I think that the plan as it is will be detrimental." Mrs. Buckner, "As Mr. Wells said I'd like to take out the green space. It's like going down the same road. We need to make sure that it is a concept."

Mr. Wells offered an amendment to the motion to delete the last sentence in the original motion that is, "The associated cost with the development of the green space (approximately 19 acres) will be borne by private funding and may be done in phases as the funding is available", bold and enlarge the lettering stating Concept and eliminate the color green in the drawing. Mrs. Williams, "I'd like to take out the band shell, tot area, and flood plain breached." Mrs. Green, "I would like to remind everyone that this was a joint effort with the City of Columbus, the yellow buildings, the band shell, these are things that the City was interested in. I want to make sure that the focus remains on what we are putting on the site." Mr. Whiteside, "I want to get a clarification from the Attorney before we vote on this. Mr. Vega does this change affect the fact that neither we nor future boards are bound to not develop the property and neither we nor future boards are prohibited from putting school district funds in to support an educational purpose? Mr. Vega, "No this does not." The amended motion was seconded by, Mr. Roberson. The vote on the amended motion was unanimous. The vote on the main motion as amended was (8) affirming and (1) abstaining, (Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for nine months ending March 31, 2008.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the Department of Technology to negotiate a contract with ProSys in the approximate amount of \$3,150,000.00 to provide services for the entire Server Consolidation Project including hardware, software, services, training, and portal implementation.

Upon motion of Ms. Buckner, seconded by Mr. Roberson, the Board unanimously awarded a contract to CELT for procurement support in the DOT for Enterprise Printing and Document Reproduction Equipment.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved a purchase order to Southeastern Cabling Contractors in the amount of \$20,343.80 for the installation of data cabling at the new Rigdon Road Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Ms. Buckner, the Board unanimously approved a draft proposal to secure RFP's of Program Management Services.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously awarded a contract in the amount of \$15,600,000.00 (base bid) to Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC, Kennesaw, Georgia for the construction of the MCSD Education Services Center and approved the project budget in the total amount of \$20,952,907.00. Dr. Phillips stated that the bid came in substantially less than expected and the recommended contractor is the low bidder.

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

- Human Resources Report Professional/Classified
- Parks & Recreation to use Kinnett Stadium
- Columbus Track to use Kinnett Stadium
- Donation, Gayle Yarbrough, \$3,536.00, Wynnton Arts Academy
- Donation, Brookstone School, \$2,000.00, Fox School
- Grant, Wal Mart, \$1,000.00, Britt David Magnet
- Grant, We the People, \$420.00, Blanchard
- Grant, Wal Mart, \$1,000.00, Shaw High
- Grant, Goody's Good Deed's, \$10,000, Fox School
- Grant, We the People, \$420.00, Allen
- Budget adjustment, Title IIA, \$163,652.00
- Budget adjustment, Title I, \$206,523.00
- Budget adjustment, Elementary Education, over \$25,000, textbooks
- Budget adjustment, School Security, \$54,315.00
- Budget adjustment, Plant Services, \$485,254.21
- Budget adjustment, DOTS, Enterprise Resource Program
- Budget adjustment, Program for Exceptional Students, \$27,531.00
- Contract, Callaway Gardens, Title I, \$46,500.00
- Contract, Schlechty Center, \$3,000.00, Administrators Training
- Contract, Fuller Fire & Safety, \$107,250.00, Spencer High
- Contract, Ben Gordy Construction, freezer/cooler, Hardaway
- Contract, various vendors, food and non-food, SNP
- Contract PES, Educational Analysis, \$34,500.00
- PO, Virco Corporation, \$16,633.50, Columbus High
- PO, Novell, \$64,000.00, technology operations
- PO, MultiMedia, \$69,523.00, SMART Boards, Columbus High
- PO, 3M Library Systems, \$33,250.00, CVRLS
- PO, Dynix, \$33,434.59, technology maintenance, CVRLS
- PO, Lakeshore Learning, literacy learning packs, Pre-K, \$18,079.64
- PO, Houghton Mifflin Science, Georgia Edition, textbooks, \$771,174.18
- PO, Phonak Hearing Systems, \$21,090.00, Programs Exceptional Students
- PO, Allan Vigil Ford, \$15,465.00, pickup truck, Warehouse
- PO, Columbus Lift Service, \$48,943.80, two forklifts, Warehouse/Plant Services

- PO, Various oil companies, system-wide fuel, \$191,539.65
- PO, William Scotsman & Work Space Plus, portable classrooms, \$123,997.00
- PO, William Scotsman, concrete steps/ramps for portable classrooms, \$48,562.00
- PO, Schlechty Center, Principals Academy, \$6,400.00
- PO, Schlechty Center, Leadership Academy, \$4,000.00
- PO, Schlechty Center, Principals Academy, \$15,400.00
- PO, Jenkins Service Company, \$1,000.00, sewer drain Baker Middle
- PO, Darton Roofing, \$2,100.00, sewer vent lines, Baker Middle
- Audit of Financial Statement of 1997 SPLSOT 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
- Analysis of 2003 SPLOST NPR Fund
- SPLOST Funding Report for 2003

Mrs. Williams asked that the purchase order for smart boards to Multi Media for Columbus High to be placed on the table until her questions can be answered regarding this item. Dr. Phillips stated that this money belongs to the school from non-resident tuition and magnet money. Dr. Pennock noted that the funds need to be spent by the end of June. Mrs. Williams, “I understand now. I would like to request information on what funds, discretionary funds that schools have control.” Dr. Phillips, “We’ll get that to you.”

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

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

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