

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 28, 2000

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

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on February 28, 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:

Mr. Gaetz requested, and the Chairman approved, Consent #18 be moved to Discussion Agenda because he would like to offer an amendment.

The Chairman approved the following additions to the Agenda as requested by the Superintendent: Donation of a trailer to Ocean City Elementary, Donation of funds to Cherokee Elementary, Out of state trip request by the Fort Walton Beach High band, Out of state trip request by the Crestview High chorus, and a request for a student to be re-enrolled at Antioch Elementary due to a medical hardship of the family.

As requested by Mrs. Frakes, the Chairman added a contract with Lamar Advertising for billboards to the Consent Agenda.

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

Consent Agenda (C.A.): Added as item #14E, Termination of Employee #264-49-6862 [Approved by the Chairman at Workshop]; item #18 was moved to D.A. #5; added as item #21(6), Bid #00-B39 Gym Seating [Approved by the Chairman at Workshop]; added as item #22, Donation of trailer to Ocean City Elementary; added as item #23, Donation of funds to Cherokee Elementary; added as item #24, Contract with Lamar Advertising

Discussion Agenda (D.A.): Added as item #5, C.A. #18

Superintendent's Business: Added as item #5, Fort Walton Beach High School band trip; added as item #6, Crestview High School chorus trip

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:

5. Dr. Robert McEachern made a presentation to the Board on the financial plan used at Bluewater Elementary and the impact of the proposed budget cuts on the school's programs and services. He offered several indicators of the need for changes in the District's overall financial plan and suggested alternative methods of funding the schools. (Exhibit 00-106)

The Chairman recessed the Regular Meeting at 6:35 p.m. for the advertised Public Hearing.

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 28, 2000

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. McInnis presented the revised and updated job descriptions for School District Administrative positions recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-107 and Exhibit 00-51 1/28/00).

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Motion to approve the job descriptions for School District Administration positions was made by Mr. Gaetz, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

Mr. McInnis presented revised School Board Policy 6-35, Retirement, as it relates to terminal pay benefits, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-108).

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Mr. Gaetz asked for assurance that the proposed revision provides an exclusion for administrators who do not wish to participate in the School Board approved 401(a) Pension/FICA Alternative Plan. Mr. Windham responded that an exclusion is provided at no cost to the individual.

Motion to approve revised School Board Policy 6-35 was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

Mr. McInnis stated that the recommendation of the Superintendent and the recommendation of the Citizens Review Committee on the School Futures Research Foundation Charter School application was received and discussed at Workshop. He advised the Chairman that it would be appropriate to receive public comment on the application at this time.

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none. He stated that the application would be considered by the Board during Regular Meeting session.

Superintendent Gordon recommended the Board enter into a long term lease with the Board of County Commissioners allowing the County to develop the northern most ten (10) acres of the forty (40) acre tract of vacant land adjacent to Shalimar Elementary School as a judicial center complex. And, that the County be further granted a lease option for an additional ten (10) acres contiguous to the lease parcel to be exercised by the County when and if their development plans indicate a specific facilities need on the additional acreage.

The lease would be for nominal annual consideration (\$10.00) and would be contingent upon approval of the United States Air Force and would require that the County commence actual construction on the site within three (3) years of the effective date of the lease agreement.

Additionally, the Superintendent and School Board Attorney should be authorized and directed to prepare an appropriate lease agreement and coordinate all necessary communications with officials of the Air Force to seek all necessary approvals.

Motion was made by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent (Exhibit 00-109).

Mr. Walker suggested that the lease option on the additional ten (10) acre parcel not be left opened indefinitely but that a time limit be set for the County to exercise that option. He further suggested that any retention ponds and parking lots constructed on the Shalimar property be built in such a way that they can be shared with the school district if, in the future, the district develops the remaining portion of the property.

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 28, 2000

Mr. Gaetz suggested the lease option on the additional ten (10) acre parcel be eliminated. If additional acreage is needed in the future, the County can make a request to the Board. He further suggested that the effective date of the lease agreement be at such time that the Chairman and Superintendent are satisfied that a sufficient source of funding for the construction of the judicial center complex has been identified and approved.

Mr. Hill stated that he would accept both suggestions by Mr. Gaetz as friendly amendments to the motion. Mr. Taylor also agreed to the amendments and the motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman concluded the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

VISITORS:

1. Mr. Anthony W. Roberts, Coordinator of the Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., Oratorical Contest, introduced to the Board the first place winners in each category of the contest and the winners read their speeches. Contest winners were Chris Struck, 4th grade from Destin Elementary; T. J. Walker, 7th grade from Bruner Middle School; and Elliott Carter, 12th grade from Choctawhatchee High School. (Exhibit 00-110)

The Chairman recognized Judge Barron who requested to address the Board regarding the lease of the Shalimar property for the judicial center complex. Judge Barron requested the Board reconsider its decision and grant the County a long term lease on the 20 acres requested for the construction of the judicial center complex. Discussion between the Board and Judge Barron followed.

Motion was then made by Mr. Taylor to reconsider the Board's decision on the leasing of the Shalimar property to the County for a judicial center complex and to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with a time limit to be set for the County to exercise the lease option on the additional ten (10) acres. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried 3-2, Mr. Gaetz and Mr. Hill dissenting. (Exhibit 00-109)

2. Jessica Lulue, a Fort Walton Beach High School student, was introduced by Donna Hannah as the recipient of The Governor's High School All-Stars Award (Exhibit 00-111).

The Chairman recessed the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7:45 p.m.; all members present as before.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

1. Mr. Lou Ray, speaking on behalf of a group of parents from Shalimar Elementary, requested the Board reconsider and approve the School-Within-A-School designation for the Shalimar Academy for Accelerated Students program at Shalimar Elementary School. He further requested that the Board grant an exception to its policy setting the deadline for submission of charter school applications to allow Shalimar to apply for charter school status. If the policy exception cannot be granted, he requested the Board fund from its Reserve account in the 2000-01 budget the funds necessary to provide the staff development and to purchase the software associated with the proposal. (Exhibit 00-112)
2. Pam Black requested the Board reconsider the proposal for the Shalimar Academy for Accelerated Students and approve the School-Within-A-School designation and extend the deadline for charter school applications to allow Shalimar to apply for charter school status. (Exhibit 00-113)

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 28, 2000

3. Dr. Eleanor McCain addressed the Shalimar Academy for Accelerated Students proposal and requested the Board approve the School-Within-A-School designation and accept their application for charter school status. (Exhibit 00-114)
4. Holly Brelia stated support of the Shalimar Academy for Accelerated Students and requested the Board reconsider its vote and approve the School-Within-A-School designation. (Exhibit 00-115)

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS:

1. The Superintendent's recommendation for the appointment of Perry Rich to the position of Print Shop Foreman was approved on a motion by Mrs. Frakes, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-116).

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS (Workshop Only):

1. Facilities Construction Update, presented by Bill Smith
2. Reading Support Program 2nd Quarter Report, presented by Beth Holmes (Exhibit 00-117)
3. Presentation of the School Futures Research Foundation Charter School Proposal (Exhibit 00-118)
4. Recommendation of the Citizen's Review Committee on the School Futures Research Foundation Charter School Application, presented by Committee Chairman Ray Sansom (Exhibit 00-119_
5. Bluewater Elementary Budget Cut/Impact Presentation/Alternative Methods, presented by Dr. Robert McEachern (Presented during Regular Meeting due to lack of time during Workshop) (Exhibit 00-106)
6. School Internal Audit Reports for Fiscal Year 1999, presented by Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLP (On file in the Finance Department)

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Minutes of Workshop Meeting of February 10, 2000 and Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 14, 2000, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Mary Esther Elementary School to change banking services from First National Bank and Trust to First National Bank of Florida, presented by and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-120).
3. Acceptance of donation from Northwest Florida Tennis Association in the amount of \$500.00 to the Choctawhatchee High Tennis Team, presented by and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-121).
4. Acceptance of donation from First City Bank in the amount of \$2000.00 to the Choctawhatchee High School Boys Basketball Shootout Tournament, presented by and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-122).
5. Acceptance of donation from Gary and Sandra Wiggin in the amount of \$1000.00 to the Choctawhatchee High School Spanish Honors Club, presented by and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-123).

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 28, 2000

6. Surplus Property List #00-17, Computer to be cannibalized for parts, Longwood Elementary School, presented by and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-124).
7. Spot Survey for Northwood Elementary School to complete the application process for the State K-3 Class Size Reduction Funding, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-125).
8. Self-help project to construct covered walkways at Laurel Hill School, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-126).
9. Self-help project to improve the dugouts on the softball field at Ruckel Middle School, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-127).
10. Self-help project for construction of rebound wall and concrete pad at Valparaiso Elementary School, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-128).
11. Volunteer List, compiled by Gayle Grimes and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-129).
12. Authorization to participate in FYI Grant contract negotiations and designation of fiscal agent, presented by Mary Gunter and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-130).
13. Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory for "6-Traits of Writing" workshop, presented by Patti Boyles and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-131).
14. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 00-132)
 - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 00-133)
 - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 00-134)
 - D. Waiver of Eligibility Requirements for Dispatch Supervisor position (Exhibit 00-135)
 - E. Termination of Employee #264-49-6862 (Exhibit 00-136)
15. Employment Separations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-137).
16. Cleared Certification Requirements and Issuance of Contract for 1999-2000 School Year, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-138).
17. 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. Christine Burke, Richbourg, 4 days (Exhibit 00-139)
18. Moved to Discussion Agenda #5 - Zoning Waivers, presented by Emmett Windham and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
19. Transportation Services Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the 96th SVS/SVYY Eglin School Age Program for the remainder of the 1999-2000 school year, presented by Jay McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-140).

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 28, 2000

20. Modification to Contractual Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Bridgeway Center, Inc., presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-141).
21. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-142; see bid file for additional information):
 - (1) Bid #00-B37 Repair of Bus Ramp for Combs-New Heights Elementary awarded to Zeb Watts Equipment in the amount of \$24,971.80
 - (2) Rejection of Bid #00-B38 Band Uniforms for Fort Walton Beach High School and authorization to re-bid
 - (3) Rejection of Bid #00-B40 Sprinkler System for Ruckel Middle School and authorization to re-bid next fiscal year
 - (4) New Century Education Corp., Sole Source, for the purchase of New Century Courseware, Pryor Middle School, in the amount of \$24,166.00
 - (5) AIMS Multimedia, Sole Source, for the purchase of Video Programs, Media Services, in the amount of \$15,714.50
 - (6) Bid #00-B39 Telescoping Gym Seating for Fort Walton Beach High, Crestview High and Niceville High awarded to Alabama Contract Sales, Inc., in the amount of \$189,006.00 with deductions
22. Acceptance of donation of a single wide trailer from Gussie Duncan to Ocean City Elementary School, presented by and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-143).
23. Acceptance of donation of \$2081.06 in purchases for teachers from the Cherokee Elementary School PTO, presented by and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-144).
24. Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and The Lamar Companies for billboard space for the "Tell Somebody" program, presented by Cindy Frakes and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-145).

DISCUSSION AGENDA:

1. Based on both district staff input and the recommendation of the Citizen's Review Committee, Superintendent Gordon recommended the School Futures Research Foundation's proposal to operate The Okaloosa County Community Charter School be denied. He presented to the Board reasons pertinent to the denial of the proposal and the remaining concerns about the proposal (Exhibit 00-146).

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Citizen's Review Committee to deny the School Futures Research Foundation Charter School Application for the reasons presented by the Superintendent and Committee was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously.
- 2A. As recommended by the Superintendent, motion to table the request for a waiver to pay a stipend to the Shalimar Elementary School Advisory Council Chairperson pending a legal interpretation on the use of SAC funds for this purpose was made by Mr. Gaetz, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 28, 2000

2B-D. School Improvement Plan requests, responses and updates were approved on a motion by Mrs. Frakes, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously (Information on file in the District School Improvement Office):

- B. Changes in Membership of 1999-2000 School Advisory Council - Baker School
 - C. Amendment of the School Improvement Plan for Ocean City Elementary
 - D. New School Improvement Plan/SACS Process (Exhibit 00-147)
3. Motion was made by Mr. Gaetz to table the school budget allocations for 2000-01 pending a Board Workshop on long term financing and budgeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously.
4. Mr. Gaetz withdrew his proposal for the restoration and revision of school budget cuts and made a motion that the funds remain in the Reserve account until such time as the Board is able to have a workshop and exam the method of budgeting and financing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously.
5. Motion was made by Mr. Gaetz that the Board finds that, in the matter of James Jackson, due to a unique medical hardship of the family the re-enrollment of the student in Antioch Elementary School is approved as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously. (Exhibit 00-148)

Zoning Waivers were approved on a motion by Mr. Gaetz, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-149).

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE'S BUSINESS:

Motion to approve the Capital Outlay Change Orders was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously:

- 1. Sverdrup/Delta Capital Outlay Change Order No. 86, Program 1, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-150).
 - 2. Sverdrup/Delta Capital Outlay Change Order No. 15, Program 2, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-151).
 - 3. Sverdrup/Delta Capital Outlay Change Orders No. 2 and No. 3, Technology Program, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-152).
4. The Board acknowledged submission of Program Status Report for January 2000 covering the activities of Sverdrup/Delta on the Okaloosa County School District Construction Management Program, submitted by Ray Gabriel, Program Manager (Exhibit 00-153).
5. The Superintendent recommended the addition of the Northwood Elementary School Class Size Reduction Grant Funding (\$2,380,521.00) be included in the Scope of Work under Program 2 of the Construction Management Program with Sverdrup/Delta (Exhibit 00-154).

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Gaetz and carried unanimously.

BIDS AND PURCHASING: None

ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS: None

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 28, 2000

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

Mr. Gaetz stated that he has received calls following an article in the newspaper regarding the proposed school calendar for 2000-01. To his knowledge the Superintendent has not made a calendar recommendation to the Board and he urged the Calendar Committee to consult with board members regarding such. It is his understanding that the calendar proposes multiple non-paid, non-work inservice days which he does not support. If teachers are expected to come to work and to participate in inservice, then the district should be prepared to pay them. He encouraged the committee to seek parent and teacher input regarding the calendar. Also, he stated that he has been told that the calendar proposes aligning the end of the first semester with the Christmas break and that he finds that appealing.

Mr. Walker stated that he had already suggested to Mrs. Gunter that the committee seek input from the School Advisory Councils and from board members prior to having the teachers vote on the calendar.

Mr. Walker stated that he received a letter from Mike Foxworthy in reference to an article in the County Line newspaper. He stated that if the Board is going to be held responsible for the publication, then the Board needs to see the paper before it is printed or the Board's name needs to be removed from the publication because the board members have no prior knowledge of what goes in the paper.

Mr. Hill suggested that a disclaimer be placed in the publication stating that it does not necessary reflect the views of the Board.

Mr. Gaetz stated that if guidelines cannot be set stating that the newspaper is reportage as opposed to positional advocacy, then he would make a motion at the proper time to eliminate the publication.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:

1. Report and recommendation regarding Shalimar property request by Okaloosa County for judicial center facility site (Presented during the Public Hearing - Exhibit 00-109)
2. Laurel Hill School Senior Trip to Atlanta, Georgia, on May 18-20, 2000 (Exhibit 00-155).
3. Meigs Middle School students to participate in the Tri-State Math and Computer Science Olympiad in Dothan, Alabama, on March 20, 2000 (Exhibit 00-156).
4. Niceville High School chorus students to perform at the Atlanta Fiesta-Val Festival in Clayton County, Georgia, April 5-9, 2000 (Exhibit 00-157).
5. Fort Walton Beach High School band to attend the Dixie Classic Music Festival in Williamsburg, Virginia, April 12-16, 2000 (Exhibit 00-158).
6. Crestview High School chorus to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York, March 24-27, 2000 (Exhibit 00-159).

Mr. Gordon stated that he received a call from Donna Erdman regarding a letter expressing concern about an article in the Crestview newspaper about a tree planting and dedication at Southside Elementary. Mrs. Erdman and the school planted a tree in honor of Mrs. Gordon (the Superintendent's mother). Apparently there was some confusion about the new facility being dedicated to Mrs. Gordon, which is not true. In order to clear up any misunderstandings, Mr. Gordon stated that he was going to have Mrs. Erdman remove the

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 28, 2000

dedication plaque from the tree because he knows his mother would not want to be a part of any controversy.

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

WALTER C. GORDON
SUPERINTENDENT AND
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD