

May 18, 2009
Date

Regular
Kind of Meeting

Teachers' Center
Where Held

Mr. Chris Maddox, Vice-Chairman
Presiding Officer

Members Present:

Mr. Chris Maddox, Vice-Chairman, District 6
Mrs. Brenda Guilford, District 1
Mr. Franklin Jones, District 2
Ms. Gayla White, District 3
Dr. Hays McKay, District 5

Members Absent:

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman
Mr. Jimmy Addison, District 4

The Vice-Chairman, Mr. Chris Maddox, called the meeting to order.

Dr. Hays McKay led in prayer.

The Vice-Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Gayla White read the Mission Statement of Dothan City Schools.

Ms. Gayla White gave the School System News. Mrs. Peggy Maddox, Principal, Heard Elementary School, reports they held the annual ribbon cutting ceremony for their Art Gallery. Mayor Pat Thomas officially cut the ribbon opening the gallery which displays student art work. The theme this year was self-portraits done by each grade level in a different medium. Students, teachers and parents enjoyed refreshments and viewing the winning selections and meeting the young artists. Mrs. Aneta Walker, Principal, Cloverdale Elementary School, reports they received a grant for their iFit program that will address key factors in childhood obesity. Cali Money, 2nd Grade at Cloverdale won Honorable Mention in the Essay Contest and Kristi Miller, 5th Grade, won the Step N Style Design Contest. Dr. James Kelley, Principal, Carver Magnet School, reports the Carver Magnet School band went to Orlando to compete in the All-Star Musical Festival on May 9th. The 7th and 8th grade bands earned a superior rating and won their class and took the two highest scores of all the middle and high school bands at the contest. These scores also earned Carver the Grand Champion Award.

Dr. Sam Nichols, the Board and Mr. Ron Snell, Principal of Northview High School, recognized Harrison Barnard and Emily Newton, the Northview High School 6A Tennis State Champions in the Boys and Girls Division.

Mr. Chris Maddox, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Sam Nichols and the Board recognized and presented retirement plaques to employees retiring this school year.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mrs. Brenda Guilford to approve the Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Mrs. Brenda Guilford made a motion seconded by Ms. Gayla White to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item 3.1, Board Minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 4, 2009, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Minute(s): April 20, 2009 – Regular Board Meeting
Monthly Financial Reports and Accounts Payable/Payrolls (See Attachment "A")
Child Nutrition Program – Monthly Financial Report
Project Updates

Donation(s)
Bid(s): School Supply Bid
70T Air-Cooled Chiller – Kelly Springs
CNP: Hood Cleaning/Floor Cleaning/DHS Serving Line/Large Equipment

Authorization for the Superintendent to Sign and Approve Federal and State Program Applications for the 2009-2010 School Year

Summer School for Middle School
Salary & Supplement Schedules
Credit Recovery
ACCESS Distance Learning Labs Summer School

Mrs. Brenda Guilford referenced page 11, Item 2 regarding the response by Ms. Loftin and the research on preschool. Mrs. Guilford stated instead of preschool it should be Pre-K and I wanted to make reference to the Pre-K program to show how the effects of having quality Pre-K would affect their standing in school. Mrs. Guilford further stated in reference to the question I asked in the minutes on page 4, "The question was Mrs. Brenda Guilford asked Ms. Loftin to research information about the effects of Pre-K on performance through high school. She further stated she attended a conference on the effects of Pre-K on students as far as high school dropouts. Oklahoma has 94% of

children in Pre-K and their study showed the children were better prepared for school and performed better on standardized tests, less frequently assigned to Special Education or retention, better attendance rates and were less likely to drop out." I said if we could not do the research we would ask Sally Howell to come down and give us a workshop. The reason I am doing this is because I went to the Pre-K conference last month on trying to get your Board Members to understand the effects of Pre-K so hopefully we can work towards making it universal. If we could look at Pre-K instead of Pre-School, there is a difference between Pre-School and Pre-K.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Dr. Hays McKay to approve Item 3.1, Board Minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 4, 2009, of the Consent Agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Dr. Dell Goodwin presented the Personnel Agenda including the Addendum changing the effective date on Item 4.2 to June 1, 2009, changing the effective date on Item 4.7.1 to September 8, 2008 and deleting Item 4.8.1.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion to approve the Personnel Agenda as presented pulling Item 4.9.5.

Mr. Franklin Jones requested one Item 4.3.10 be pulled but stated he would like to pull everybody at Carver.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mrs. Brenda Guilford to modify her motion to approve the Personnel Agenda pulling Item 4.9.5 and Item 4.3.10, as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None. (See Attachment "B")

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Dr. Hays McKay to approve Item 4.9.5 of the Personnel Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – Maddox. (See Attachment "B")

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mr. Franklin Jones to approve Item 4.3.10 of the Personnel Agenda as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None. (See Attachment "B")

Mr. Franklin Jones stated I would like to pull everybody at Carver. I am sure some of you remember that the magnet schools were a part of the Consent Decree and I am just wondering where this is going. There are 11 people here that are being transferred from Carver and I am concerned. Are all these transfers final as of tonight? Dr. Dell Goodwin stated some of them may go back as positions open up. Mr. Franklin Jones stated this is a very direct question Dr. Nichols, is this an attempt to dismantle Carver Magnet School in any way? Dr. Sam Nichols stated not at all it reflects the staffing of the students that are projected to be there. The enrollment is going to be less than what it is currently and that is why there is a reduction. At Beverlye Magnet School there is going to be a reduction in students so there will be a reduction in staff. We are realigning because of the enrollment we are projecting for those schools next year. Mr. Franklin Jones asked if all the Administrators had the same opportunity to discuss transfers with you. Dr. Dell Goodwin stated where we had to transfer teachers they were aware that they were losing teacher units. Ms. Gayla White stated what about teacher units, were they given input as to who they received because normally if you have open positions at different schools they are able to interview and select, not just those two schools, all of these that are transferring around. Did all of these get an opportunity to interview and select. Dr. Dell Goodwin stated when you lose a teacher unit we do not advertise they were not new units. If we lost a unit at one of the elementary schools and they picked up a unit then you transfer that teacher unit. Ms. Gayla White stated I am talking about from school to school if it was Carver and Girard would they interview the ones that are coming to his school or Honeysuckle and Beverlye. They had no input as to how their programs were going to be set up. Dr. Dell Goodwin stated we talked to the Principals and we looked at areas of certification where they were losing a math and the other school was gaining a math then that teacher unit would be moved. We looked at the non-tenure first. In some of the areas we had to go into tenured employees. Mr. Franklin Jones stated I want to say again, did all the Administrators have the same opportunities to discuss transfers with you or did you discuss them with anybody? I know you did it based on seniority and tenure. Dr. Dell Goodwin stated we talked with the Administrators. Mr. Franklin Jones asked did all of them get the same opportunity. Dr. Dell Goodwin stated they were all discussed with the Principals at the schools. Ms. Gayla White stated I need clarification on that. So every Principal at all the schools that were getting transfers in got the same opportunity to see what units were out there and how the transfers were going to take place and if people were losing units they had input as to who those teachers were that were transferred out. Dr. Dell Goodwin stated some of them we had to work out. If we only had one person that was left with a math certification and they needed a math person then that is where they would transfer. We also looked at the training that our teachers have already had if they were going from an elementary school to an elementary school and they taught at a 4th grade level what schools would need a 4th grade teacher that already had professional development at those levels. Mrs. Brenda Guilford asked if you move a teacher from Carver and placed the teacher at Beverlye and if that unit opened up at Carver would that teacher be able to transfer back. Dr. Dell Goodwin stated she could apply and transfer back to that unit. Dr. Hays McKay asked what if your projections are higher than expected would you then have to adjust as well. Dr. Sam Nichols stated it normal every year to make adjustments up or down. We try not to hire new units we try to transfer if we can possibly do that. We are not dead on every year as far as teacher units.

Dr. Dell Goodwin stated we have several units advertised right now that some of the transfers are applying for to go into different positions. They still have opportunities, if positions come up during the summer they can apply for any of those positions. Mr. Franklin Jones stated some of these teachers requested transfers also. Dr. Dell Goodwin stated yes. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated if this particular teacher that was moved from Carver to Beverly, if a unit came open under her certification, she could request a transfer back. Dr. Dell Goodwin stated right, if the Principal recommends that person back the recommendation would be taken to Dr. Nichols and then Dr. Nichols would bring it back to you for Board approval.

Mr. Mike Manuel gave a Budget Update reviewing the General Fund Balance Comparison, Local Revenue Comparison, General Fund Revenues FY 2007, FY 2008 and FY 2009, Analysis of General Fund Expenditures FY 2007, FY 2008 and FY 2009 and General Fund Recap. (See Attachment "C")

Mr. Mike Manuel gave an overview of the allocation of Teacher Units for the next school year by grade level. Discussion was held regarding the units at Dothan High School and Dothan Technology Center, Dothan High School has been staffed above and beyond the other high school and PASS has units paid out of the general fund, at-risk monies and other sources.

Mrs. Allyson Morgan introduced Dr. Steve Broome, Consultant with SREB, who gave an overview on SREB and the work they are doing with Dothan City Schools. (See Attachment "D")

Dr. Sam Nichols stated the Board adopted the Co-Owned Strategic Plan that was developed in partnership with the Community and in the plan are certain timelines with the first being a 30-day timeline. Dr. Nichols introduced the Dothan City Schools Co-Chairs and the Community Co-Chair, Dr. Thomas Harrison. Each individual as listed below presented the YES WE CAN Co-Owned Strategic Plan 30-Day Report.

1. Mrs. Allyson Morgan presented action steps and actions completed for goals 1, 2, and 6 for Target Area 1 - Graduation for All: Ready for College, Work and Life. Discussion was held. (See Attachment "E")
2. Ms. Susan Loftin presented action steps and actions completed for goals 7, 9 and 10 for Target Area 2 – High Expectations and Accountability for Home, School and Community. (See Attachment "E")
3. Dr. Jimmy McCarty presented action steps and actions completed for goal 12 for Target Area 3 – Parent Responsibility and Involvement. (See Attachment "E")
4. Mr. Mike Manuel presented action steps and actions completed for goals 14, 15 and 16 for Target Area 4 – Funding Better Schools to Make a Better Dothan City Schools. (See Attachment "E")
5. Dr. Dell Goodwin presented action steps and actions completed for goal 4 for Target Area 1 - Graduation for All: Ready for College, Work and Life and goals 19 and 20 for Target Area 5 – Communication that Informs, Engages and Reconnects. (See Attachment "E")
6. Dr. Thomas Harrison reported that the "2-1-1 Get Connected Get Answers" is being made available to all students. Dr. Harrison reviewed the Community Report action steps and actions completed for goal 9 for Target Area 2 – High Expectations and Accountability for Home, School and Community and goal 15 for Target Area 4 – Funding Better Schools to Make a Better Dothan. (See Attachment "F")

Dr. Sam Nichols stated we are serious about this process, the community is, we are staying focused on our goals, I believe you will see a culture change in our school system and mind set and we are going to accomplish great things. The YES WE CAN initiative has a lot to do with building the momentum in our school system.

Mr. Chris Maddox stated the Board will adjourn into Executive Session for student hearings.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mr. Franklin Jones to adjourn into Executive Session for Student Hearings as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Mrs. Brenda Guilford made a motion seconded by Mr. Franklin Jones to reconvene into Regular Session as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Dr. Sam Nichols recommended that student number 55085 be expelled from Dothan City Schools for the 2009-2010 school year.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mr. Franklin Jones that student number 55085 be expelled from Dothan City Schools for the 2009-2010 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Dr. Sam Nichols recommended that student number 61112 be assigned to P.A.S.S. Academy for the first semester of the next school year and pending behavior at P.A.S.S. Academy can reapply at the regular school for the second semester of next school year.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mrs. Brenda Guilford that student number 61112 be assigned to P.A.S.S. Academy for the first semester of the next school year and pending behavior at P.A.S.S. Academy can reapply at the regular school for the second semester of next school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Chris Maddox acknowledged the YES WE CAN! Dothan delegation for their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Chris Maddox stated the Board would meet again on Monday, June 1, 2009.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Dr. Hays McKay to adjourn. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Guilford, Jones, White, McKay, Maddox. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

APPROVED: June 15, 2009

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman

Sam Nichols, Superintendent, Secretary