

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2004, 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, June 21, 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, Brenda F. Dozier, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Robin Pennock, Chief Academic Officer, Don Cooper, Chief Human Resources Officer, Billy Kendall, Administrative Assistant, Myles Caggins, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Bill Hortman, Associate Superintendent, Richard Hyatt from the Ledger Enquirer and other representatives from the media.

Dr. Polleys called the meeting to order with an invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag led by the Columbus High School baseball team. The Character Education word – Compassion was introduced by a student from Midland Middle School, Alex Sigmund.

The Board recognized the following: GSBA Board Certification Compliance; Columbus High School Baseball Team as State Champions; Aquavious Samuels, Jordan High won the State Long Jump; Alex Sigmund, Midland Middle won T. Hiram Stanley Scholarship Award; National History Day winners, system-wide; and Caitlin McConnell, Jordan High, National Association of Women in Construction award.

Dr. Polleys recognized those to speak on the Public Forum: Mr. Joseph Roberson and Mr. Edward Dubose.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved official actions taken at the regular board meeting on May 17, 2004 and a called meeting on June 4, 2004.

Mr. Whiteside made a motion that at the Board direction to the Administration to establish a policy prescribed timetable for budget preparation to include a provision that there should be an early parameter setting meeting, a decision on the millage rate prior to the completion of the public hearings required for the Board to enjoy tax digest increase and an early advisement that major programs will be terminated in the budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to take this issue up at the July work session. Mr. Whiteside and Mr. Walker withdrew the motion.

Dr. Phillips noted that revisions to policy (BBC) Board Committees will be drafted for discussion at the July work session to include the return of the Finance, Construction and Audit Committees.

Mr. Wells, made the motion seconded by Dr. Schley, to extend Dr. Phillips contract as Superintendent of Education for eighteen months. Mr. Wells noted that because, the superintendent received a good evaluation, he is making this recommendation. Mr. Whiteside commented, "I will have to vote against the motion only because of the proposed length of the extension. I want to make it clear that my vote on this matter is not indicative of any lack of confidence or support to Dr. Phillips. This is not the case. We have routinely extended the superintendent's contract by a year but what is on the table here is an unprecedented year and a half. To my recollection, we've never done that before. It's more than was originally discussed and I'm not comfortable in voting for an extension that length given the fact that the composition of the school board will at least by one seat change within a few months. With all due respect to the Superintendent and other Board Members, I must dissent." Dr. Schley commented, "I agree with Mr. Whiteside that this is a little unusual however, we have come through a very unusual time. The SPLOST that we did last year and Dr. Phillips coming on board and having to hit the ground running as he has done really, I think is a little bit different from the average situation where we simply try to keep ahead of the contract by a year and I think it needs to go ahead as Mr. Wells suggested by a year and a half." The motion passed to extend Dr. Phillips contract for eighteen months. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Mr. Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved the administrative transfer of Sheila Brock from Principal at Johnson Elementary to Principal at Downtown Elementary.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Michael Barden to the position of Assistant Principal at Carver High.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Reginald Williamson to the position of Assistant Principal at Blackmon Road Middle.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mark Hanner to the position of Assistant Principal at Allen and Johnson Elementary Schools.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Michael Armstrong to the position of Assistant Principal at Cusseta Road Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Kevin Scott to the position of Assistant Principal at Midland Academy.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Lawrence Lipscomb to the position of Assistant Principal at Waddell Elementary.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously approved the consolidation of Director of Systems & Data Processing and Director of Planning and Instruction Technology to one position. The new title will be Executive Director of Technology Services and Dr. Carol Vander Gheynst has been appointed to this position.

Upon motion of Mr. Ditchfield, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the addition of an administrative regulation on the sale of foods and beverages to policy JGH and EE – Food Services Management. Mr. Humes commented that it would be appropriate for the Board members to vote on this administrative regulation.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously authorized the Administration to negotiate a contract with Energy Systems Group, LLC to provide a comprehensive energy audit of the facilities of the School District.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the amendment of the contract with Newton Aaron and Associates for Program Management Services in the renovation project at Jordan High School. The total additional funding would be \$18,000.00.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board approved the concept of contracting security services with private security firms for the Bradley Library. The vote was (5) affirming and (4) opposing, (Mrs. Storey, Ms. Buckner, Mr. Ebron, Mr. Walker). Mr. Humes commented that this would be, “a reduction in force. The RIF policy would apply to six security guards. The library guards that are now providing those services would be an employee who could access the RIF policy. The RIF policy would apply to classified employees. If you clarify that this is a budgetary issue as Dr. Phillips mentioned producing a savings. That being the case, the RIF policy does apply which in this case, the security guards if they are displaced would be able to request that they be considered for other employment under the RIF policy which would then involve your Human Resources Department.” Mrs. Buckner asked, “If these security guards request employment, would it be a lateral move?” Mr. Cooper answered, “We would look at years of service, evaluations and experience. There is a point system that is provided and we would look at that.” Mr. Whiteside commented, “I’m not sure of what we’re being asked to do here. Does the library have a contract already with a security firm, do they? Dr. Phillips commented, “They are asking us to approve the concept of out-sourcing security services. The Library Board is asking this Board to support the out-sourcing of the security personnel. They will have to come back to us at a later date and bid the services.” Mrs. Storey commented, “If the Library Board is asking us to do this so that they can save money and we are held under the RIF policy then it could cost the

School District more than the savings that the library is seeking.” Dr. Phillips commented, “If we put the RIF policy in place, then these six employees would fall under the matrix based on seniority, qualifications and other kinds of things. It could be the bumping effect takes place.” Mrs. Storey commented, “The RIF policy also calls for compensation because, they could then file for unemployment. The cost could then be greater than the savings that the library is going to see. I understand the Library Board wanting to save money but, they can’t save money at our expense.” Mr. Whiteside commented, “My only concern about this is that it sounds like the Library Board is asking us to make a policy decision and the idea was to get away from that.” Mr. Ebron commented, “I agree with Mr. Whiteside, the idea was to get away from that. As long as we approve the hiring of their personnel then, we are stuck in a position where employees that leave the library, they go through our employee process such as appeal process, in terms of everything.” Dr. Phillips commented, “We are in some transition and we are trying to make the Library as independent of us as possible. The problem is the hybrid is not there yet. In the future we can at least put exclusion in the policy that those employees of the Library are not subject to the same rules and regulations that govern other employees in the school system.” Mrs. Buckner commented, “I’m concerned about these six security employees right now.” Dr. Phillips commented, “We are saying that we would have to follow the policy, as it is right now and we would have to invoke the RIF policy.” Mr. Wells commented, “I know that we all want the Library Board as independent from this Board as possible. The Superintendent hit the nail on the head, this is a hybrid. The legislature made it possible for us if both entities the Museum and the School Board to spin off the Museum as a separate entity. The Museum thought about it and they say we want to be connected to the school board because of bonds and other things. We want the library to be the same way.”

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board approved the budget for the Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System for FY05. The vote was (7) affirming and (2) opposing, (Mrs. Storey, Ms. Buckner).

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board unanimously approved the budget for the School Nutrition Program for twelve months beginning July 1, 2004.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Dr. Schley, the Board unanimously approved the Growing Room to lease space at the Daniel Alternative Middle School site.

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mrs. Storey, the Board unanimously approved financial statements for ten months ending April 30, 2004.

Upon motion of Mr. Whiteside, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board unanimously voted to amend the agenda to take action on an addendum item from the Woodall Program.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the FY04 State budget amendment

Mr. Whiteside asked that the item on “televising called school board meetings other than executive sessions” is placed on the next Board Work Session agenda.

Upon motion of Mrs. Storey, seconded by Mr. Ebron, the Board unanimously approved the following consent agenda items and addendum item, budget adjustment from Woodall Program with the exception of items E, F, H and L for a separate vote:

- Human Resources Report. (Appendix A)
- Student Discipline Tribunal for FY05.
- Broadcast High School Football Games.
- New Horizons to use Kinnett Stadium.
- Purchase to Riverside Publishing for testing materials, \$31,094.25.
- Confirmation purchase order McTaggart's replace sewer line at Gentian Elementary, \$11,157.00.
- New budget, Federal FY05 Woodall Program.
- New budget State FY05 Woodall Program.
- New budget Capacity Grant FY05 Woodall Program.
- New budget FY04 Rule 10, Relations with other agencies.
- New budget Even Start FY04.
- Contract, Malone Contract Floor Covering, North Library, \$25,362.00 and South Library, \$10,402.00.
- Contract, Pure Aire Filter, system-wide, \$110,448.45.
- Contract, various vendors for products in School Nutrition.
- Contract, Orkin Pest Control, FY05, system-wide, \$21,240.00.
- Contract, NetPlanner Systems, cabling at Shaw, \$95,881.11.
- Lease agreements for varies school district properties.
- Budget adjustment, School Nutrition Feeding Program, \$88,900.00.
- Budget adjustment, Klinkerfus Fund, \$5,500 for design work of Library history.
- Budget adjustment, Klinkerfus Fund, \$5,325 for printing Library history.

- Central Registration/Transportation, \$10,500, software.
- Title I, over \$25,000, purchase computers at ECMA.
- Research & Evaluation, \$30,000, testing materials.
- Title VA Accounts, over \$25,000.
- Sales Tax Construction program Report, April 2004.
- Report on Transfer from FY03 SPLOST Critical Needs.
- FY97 Sales Tax Construction Program Report.
- FY04 budget amendment for Woodall Program.

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved a one-year lease agreement with Ryder for a refrigerated delivery truck for \$14,608.08, and one dry freight delivery truck for \$8,436.00. The vote was (7) affirming and (2) opposing, (Mr. Whiteside, Dr. Polleys)

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Walker, the Board awarded a contract to Southeastern Facility Management, Inc., \$54,600.00 for vinyl composition tile floor care services at Northside High School. The vote was (6) affirming and (3) opposing, (Mr. Ditchfield, Mr. Whiteside, Dr. Polleys).

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board approved a confirmation purchase order to B&B Dump Trucks, \$22,440.00 for moving and setting up of three classroom portables from J.D. Davis to Northside. The vote was (8) affirming and (1) opposing, (Mr. Whiteside).

Upon motion of Mr. Ebron, seconded by Mr. Wells, the Board approved an agreement with Automated Recovery Solutions for three years for a check recovery and collection program. The vote was (7) affirming and (2) opposing, (Mr. Whiteside, Dr. Polleys)

Upon motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Ditchfield, the Board unanimously voted to go into executive session for hear five student discipline appeals.

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

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