

August 17, 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.

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

Mr. Jimmy Addison gave the School System News as follows:

Mr. Matt Humphrey, Principal, Dothan High School, reports DHS had 4 students attend the FBLA National Convention in Anaheim, California. Three students were invited to compete on the national level after winning their respective categories on the state level. One student represented DHS as a voting delegate in the national elections. All expenses for the trip were covered by community support through donations and fund raisers. The Ninth Grade Academy hosted their first Summer Bridge Program. Incoming ninth graders attended the program for two weeks in June and two weeks in July. Students were exposed to English and Math standards as well as the required summer reading assignment, and study skills. The Goals for Graduation program was presented by the Boys and Girls Club. Dothan High School administered the Alabama High School Graduation Exam to 63 students during the July testing session.

Mr. Greg Yance, Principal, Girard Middle School, reports three members of the Girard Middle School staff presented at the recent SREB Summer Conference in Atlanta. Pam Hardy and Jackie Metcalf presented the GMS model for students to "redo" assignments allowing the student to meet the course standard and reduce learning gaps. Mr. Yance served as a panel presenter on utilizing focus teams to encourage collaboration and meet the varied needs of a middle school.

Dr. Sam Nichols acknowledged Mrs. Brenda Guilford, Mr. Franklin Jones and Mr. Jimmy Addison for their Alabama Association of School Board achievements.

The following individuals addressed the Board with their concerns regarding the possible closing of P.A.S.S. Academy: Ms. Susan Smith, Ms. Sharon Cole, Mr. Ron Wilson, Mr. Edward Vaughn, Mr. Earl Jones, Ms. Natasha Scott and Mr. Bill Cooper. Discussion was held regarding the faculty and staff, obligation to at risk students, the number of students that are served through the program, cutting jobs, penalizing the children, discrimination, the school system promised to do the right thing, keep it open this year, if it is closed it will alter the drop out rate, the program has helped many children, closing the school "smacks of discrimination", and raising the money to keep it going. Bill Cooper also addressed the Board regarding swine flu and preventative measures.

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 Mrs. Brenda Guilford to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item 3.6 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): July 6, 2009 – Special Board Meeting, July 20, 2009 - Regular Board Meeting and August 3, 2009 – Special 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

Approval of Equipment Schedule 4 with CSI Leasing – TA4, G14

New Teacher Evaluation Policy (State Changes to Evaluation Policies)

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mr. Franklin Jones to approve Item 3.6 of 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.

Approval of Project Applications for Qualified School Construction Bonds – TA4, G14

Discussion was held regarding 15 years to repay the bonds, the number of portables at each school, money set aside, savings from the NHS/DTC project and possible savings from the DHS projects, left over bond money and which schools would need additions.

Dr. Dell Goodwin presented the Personnel Agenda.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mr. Jimmy Addison to approve the Personnel 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. (See Attachment "B")

Discussion was held.

Dr. Sam Nichols began his presentation on the restructuring of the Alternative Education Program by stating there would be another 2% proration declared totaling approximately \$5 ½ million and having to make cuts with 2 months left in the fiscal year. He further stated Option A was presented at the last meeting. Dr. Nichols presented and reviewed Option B as outlined in Attachment "C". Each Board Member stated their questions and concerns: Mr. Franklin Jones stated his concern over the number of students that could be served and asked about the status of the staff. Mrs. Brenda Guilford stated her concern regarding the program serving only 16 years old and up, seems to focus more on work environment and promoting a work force, what about kindergarten through middle school, no different from ISS, the legal aspect of drug testing, look at other ways to cut, and where they would work. Ms. Gayla White stated we should look at the new positions in the last four years, agrees with touching the least amount of students, liking this program, the number of students at the end of last school year and elementary students and concerns over the legal issues on transferring teachers. Mr. Chris Maddox asked about the elementary students, the number of high school and middle school students, and the stats on the number of students that pass the high school graduation exams. Dr. Steve Stokes commended Dr. Nichols and his staff. Mr. Jimmy Addison stated he does not dispute the need, 200 to 300 students at P.A.S.S. and 10,000 other students, we do not want to cut, no way to raise revenue, and what is a viable option. Dr. Hays McKay had no comment at this time. Dr. Nichols discussed the slots available, middle school had the largest numbers, the staff could move into current positions, this model could be cost effective, the students would work at the facility, the year ended with 230 students at P.A.S.S., currently there are 7 students and it builds over the year, there were 30 elementary students by the end of last school year, determinations would be made by looking at a student's IEP and/or behavior plan, having programs at the home base school, regular education students would be suspended, they would have a JPO if there are severe problems and work with community agencies, would have programs at GMS and HMS with a limit of 30 students and some students have been successful in passing the high school graduation exams. Discussion continued regarding the SDE deadline to comply, using subs in the classes, it would be in the children's best interest to do this as soon as possible, the Governor could declare an additional 6% proration after October 1st, meet with the City regarding funds, crime rate, fund balance, non-tenured employees, a sense of urgency, legal obligation to students under IEP or 504, lawsuits, and contracts. Mr. Ron Wilson stated Option A is preparing black males to go to jail and the Rehab Center is a skills center, what skills are they offering, Options A and B are not acceptable. Mr. Ed Vaughn stated if money is the only issue bring the stakeholders together, YWC, City and Community and make it happen. Mr. Glennie Wiggins addressed the Board stating if you persist in closing P.A.S.S. Academy we are going back to Court. Discussion continued regarding problems all over the State, cutting sports, cutting non-tenured employees. Mrs. Guilford stated we need to look at cutting where it does not affect the students.

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") Mr. Mike Manuel stated an additional 2% would come out of July, August and September payments.

Mr. Ted Hall gave an update on enrollment stating as of the 6th day of school our count is 9,182 which is an increase of 123 from the same day last year, the average of the first 20 days after Labor Day is used for funding, there is a net gain of 500 over the last 5 years and Hidden Lake is larger and Grandview is smaller than estimated.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mrs. Brenda Guilford to adjourn into a Work Session 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.

Mr. Mike Manuel stated this is the first of two required public hearings. He reviewed the proposed budget as outlined in Attachment "E". He further stated if you do not make the tough decisions the Board will be insolvent and have to borrow money for payroll. Discussion was held. Mr. Manuel stated the second public hearing would be held on September 8th.

Mrs. Brenda Guilford made a motion seconded by Mr. Franklin Jones to reconvene into Regular Session 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.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Dr. Steve Stokes announced the following Board meeting dates: September 8th to be held at Girard Middle School, September 21st and October 1st Swearing In Ceremony to be held in the Teachers' Center, 500 Dusy Street.

Ms. Gayla White made a motion seconded by Mr. Chris Maddox 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 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED: September 21, 2009

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman

Sam Nichols, Superintendent, Secretary