

WORKSHOP MEETING - APRIL 13, 2000

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on April 13, 2000, in the Fort Walton Beach Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place, SE.

PRESENT: Cindy Frakes, Vice-Chairman
Don Gaetz
Howard Hill
Lloyd Taylor

Walter Gordon, Superintendent
C. Jeffrey McInnis, Esq., Attorney to the Board

ABSENT: Rodney Walker, Chairman

The Vice-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 from the Board.

Vice-Chairman Frakes approved the addition of a sole source request for TRO Learning to the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Gordon requested the Chairman add to the Agenda the recommendations of the Zoning Committee regarding the Combs-New Heights Elementary attendance zone. The Chairman approved the request and added the matter as Discussion Agenda item #5.

Jim Palmer addressed concerns of board members regarding the loss of physicians participating in the Humana Health Care program. Mr. Palmer introduced Monica Colquitt, Humana Representative, who gave background information on the reasons for the loss of participating physicians and efforts being made by Humana to contract with more local physicians. An updated list of participating physicians was provided.

Donna Wiseman, Northern Regional Coordinator for The Florida High School, gave an overview of the programs and services being offered to students by The Florida High School. She responded to questions from board members regarding dual enrollment opportunities, GED programs and student interaction with other students and instructors.

Alan Jowers of the CPA firm of Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, reviewed the procedures used for assessing the current financial position and expected results of operations of the school district through the month of February 2000. Based on year to date results and prior year averages, the total 1999-2000 revenues and expenditures were projected. This projection indicates that by fiscal year end the district will be approximately \$1.46 million over budget.

Mr. Riggs expounded on the findings of the financial review. He indicated that two major factors contributing to the current financial position of the district is the loss in FTE and the near 6% increase in salaries. He recommended the district take immediate actions to reduce spending and/or to increase revenues. He suggested the district find out why students are leaving the school system, that a freeze be placed on hiring and travel expenses, that staff positions be cut, and that consultants be eliminated through June 30.

Mr. Gordon stated that he and Dennis Hundley, the new CFO, have been reviewing the status of the total school budgets versus the funding and discussing ways to reduce spending and make a positive impact on the reserve account. Some of the same suggestions offered by Mr. Riggs have been discussed, as indicated in a memo from Mr. Hundley, as well as reviewing some of the services provided at the schools that may not be necessary.

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Mr. Hundley further recommended to the Board that a performance audit of school district operations be conducted for future planning purposes. He also presented the Board with a new format for the monthly financial report which offers an easy to read, one page summary of the revenues and expenditures for the month.

There was discussion among the Board Members, Superintendent, Mr. Riggs, and Mr. Jowers regarding the findings and the suggestions to reduce spending. Mrs. Frakes stated that this matter would be continued at the Board Meeting on Monday since there is a need to take immediate actions regarding the budget.

Mr. Gaetz requested that copies of the correspondence between the Superintendent and the CFO regarding budget reductions be distributed to the Board for consideration before Monday night. He further requested that a representative of the accounting firm be present at the meeting to answer questions that may arise.

At the request of Mr. Gaetz, Mrs. Frakes moved Budget Amendment #6 (C.A. #2) and the Monthly Financial Report of March 2000 (C.A. #3) to the Discussion Agenda as items #6 and #7, respectively, to be tabled. Mr. Gaetz asked that the financial reports on the table be resubmitted with the correct figures based on the financial review.

Mr. Gaetz asked how summer school 2000 would be funded. Discussion followed regarding the change in summer school funding from summer FTE funds to categorical funds. Concern was expressed that summer school expenses incurred in June would be paid from the next year's budget. The possibility of eliminating transportation for summer school was also mentioned.

Mr. McInnis advised the Board that approval of expenditures from next year's budget for summer school would be required. Mrs. Frakes moved this item to the Discussion Agenda (#8) for further discussion and approval of funding.

Janie Varner responded to questions from Mr. Hill regarding the Articulation Agreement with Troy State University for The University Schools.

Mr. McInnis stated that the Board previously delayed approval of the fee schedules for Task Orders No. 1 and No. 2. Those issues have now been agreed upon and Sverdrup/Delta is proposing credits and changes orders that will make adjustments to the GMP and credit fees to the district. The numbers will be verified prior to Monday night's meeting and presented for the Board's approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

WALTER C. GORDON
SUPERINTENDENT AND
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY

CINDY FRAKES
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD