The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on February 5, 2004, in the School District Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place, SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

PRESENT:  Cindy Frakes, Chairman  
          Cathy Thigpen, Vice-Chairman  
          Howard Hill  
          Lloyd Taylor  
          Rodney Walker  
          Don Gaetz, Superintendent  
          C. Jeffrey McInnis, Esq., Attorney to the Board

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., the purpose of the meeting being to review Agenda items, thereby expediting the Regular Meeting. Items may be considered in random order to accommodate visitors and presenters. Routine items not discussed during the Workshop were reviewed prior to the meeting with no further questions or comments by the Board.

The Chairman made two additions to the agenda: An addendum to the Seat Management Contract and Task Order No. 2 to the Seat Management Contract for Educational Technology Support for the ESE Department-GIBCO Software.

Bill Smith reported that he has received a letter from the Okaloosa County Commission stating that they will be responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalk to be installed along Denton Boulevard. Work will begin on the sidewalk as soon as the Florida Department of Transportation signs the Joint Participation Agreement.

Mr. Hill stated that he spoke with Rita Scallan regarding the section in the Articulation Agreement with the University of West Florida for the CHOICE program pertaining to fees. That section will be removed because students cannot be charged dues/fees for any program or course which is part of the instructional program.

Mr. Gaetz explained that the City of Fort Walton Beach is in the process of conforming to its adopted comprehensive plan. Through conversations with city officials it has been noted that schools within the city limits are zoned R1 and they would like to have them zoned “educational facilities.” Therefore, the request before the Board is to submit an application to the City of Fort Walton Beach to rezone all schools within the city limits to conform to the City’s comp plan.

Mr. Walker asked if being zoned educational facilities would be the same as commercial in the event the Board wanted to sell one of its facilities. Mr. Gaetz responded that it would not be the same. Should the Board decide to dispose of property, application would have to be made to rezone the property again. The request at this time is simply to conform to the comp plan with one exception - one lot on the Lowery Place property. It is necessary to rezone this particular lot to accommodate the installation of a communications tower.

Mr. Walker asked if the agreement with James McSween for the recruitment and enrollment of students for the CHOICE Aeronautical Institute in Crestview was going to be the standard of service for all CHOICE sites and if there is a problem with getting enough students enrolled in the program. Dr. Fuller responded that there may be too many students the first year and since this is an off-site program serving three schools he felt that having a coordinator would be beneficial. He stated that this agreement is specific for this program. The other CHOICE Institutes are on-site making it possible for the school to coordinate student enrollment. Mr. Gaetz added that occasionally it may be recommended that the district contract with an individual for a specific task rather than hiring an employee.

Mr. Walker asked if this individual (Mr. McSween) would be the one deciding who gets to enroll in the program if there are too many students. Dr. Fuller and Mr. Gaetz
stated that he would only make recommendations based on his interactions with the student and the student’s family regarding the program.

Mrs. Wascom presented the request to sell assets to Titan Corporation in accordance with the IT Seat Management Outsourcing Agreement. After a thorough inventory of all computer systems, including servers, the adjusted net book value was determined to be $4,618,682.33.

Mr. Hill commented that the annual cost savings from the Seat Management program would be less since the inventory was less than the initial estimate. Mrs. Wascom responded that before the exact savings is determined the billing needs to be finalized and J. C. Connor and Eric Mitchell need to present to the Board what the annual costs will be and what the projections are for the future so that the Board will be able to see the impact on both the capital outlay funds and the general funds.

Mrs. Frakes asked if there will be cost associated with the change in the COP program for the Fort Walton Beach High School physical education facility. Mrs. Wascom responded that there will be some cost but it is not expected to be very much. Bond Counsel has been notified of the Board’s intent to make a change but no further action has been taken pending State approval to build the facility.

Mr. Gaetz announced that he has been formally notified that Edge Elementary School has been selected as the Title I Distinguished School for the State of Florida by the United States Department of Education. They have been selected as the Title I elementary school that not only best exemplifies academic progress but also the school among the 1417 Title I schools in the state that has made the most progress, has the highest academic standards and has achieved the best scholastic results on a continuous basis over the past two years.

Mr. Taylor congratulated the Fort Walton Beach High School All-American Dolls dance team for an outstanding performance in Louisiana during the holidays.

The Board and Superintendent congratulated Carol Smith, a volunteer at Laurel Hill School, on being selected as Florida School Volunteer of the Year.

Mrs. Frakes requested a list of the Teacher of the Year and Support Employee of the Year selections for each school.

Mr. Gaetz asked that the agenda reflect for informational purposes that notification has been received from Jacobs/Titan that the ESE Suites at Pryor Middle School and the Math/Science Lab and ESE Suites at Meigs Middle School have been completed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder