

REGULAR MEETING - DECEMBER 11, 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 December 11, 2000, in the Okaloosa County Courthouse, Crestview, Florida.

PRESENT: Rodney Walker, Chairman
Cindy Frakes, Vice-Chairman
Howard Hill
Lloyd Taylor
Cathy Thigpen

Don Gaetz, 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:

Mr. Gaetz requested an addition to the Consent Agenda to request approval to advertise a public hearing to consider the adoption of two new job descriptions. The Chairman approved the request as Consent Agenda #29 A & B. All other changes were approved by the Chairman at Workshop.

Consent Agenda: Item #2 was deleted; added as item #17D, Suspension of Employee #578-66-3085; added as item #17E, Termination of Employee #267-35-9588; added as item #26A, Food Service Agreement with Cinco Baptist Church School; added as item #26B, Food Service Agreement with Emerald Coast Marine Institute; added as item #27A, Food Service Extension Agreement with Okaloosa Academy; added as item #27B, Food Service Extension Agreement with Tall Pines Academy; added as item #28, Modification of Professional Service Agreement with University of West Florida; added as items #29 A & B, Request to advertise a public hearing for adoption of two new job descriptions

Discussion Agenda: Added as item #8, Budget Amendment #1; added as item #9, Destin Middle School Uniform Proposal

VISITORS:

1. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 00-16 in recognition of Ruckel Middle School's designation as a Blue Ribbon School was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously. The Resolution was presented by Mr. Gaetz and Mr. Hill.
2. A Resolution in honor of Clem Payton on the occasion of his induction into the National Education Hall of Fame was presented by Mr. Gaetz and Mrs. Thigpen. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 00-17 was made by Mrs. Thigpen, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously.

The Chairman recessed the Regular Meeting and called to order the Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. McInnis presented for the Board's consideration a revision to School Board Policy 9-6(B), Bumping Procedure for Administrative and Managerial Personnel.

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

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Motion to approve the revision to School Board Policy 9-6(B) as presented was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-749).

Mr. McInnis presented two new job descriptions for district level administrative positions recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

The Chairman called for public comment on the job description for Assistant Superintendent-School Operations. There was no comment.

Motion to approve the job description for Assistant Superintendent-School Operations was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-750).

The Chairman called for public comment on the job description for Chief Officer-Quality Assurance & Curriculum. There was no comment.

Motion approve the job description for Chief Officer-Quality Assurance & Curriculum was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-751).

Mr. McInnis presented the revised job description for Chief Officer-Finance as recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Motion to approve the job description for Chief Officer-Finance as presented was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-752).

Mr. McInnis presented for the Board's consideration the exchange of certain parcels of land in Niceville, Florida, for a parcel of land currently being used as a part of the Niceville High School practice fields that is owned by Valparaiso Realty Company.

Bill Smith stated that the Resolution declares that certain parcels of real estate owned by the District are no longer necessary for educational or ancillary purposes and authorizes the exchange of these parcels for a parcel of land owned by Valparaiso Realty Company, which is currently being used as part of the practice fields at Niceville High School. The legal description of each parcel of land is made a part of the Resolution. Appraisals/evaluations of the properties have been conducted by two independent appraisal firms and both have indicated that it would be in the best interest of the District to exchange the properties. Additionally, a Phase 1 Environment Assessment has been done with no recommendation for further study.

Mr. McInnis explained that a Pensacola law firm was commissioned a couple of years ago to research and render an independent legal opinion as to the status of the School Board's title to the subject properties. The opinion rendered by this firm was that the District's interest is not based upon a Deed to the properties but is based upon old plat dedications which involve several legal issues which cause there to be potential restrictions on the use of the property and the Board's ability to sell or convey the land.

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 00-14 declaring certain parcels of land in Niceville, Florida, owned by the District as surplus and authorizing the exchange of these parcels for a parcel of land owned by Valparaiso Realty Company, which is currently being used as a part of the practice fields at Niceville High School; and setting forth the terms and conditions for the exchange; and authorizing a correction to the legal description attached to and made a part of the Resolution was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

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Superintendent Gaetz stated that he would recall to the Board the statement made by Counsel at Workshop that this matter comes under the recommendation of former Superintendent Walter Gordon. He reminded the Board that, as a Board Member, he abstained from voting on this issue because of a potential conflict of interest due to an unrelated business relationship he has with Valparaiso Realty Company. As Superintendent, he continued to refrain from making any recommendation in this matter for the same reason.

There being no further business, the Chairman concluded the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

1. Mr. Alan Cormier addressed the Board regarding the Board's policy on athletic eligibility for middle school students. He explained how this policy had a negative effect on his son's participation in sports and requested the Board consider a clarification of the policy establishing the eligibility period as middle school grades rather than grades 6-8 since sixth grade in some districts is considered elementary. (Exhibit 99-753)

Board members stated that it was a deliberate decision to specify grades 6-8 rather than stating middle school grades. If the Board were to consider changing the policy, it would require a specific length of time for the advertising period in order to amend the policy, which would probably not benefit his son.

Mr. Gaetz stated that he concurred with the recommendation of staff to uphold the policy as stated.

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS:

1. The Superintendent's recommendation for the appointment of Patricia Wascom to the position of Chief Officer-Finance was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-754).
2. The recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Sherry Hall to the position of School Food Service Manager at Baker School was made by Mrs. Thigpen, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-755).

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS (Workshop Only):

1. Facilities Construction Update, presented by Bill Smith
2. Report on Reading Support Program 2001, presented by Mary Gunter (Exhibit 00-756)

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Minutes of Workshop/Special Meeting of November 9, 2000; Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 13, 2000; and Minutes of Organizational Meeting of November 21, 2000, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Deleted - Budget Amendment #2, presented by Debbie Hurst and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

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3. Monthly Financial Report for November 2000, presented by Debbie Hurst and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-757).
4. Payment of Invoices dated December 11, 2000, presented by Debbie Hurst and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-758).
5. Warrants in the amount of \$39,475,707.70, presented by Debbie Hurst and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-759).
6. Acceptance of donation to Fort Walton Beach High School boys basketball team in the amount of \$3000 from Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schmidt, presented by Debbie Hurst and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-760).
7. Acceptance of donation to Fort Walton Beach High School cross country team in the amount of \$500 from McGuire's Irish Pub, presented by Debbie Hurst and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-761).
8. Annual end of fiscal year 2000 Fixed Asset Inventory Report, presented by Debbie Hurst and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-762).
9. Surplus Property List #01-9, vehicle to be cannibalized for parts, Maintenance South, presented by Debbie Hurst and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-763).
10. Renewal of License Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Shalimar Development Corporation, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-764).
11. Authorization to grant a Utility Easement to Sprint-Florida, Inc., for the location of a communications box at Mary Esther Elementary School, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-765).
12. Renewal of Continuing Engineering Contracts between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the following engineering firms, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-766):
 - A. Choctaw Engineering, Inc.
 - B. Peterson Engineering, Inc.
 - C. Philip Humber & Associates
 - D. Schmidt, Dell, Cook & Associates
13. Volunteer List, compiled by Gayle Grimes and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-767).
14. Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Judy Wiseman to provide conflict resolution/violence prevention presentations to 4th and 5th grade students, presented by Barbara Edenfield and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-768).
15. Cooperative Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Pattison Professional Counseling Center, Inc., to provide consultant services for the CHANGES Program, presented by Barbara Edenfield and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-769).
16. Application for continuation of the Florida First Start Program (parent education and resources), presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-770).

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17. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 00-771)
 - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 00-772)
 - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 00-771)
 - D. Suspension of Employee #578-66-3085, 10 days w/o pay (Exhibit 00-773)
 - E. Termination of Employee #267-35-9588 (Exhibit 00-774)
18. Employment Separations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-775).
19. Cleared Certification Requirements and Issuance of Contract for 2000-2001 School Year, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-776).
20. Reinstatement of Sick Leave due to line-of-duty illness/injury/medical examination, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-777):
 - A. Whitney Distaso, Cherokee Elementary, 1 day
 - B. Martha Erdbrink, Transportation, 4.25 hours
 - C. Travis Robinson, Transportation, 20.29 hours
 - D. Teresa Smith, Destin Middle, 1 day
21. Zoning Waivers, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-778).
22. Authorization to file an application for Impact Aid under P.L. 81-874 naming Don Gaetz as the authorized representative for the Board, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-779).
23. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-780; see bid file for additional information):
 - A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests:
 - (1) Bid #01-B25 Staple & Frozen Bid awarded to Home-Aid Foods in the amount of \$26,900.00; The Merchants Company in the amount of \$263,837.99; Mutual Wholesale Company in the amount of \$250,575.68; Daffin Foodservice in the amount of \$301,125.03; total amount of \$842,438.70
 - (2) Bid #01-B26 Non-Food awarded to Interboro Packing Corp., in the amount of \$1205.00; Unisource in the amount of \$2199.50; Mutual Wholesale in the amount of \$10,247.00; Gulf Coast Paper in the amount of \$47,769.85; The Packaging Factor in the amount of \$1910.00; Supreme Paper in the amount of \$31,815.70; total amount of \$95,147.05
 - (3) Bid #01-B34 Lubricants awarded to Quality Lubricants
 - (4) Bid #01-B35 Relocatable Fence Panels for Choctawhatchee High School awarded to Barrier Fence in the amount of \$11,838.00
 - (5) Bid #01-B37 Electrical Services for Field Lighting for Destin Middle School awarded to HPS Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$14,840.00
 - (6) CompassLearning Educational Package, Sole Source, Okaloosa Applied Technology Center, in the amount of \$54,206.00

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- (7) CTB/McGraw-Hill, Sole Source, Student Services, in the amount of \$16,775.00

B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None

- 24. Approval of Resolution No. 00-15 authorizing the purchase of software and equipment from CompassLearning, Inc., for Choctawhatchee High School and the Master Lease Purchase Agreement with CLI Financial, a division of CompassLearning, Inc., for the Compac Learning Program, presented by Richard Bounds and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
- 25. Renewal of Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory for "6+1 Trait" training, presented by Patti Boyles and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-781).
- 26. Food Service Agreements between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the following schools, presented by Jimmie Bobo and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. Cinco Baptist Church School (Exhibit 00-782)
 - B. Emerald Coast Marine Institute (Exhibit 00-783)
- 27. Food Service Extension Agreements between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the following schools, presented by Jimmie Bobo and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. Okaloosa Academy, Inc. (Exhibit 00-784)
 - B. Tall Pines Academy (Exhibit 00-785)
- 28. Modification of Agreement for Services between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the University of West Florida for Valparaiso Elementary School, presented by Sue Larrimore and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-786).
- 29. Request to advertise a public hearing for adoption of two new job descriptions recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. Program Director-Community Affairs (Exhibit 00-787)
 - B. Program Director-Health and Safe Schools (Exhibit 00-788)

DISCUSSION AGENDA:

- 1. School Improvement Plan Requests, Responses and Updates, presented by Mary Gunter and recommended for approval by the Superintendent were approved on a motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously (Information on file in the District School Improvement Office):
 - A. School Advisory Council Membership for 2000/01 - Edwins Elementary, Elliott Point Elementary, Mary Esther Elementary, Richbourg Middle, Shalimar Elementary, and Southside Elementary Schools
 - B. Change in School Advisory Council Membership - Oak Hill Elementary
- 2. A Waiver of the OCEA Master Contract to pay a bonus to teachers and support personnel from Florida School Recognition Funds as recommended by the school advisory councils of the following schools, presented by Mary Gunter and recommended for approval by the Superintendent was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Taylor:
 - A. Baker School (Exhibit 00-789)
 - B. Bob Sikes Elementary School (Exhibit 00-790)
 - C. Cherokee Elementary School (Exhibit 00-791)
 - D. Destin Middle School (Exhibit 00-792)

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3. Motion to approve the Master Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the Okaloosa County Education Association, August 2000-June 2003, recommended by the Superintendent for approval was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-793).
4. Motion to approve the Addendum to Master Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the Okaloosa County Education Support Personnel Association recommended by the Superintendent for approval was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-794).
5. Motion to approve the Administrative/Managerial/Non-Bargaining Unit Personnel Salary Schedule for 2000-20001 recommended by the Superintendent for approval was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-795).
6. Approved during Public Hearing - Resolution No. 00-14 authorizing the exchange of certain parcels of land in Niceville, Florida, for a parcel of land currently being used as a part of the Niceville High School practice fields
7. Motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the District Reorganization Plan recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-796).

Mr. Gaetz thanked the Board Members, and especially Mr. Walker, for their input and improvements to the reorganization plan. He noted that the plan presented for approval has been conformed to the two suggestions made at Workshop to decentralize the speech pathologists and to add a community affairs position.

The motion to approve the plan as presented carried unanimously.

8. Motion to remove Budget Amendment #1 from the table was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Budget Amendment #1 was made by Mrs. Frakes, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-797).

9. Superintendent Gaetz stated that he has met with the School Advisory Council at Destin Middle School and has studied the proposal submitted by Principal Alexis Tibbetts, the parents, teachers and students, and is persuaded that this is the right way to do school uniforms and that he supports the proposal.

Motion was made by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mrs. Frakes to approve the uniform dress code for Destin Middle School at Regatta Bay (Exhibit 00-798).

Mr. Walker asked what would happen to students who do not wear the uniform.

Mrs. Tibbetts responded that students who deliberately choose not to wear the uniform will be placed in an in-school suspension class for the day. She added that a scholarship program is in place to provide assistance to families who are financially unable to obtain the uniforms.

Mr. Gaetz and Mrs. Tibbetts assured the Board that in the case of a child whose parents have a demonstrated and true inability to obtain a uniform, that economic or social inability will not result in a discipline infraction but it will be dealt with compassionately.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

BIDS AND PURCHASING: None

ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS: None

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

Mr. Walker presented a proposal for the construction of a sports complex at Fort Walton Beach High School at an estimated cost of \$5 million. He proposed two funding options to pay for the complex. (Exhibit 00-799)

Mr. Walker stated that the sports facilities have been promised to the school since it was built and that he believed it was time to fulfill that promise. He asked the board members to review the proposal and stated that he would place the proposal on the agenda in January for the Board's consideration.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:

1. Baker School JROTC to attend Drill Competition at Baldwin County High School, Bay Minette, Alabama, on December 9, 2000 (Exhibit 00-800).
2. Mr. Gaetz stated that in accordance with Florida Statute 229.55, the district is required to establish a committee for paperwork reduction. The statute does not say how large the committee has to be only that teachers constitute the majority of the committee membership. He recommended a task force of five people be established with Donnie Byrd and Lamar White serving as the district representatives and OCEA naming the three teacher representatives.

Motion to acknowledge the establishment of a Task Force for Paperwork Reduction and to ratify the Superintendent's appointees was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously.

Mr. Gaetz informed the Board that OCEA has offered to help coordinate the Teacher of the Year program this year. The selection committee will be comprised of three OCEA representatives, one board member and one representative appointed by the Superintendent. He provided the Board with the format for eligibility and the selection criteria. He stated that an event honoring the Teachers of the Year will be planned as in the past.

Mr. Hill volunteered to serve as the Board's representative and was so appointed by the Chairman.

Mr. Gaetz added that the Education Support Personnel should be equally recognized and that the process for this program will be forthcoming.

Mr. Gaetz stated that he has received numerous requests for the district to provide outside organizations with the names and addresses of students. He has also heard concerns expressed by parents and safety officers regarding this practice. He stated that he will be asking the Board to clarify what kind of directory information can be provided. Until then, he advised the Board that he will not be providing any directory information unless it is required by statute.

Mr. Gaetz further advised the Board that a request for the names and addresses of students has been made by the OWCC Charter School. Instead of providing this information, arrangements have been made for information about the charter school to be delivered to the high schools and the schools will distribute the information to the students.

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The Superintendent announced that Antioch Elementary School has been selected as a Project CHILD demonstration site for the 2000-2001 school year.

Mr. Gaetz requested a Special Meeting be scheduled next week to hear student disciplinary matters and other matters that may arise before the holidays. The Chairman scheduled the meeting for Wednesday, December 20, 2000, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fort Walton Beach Administration Building.

Regarding the disciplinary matters, Mr. Hill requested that the student's parents be provided the same package of information provided to the Board prior to the hearing. Mr. McInnis responded that the standard notice to parents has been modified to let them know who to call to request this information.

Mr. Hill then recommended that the parents be notified of the requirements for presenting the sworn testimony of witnesses. Mr. McInnis stated that he would review the notice and make sure this information is provided.

The Board and Superintendent expressed thanks to the employees in the Finance Department for working extra hours to make sure all employees receive their pay raise and the back pay related to the pay raise before leaving on Christmas break.

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

DON GAETZ
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD