

REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 14, 2000

The Invocation was offered by Mr. Hill; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Taylor.

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on August 14, 2000, in the Fort Walton Beach Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place, SE.

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

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed visitors and presenters.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the Agenda as amended was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Gaetz and carried unanimously:

Personnel Appointments: Items #1, #2, and #3 were deleted by the Chairman at Workshop

Consent Agenda: Item #2 was deleted; item #19 was amended to include Bruner Middle School; added as item #28, Conservation Reserve Program Contract for Laurel Hill School (Changes approved by the Chairman at Workshop)

Discussion Agenda: Added as item #2, Personnel Recommendation for Student Intervention Position (Approved by the Chairman during Special Meeting on August 10)

VISITORS: No Request

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

1. Sue Porter expressed concern to the Board that the dress code at Pryor Middle School was not being reasonably and consistently enforced. She suggested that the dress code be consistent among all schools and that it be enforced with all students. (Exhibit 00-483)

The Chairman recognized two other parents who requested to speak on this issue. Both, Donna Morgan and Julie Lowe, expressed the same concerns and suggestions as Ms. Porter. (Exhibit 00-484)

Board members discussed the need for the dress code to be equitably enforced and the need for teachers to assist the administrators in doing so. Discussion concluded with a request for the Superintendent to address the problem administratively and to make recommendations to the Board for changes in the policy if he felt it was necessary.

The Superintendent stated that he visited some schools, including Pryor, to observe the students' attire and found that most students were within the guidelines. However, enforcement of the policy requires administrators to use good judgement and common sense in determining the appropriateness of a student's clothing. He assured the Board that he would emphasize to the principals the need for consistency in enforcing the dress code and encourage them to ask for assistance from their teachers.

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PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS:

1. Deleted - Request to Upgrade Assistant Principal position to Vice Principal position, Choctawhatchee High School, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Deleted - Request to Upgrade Assistant Principal II position to Assistant Principal I position, Niceville High School, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
3. Deleted - Request to Upgrade Specialist position to Program Director position, Finance Department, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS (Workshop Only):

1. Facilities Construction Update, presented by Bill Smith
2. Semi-Annual Technology Report, presented by Diane Holman (Exhibit 00-485)

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously:

1. Minutes of Workshop Meeting of July 24, 2000; Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 24, 2000; and Minutes of Special Meeting/Public Hearing of July 31, 2000, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Deleted - Budget Amendment #1, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
3. Monthly Financial Report for July 2000, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-486).
4. Payment of Invoices dated August 14, 2000, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-487).
5. Warrants in the amount of \$74,925,729.57, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-488).
6. Acceptance of donation from Hygeia Coca-Cola Company in the amount of \$4000.00 to Meigs Middle School, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-489).
7. Surplus Property List #01-1, Computers to be cannibalized, Bruner Middle School, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-490).
8. Annual approval of Insurance Requirements for all Contractors, presented by Jim Palmer and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-491).
9. Cooperative Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Florida Department of Health/Okaloosa County Health Department to provide ancillary services for the Teenage Parent Program, presented by Barbara Edenfield and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-492).
10. Cooperative Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Okaloosa-Walton Child Care Services, Inc., to provide ancillary services for the Teenage Parent Program, presented by Barbara Edenfield and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-493).

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11. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Northwest Florida Comprehensive Services For Children, Inc., for continuation of the Personal Safety Program, "Good Touches-Bad Touches", in grades 1-5, Life Management Skills, and ESE classes, presented by Barbara Edenfield and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-494).
12. Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Wadell Davis to provide counseling services in drug and alcohol related issues, presented by Barbara Edenfield and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-495).
13. Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Bridgeway Center, Inc., to provide Reach Out Counseling Services, presented by Barbara Edenfield and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-496).
14. Preliminary Grant Proposal for the National Science Foundation Teacher Enhancement, Professional Development with Emerging Technologies, submitted by Mary Eplett and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-497).
15. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and United Cerebral Palsy to provide training to ESE students participating in the School to Work/Community Based Instruction Program, presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-498).
16. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Merlin's Pizza (Racetrack Road) to provide training to ESE students participating in the School to Work/Community Based Instruction Program, presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-499).
17. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the School Board of Walton County to provide continued services for specifically identified ESE students in Walton County, presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-500).
18. Renewal of Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and David M. Griffith & Associates, LTD, to provide Medicaid Reimbursement Services, presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-501).
19. The Boys and Girls Club Alternative Discipline Program, submitted by Pryor Middle School and Bruner Middle School and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-502).
20. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 00-503)
 - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 00-504)
 - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 00-503)
21. Employment Separations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-505).
22. Cleared Certification Requirements and Issuance of Contract for 2000-2001 School Year, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-506).

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23. Reinstatement of Sick Leave due to line-of-duty illness/injury/medical examination, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. Mildred Fulghum, 10 days, Niceville High (Exhibit 00-507)
24. Request to advertise a public hearing for revision of School Board Policy 6-16, Community Involvement, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-508).
25. Zoning Waivers, presented by Emmett Windham and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-509).
26. Interagency Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Okaloosa County Head Start to provide CDL inservice classroom training for employees of Head Start, presented by Jay McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-510).
27. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-511, see bid file for additional information):
 - A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests:
 - (1) Bid #01-B22 Locks, Maintenance Department, awarded to Builders Door and Hardware in the amount of \$39,004.20
 - (2) Renewal of Tag-on Bid #00-07 with Bay County School District, Milk, awarded to Dairy Fresh, Inc.
 - (3) Sprint Network Service Agreement in the amount of \$961.00 for Choctawhatchee High School
 - B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None
28. Conservation Reserve Program Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Laurel Hill School Agriculture Project, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-512).

The Chairman recessed the Regular Meeting for the advertised Public Hearing at 6:28 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. McInnis presented for the Board's consideration new and revised School Board Policy, Chapter 3, entitled Instructional Matters, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Motion to adopt Chapter 3, Instructional Matters, as recommended was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-513).

The Chairman concluded the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION AGENDA:

1. Consideration of School Improvement Plan Requests, Responses and Updates, presented by Mary Gunter and recommended by the Superintendent for approval: None

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2. The Chairman stated that approval of the personnel recommendation for the student intervention position was placed on the table at the Special Meeting on August 10. He recommended this matter remain on the table until after the budget workshops at which time board members will have the opportunity to discuss this position as well as other positions that have been held in abeyance.

Mr. Hill made a motion for this matter to remain on table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaetz and carried unanimously.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE'S BUSINESS: None

BIDS AND PURCHASING: None

ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:

Mr. Gordon reported that enrollment was still down but principals are still registering students as of today. The enrollment is up in some schools but still lower than projected in others. He stated that the enrollment will be monitored on a daily basis for several weeks.

Mr. Walker stated that at last report today the district was 440 short in FTE in elementary; however, most of the schools have reserved money to cover the FTE shortage. Discussion followed regarding the Reserve, Discretionary, and carryover funds of the schools.

Mr. Hill and Mr. Gaetz stated that there is concern at some schools of overcrowding in the classrooms even though they are short in FTE.

Mr. Gordon responded that the enrollment is being monitored daily by grade level to make sure they are within contract limits and to discuss options with the principal if that limit is exceeded. He stated that historically enrollment does not level out until after Labor Day, but an additional teacher will be provided, if needed, to maintain contract limits.

Several Bob Sikes Elementary School teachers and parents were present to express concerns regarding overcrowded classrooms. Mr. Walker explained the budgeting process and some of the options available to the principal and the board to handle this situation.

Mr. Gordon informed the Chairman that he has received a request for two board members to serve on the Value Adjustment Board which will meet on September 12 at 5:45 p.m. in Crestview. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Hill volunteered to serve on the Board and were so appointed by the Chairman.

Mr. Gordon asked the Chairman's pleasure in reconsidering the SRO Agreement to add the substitute/floater position that was previously deleted. Mr. Walker stated that he preferred this matter be discussed during the budget workshop.

Motion was made by Mr. Gaetz to lay the request for an additional SRO on the table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and carried 4-1, Mr. Taylor dissenting.

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

With consensus of the Board, the Chairman scheduled Budget Workshops for August 21 at 10:00 a.m. and August 28 at 3:00 p.m. in the Fort Walton Beach Administration Building.

Mrs. Frakes stated that she will be out of town the week of August 28, 2000.

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The Chairman asked each board member to bring to the workshops any amendments they would like to make to the proposed budget as this will be the time to discuss the recommended changes. He also reminded the board members that they should be prepared to recommend the funding source for any amendments they propose.

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

WALTER C. GORDON
SUPERINTENDENT AND
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD