

July 20, 2009
Date

Regular
Kind of Meeting

Teachers' Center
Where Held

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman
Presiding Officer

Members Present:

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman
Mr. Chris Maddox, Vice-Chairman, District 6
Mrs. Brenda Guilford, District 1
Mr. Franklin Jones, District 2
Ms. Gayla White, District 3
Mr. Jimmy Addison, District 4
Dr. Hays McKay, District 5

Members Absent:

The Chairman, Dr. Steve Stokes, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Hays McKay led in prayer.

The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chris Maddox read the Mission Statement of Dothan City Schools.

Ms. Gayla White gave the School System News as follows: Mrs. Peggy Maddox, Principal, Heard Magnet School, reports Heard's faculty is gearing up for the transition to magnet status. Mrs. Maddox and 9 teachers attended the National Magnet Schools Conference in Charlotte, N.C. in May. All came back extremely excited about the sessions they attended and the tour of the magnet schools in Charlotte. The first 3 days of June all the faculty met to finalize plans for the transition for the 2009-2010 school year. There is a tremendous amount of excitement and activity going on as teachers plan for the "Grand Opening of Heard Magnet School" Look for the light.

Dr. Steve Stokes acknowledged special guests Mayor Elect, Mike Schmitz, Board Member Elect for District 3, Charles Woodall, and Board Member Elect for District 5, Ben Armstrong.

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

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mr. Franklin Jones to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Stokes, Jones, Guilford, White, Maddox, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Minute(s): June 1, 2009 – Special Board Meeting, June 15, 2009 - Regular Board Meeting and June 24, 2009 –
Special Called Board Meeting - TA5, G21

Monthly Financial Reports and Accounts Payable/Payrolls -TA4, G14 (See Attachment "A")

Child Nutrition Program – Monthly Financial Report – TA4, G14

Project Updates - TA4, G14

Donation(s) - TA4, G14

SIR Report – TA1, G1

High School Reading List - TA1, G1

Head Start Policies and Procedures – TA1, G1

DCS Organizational Chart for 2009-2010 – TA2, G7

Board Policies: School Related Organizations (Policy File: DCEE) – TA4, G14 and Technology Usage
(Policy File: IFBG) - TA1, G1

Dr. Dell Goodwin presented the Personnel Agenda deleting Item 4.7.1. Discussion was held.

Mrs. Brenda Guilford made a motion seconded by Mr. Chris Maddox to approve the Personnel Agenda deleting Item 4.7.1 as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Stokes, Jones, Guilford, White, Maddox, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None. (See Attachment "B")

Dr. Sam Nichols recognized and thanked everyone in the community that has been supportive of the YES WE CAN initiative and accomplishments. Dr. Nichols recognized Mrs. Allyson Morgan as a major component and coordinator at Central Office providing guidance and being the liaison with the community. Mrs. Allyson Morgan presented the YES WE CAN 60-Day Report as outlined in Attachment "C". Dr. Thomas Harrison stated YES WE CAN Dothan was excited over the election and it is a good indication of the things to come when we all work together. The Faine/Grandview project is exciting. The main accomplishment is that the community believes we are there to help educate their children in a special meaningful way. It is important that all of our community see efforts by all of us in educating every child. Dr. Sam Nichols stated this is the one Strategic Plan where there is total commitment by the School

System and the Community and the Action Steps are actually being done and you are going to see some very positive outcomes in the future because of the steps we have taken in the past and will take in the future.

Mr. David Parsons presented the audit report for the year ending September 30, 2008 and stated our firm is issuing an unqualified opinion, the single audit of all of the Federal Programs revealed no reportable findings. This is an outstanding reflection of the employees' efforts to comply with the federal rules and regulations where federal funds are involved, as well as commendable results achieved in all financial and accounting areas by your finance department, principals and financial secretaries.

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 "D") Discussion was held.

Mrs. Allyson Morgan reviewed the Promotion, Placement and Grading Policy and Exam Exemption for Secondary Schools. Discussion was held regarding the exemptions at NHS for finals was 151 and DHS was 178, Seniors by Board Policy do not have to take that final exam so those are not included, procedures will be set in place so that a student cannot exempt a Science final throughout school, the student will have to get approval completing a form, so over the course of the 4 years they could do a Math final, Science final, History final and English final, concerns over increasing rigor or making it easier, concerns over ACT scores and the need to be working toward a minimum of 23, most colleges do not care what the GPA is they care about the ACT score, creating a consistency of what other school systems are doing, AP scores, the State Department has approved using At Risk funds to pay for ACT for all at-risk students, better communication with parents, ACT math scores reflect 18% of DHS students and 30% of NHS students are considered ready to take college algebra not college calculus which is where they usually start, standard recovery for students, and both high schools need to have the same guidelines for exemption.

Mrs. Brenda Guilford made a motion seconded by Ms. Gayla White to approve the Promotion, Placement and Grading Policy (changing from a 93 to 90 for an A and 10 points on down) as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Jones, Guilford, White, Maddox, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – Stokes. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mrs. Brenda Guilford to approve the Exam Exemption for Secondary Schools (allowing students to exempt one for an A and one for perfect attendance) as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Jones, Guilford, White, Addison. "NAY" – Stokes, McKay, Maddox. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Mrs. Allyson Morgan reviewed the Substitute Academic Credit (Career Technical) stating we received a letter from Dr. Morton giving us permission to use career tech classes for science credit if they have a science embedded in them. We have Business Tech and two Health Science classes to work with the embedded credits.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mr. Jimmy Addison to approve the Substitute Academic Credit (Career Technical) as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Stokes, Jones, Guilford, White, Maddox, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Dr. Dell Goodwin stated we are recommending we contract with the Alabama Association of School Boards for policy review and analysis of our current policy. Dr. Sam Nichols stated our current Board Policy is antiquated and virtually impossible to find and follow information through in some meaningful way. The School Board Association can work with us on streamlining our policies.

Mr. Jimmy Addison made a motion seconded by Mr. Franklin Jones to approve the contract with AASB to streamline the Board Policy Manual as presented and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Stokes, Jones, Guilford, White, Maddox, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" – None.

Discussion was held regarding the timeframe of approximately 6 months.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Steve Stokes acknowledged the YES WE CAN! Dothan delegation.

Dr. Steve Stokes announced the following Board meeting dates: August 3rd to be held at Highlands Elementary School and August 17th to be held in the Teachers' Center.

Mrs. Brenda Guilford expressed concern over holding two Board meetings a month, one Administrative meeting that has now turned into a Regular Board meeting. I would like to consider before we go into another period of time when you are no longer on the Board maybe changing that. Dr. Steve Stokes stated when we first came on I was warned that the Board meetings were lasting 3 to 4 hours and I was trying to do something so we would not be here so long.

The new Board needs to decide if you want to go back to one meeting a month or how you want to structure it. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated the new Board can make a decision on what it wants to do but we changed it but it did not turn out the way we planned. It is not an Administrative meeting it is always a Regular Board meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

APPROVED: August 17, 2009

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman

Sam Nichols, Superintendent, Secretary