

REGULAR MEETING - JANUARY 24, 2000

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

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on January 24, 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. McInnis requested an addition to the Agenda for approval of a Microsoft Education Select Master Agreement which will provide the District a discount on software purchases. The Chairman approved the request and placed it on the Consent Agenda.

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

Consent Agenda (C.A.): Item #8 was moved to D.A. #6; item #13 was moved to D.A. #7; item #16 was corrected to read Out-of-Field Report for Second Semester of 1999-2000 School Year; [Approved by the Chairman at Workshop] added as item #23, Microsoft Education Select Master Agreement

Discussion Agenda (D.A.): Added as item #6; C.A. #8; added as item #7, C.A. #13[Approved by the Chairman at Workshop]

Superintendent's Business: Added as item #4, Recommendation to Establish "School-within-a-School" Programs at Edwins, Northwood, and Shalimar Elementary Schools [Approved by the Chairman at Workshop]

VISITORS:

2. Mr. Gordon presented certificates to Mary Esther Elementary School, Baker School, and Crestview High School as recipients of the Commissioner of Education's Five Star School Award.
1. The Ruckel Middle School Knowledge Master Team was recognized for placing first in the State of Florida and fifth internationally in the Knowledge Master Competition. Certificates were presented to the team members and Team Coach Sherrie Houpp by Superintendent Gordon.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None

The Chairman recessed the Regular Meeting and called to order the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

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Mr. McInnis presented the revised job description for Elementary Resource Teacher recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-25).

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Motion to approve the recommended job description for Elementary Resource Teacher was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

Mr. McInnis presented the new job description for Print Shop Foreman recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-26).

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Motion to approve the recommended job description for Print Shop Foreman was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously.

The Chairman concluded the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:20 p.m.

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS:

1. The Superintendent's recommendation for the appointment of Alexis Tibbetts to the position of Principal, Destin Middle School, was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mrs. Frakes (Exhibit 00-27).

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS (Workshop Only):

1. Facilities Construction Update, presented by Bill Smith
2. Semi-Annual Report on Technology Training, presented by Diane Holman (Exhibit 00-28)
3. Mid-year Financial Review of the Okaloosa County School District Budget, presented by Gary Scott (Exhibit 00-29)
4. Okaloosa-Walton Community College Charter High School Proposal, presented by Dr. James R. Richburg (Exhibit 00-30)
5. Report of the Citizen Review Committee on the Okaloosa-Walton Community College Charter School Proposal, presented by Ray Sansom (Exhibit 00-31)

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 January 6, 2000, and Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 10, 2000, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Leadership change inventory and annual property inventory for FY 1999/2000 completed by RGIS Inventory Specialists, presented by Gary Scott and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-32):
 - A. Antioch Elementary School
 - B. Edwins Elementary School
 - C. Meigs Middle School
 - D. Oak Hill Elementary School
 - E. Shalimar Elementary School

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3. Self-help project for the construction of a metal pavilion at Ruckel Middle School, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-33).
4. Surplus Property Lists, presented by Gary Scott and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-34):
 - A. #00-14 Computer to be cannibalized, Crestview High School
 - B. #00-15 Printer to be cannibalized, Secondary Education Dept.
5. Applications for Extended Access to Media Grants for elementary, middle, high, and combination schools, presented by Diane Holman and Diane Kelley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-35).
6. Grant application for Boyer Best Practices 2000: Character Education in the Elementary School submitted by Combs-New Heights Elementary School, presented by Mary Gunter and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-36).
7. Application for Reading Initiative Grant, presented by Beth Holmes and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-37).
8. Move to Discussion Agenda #6 - Request to utilize free Internet and computer products that contain advertising, presented by Diane Holman and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
9. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Baker Block Museum to provide training to ESE students participating in the School-to-Work Program, presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-38).
10. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Delchamps, Inc., (Racetrack Road) to provide training to ESE students participating in the School-to-Work Program, presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-39).
11. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Merlin's Pizza (Mary Esther) to provide training to ESE students participating in the School-to-Work Program, presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-40).
12. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Fleming Lumber Company (Milligan) to provide training to ESE students participating in the School-to-Work Program, presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-41).
13. Moved to Discussion Agenda #7 - Contract Amendment between the School Board of Okaloosa County and David M. Griffith & Associates, Ltd., presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
14. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 00-42)
 - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 00-43)
 - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 00-44)
 - D. Suspension of Employee #085-42-3098 for one (1) day (Exhibit 00-45)
 - E. Suspension of Employee #266-55-0399 for one (1) day (Exhibit 00-46)

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15. Employment Separations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-47).
16. Out-of-Field Report for Second Semester for the 1999-2000 School Year, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-48).
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 (Exhibit 00-49):
 - A. Tammy Taylor, Transportation, 10 days
 - B. Linda Ward, Ruckel, 2 days
 - C. Jean Winchenbach, Edge, 2 days
18. Request to include nurses with RN or LPN credentials in the bargaining unit, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-50).
19. Request to advertise a public hearing for revision of administrative job descriptions, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-51).
20. Request to advertise a public hearing for revision of School Board Policy 6-35 RETIREMENT, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-52).
21. Waiver of OCEA Contract language for supplements to Mary Esther Elementary staff, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-53).
22. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-54; see bid file for additional information):
 - (1) Bid #00-B34 Metal Building for Ruckel Middle School awarded to Trammell Construction in the amount of \$36,529.00
 - (2) Bid #00-B35 Forklift for School Maintenance South awarded to Coastal Machinery in the amount of \$28,500.00
 - (3) Renewal of Bid #99-B45 Asphalt Paving with Greene Construction, Fixed Price Year Bid
 - (4) Purchase request from Bid #99-B58 Pre-engineered Metal Building for Walker Elementary, Dawson & Sons Construction, in the amount of \$25,900.00
 - (5) Purchase Order Change Request, CTB/McGraw Hill, in the amount of \$174,179.89, Student Services
 - (6) Sagebrush Technology, Sole Source, Athena Library Automation Program, District-wide Technical Support, in the amount of \$13,302.43, Media Services
 - (7) Jostens Learning, Sole Source, Software & Services for Tomorrow's Promise Program in the amount of \$33,230.00, Wright Elementary
23. Microsoft Education Select Master Agreement to guarantee educational volume discounts on software as recommended by the Total Program Manager, presented

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by Jeff McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-55).

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 Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Information on file in the District School Improvement Office):
 - A. Waiver to Sell Food - Ocean City Elementary School
 - B. Changes in School Advisory Council Membership - Antioch Elementary School
 - C. Membership of the 1999-2000 School Advisory Council - Shalimar Elementary School

2. Monthly Financial Reports for December 1999 remained on the table pending a Board Workshop for further discussion on the budget.

3. Motion was made by Mrs. Frakes to approve the Okaloosa-Walton Community College Charter High School proposal thereby authorizing contract negotiations between the Okaloosa County School District and OWCC for the operation of a charter school beginning in the Fall 2000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaetz.

The Chairman asked for public comment on the charter proposal; there was none. The motion to approve the charter application carried unanimously.

4. Mr. Gaetz moved conditional approval of the Superintendent's recommendation to apply for State K-3 Class Size Reduction Funding for Northwood Elementary School (Exhibit 00-56) with the following provisos:
 - 1) As a result of this action, the District will be under no binding legal commitment for class size reduction of a 1:20 ratio at any grade level; and,
 - 2) The Superintendent shall present to the Board an acceptable cost-benefit analysis including any obligations the District might undergo as a result of this action; and,
 - 3) The School Board shall have the option of withdrawing its application if in its judgement it believes the application would be disadvantageous after receiving binding representations from the State of Florida that the action of the Cabinet has been rescinded and overturned.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill.

Mrs. Frakes stated that she did not have a problem with the second and third provisos but thought the District would possibly be obligated to reduce class size in one grade level. This would be known when the written representation is received from DOE and the cost-benefit analysis is presented. At that time, the application can be rescinded if the Board is not in agreement with the required conditions for receiving the funding.

Mr. Hill stated agreement with Mrs. Frakes. Mr. Walker stated that upon receipt of documentation from DOE outlining the District's obligations for receiving the funds, the Board will have another opportunity to revisit the application.

The motion as stated carried unanimously.

5. Motion was made by Mr. Gaetz that the Board direct the Superintendent to prepare and present a policy requiring prior notification and information to affected employees, parents and students when any construction or remodeling activity is anticipated to disturb existing toxic substances (such as asbestos or lead paint) or to utilize toxic substances which reasonably may be expected to present a danger

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in the workplace. Such a policy shall be in conformance with guidelines of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, relevant agencies of the State of Florida and timely scientific knowledge and standards. (Exhibit 00-57)

Mr. Hill seconded the motion and stated that it is his understanding that statutory requirements only necessitate notification if there is exposure to toxic substances.

Mr. Walker asked Mr. McInnis if a policy was necessary or could this be handled as an administrative procedure. Mr. McInnis responded that he could develop a policy that conforms to the requirements of state and federal law in regard to workplace notices.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion was made by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the request to utilize free Internet and computer products that contain advertising (Exhibit 00-58).

Diane Holman explained that there are many Internet products and computer services that are now free to school districts. Instead of purchasing the products, there is a small amount of advertising on the screen. The advertising is in good taste and not nearly as evident as the advertising found on web pages on the Internet. N2H2 is the company from which the District purchases the BESS Proxy Server and it is rather expensive. The company is now offering this service free of charge including the server with only a small amount of advertising at the bottom of the screen. The District's contract with N2H2 will expire shortly and this will be a great savings to the District.

Based on the position of the Superintendent and the Board regarding advertising in the schools, Mr. Gaetz asked for the Superintendent's recommendation. Mr. Gordon responded that he recommended approval of this request.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. The Contract Amendment between the School Board of Okaloosa County and David M. Griffith & Associates, Ltd., was approved on a motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried 4-1, Mr. Gaetz dissenting (Exhibit 00-59).

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE'S BUSINESS:

1. The Board acknowledged submission of the Program Status Report for December 1999 covering the activities of Sverdrup/Delta on the Okaloosa County School District Construction Management Program, presented by Ray Gabriel, Program Manager (Exhibit 00-60).

BIDS AND PURCHASING: None

ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS: None

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

Mr. Gaetz announced that he will be attending the Economic Development Council Policy Board meeting in place of Mrs. Frakes. He stated that he will be briefing the Board on the on-going data collection regarding technical education and inviting them to assist in bringing about technical education for high school students. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2000, at 4:00 p.m. in the Building K Gallery Room at OWCC.

Mrs. Frakes advised the Board that the Superintendent's Task Force on Safety will be implementing a public campaign for the "Tell Somebody" Program on February 15. The

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program is to encourage students to tell someone when they hear of or become aware of potentially dangerous situations or activities.

Mr. Hill asked for an update on the time line for teachers to receive computers. Mr. Gordon responded that he spoke with Les Rose who indicated that the purchase orders should be received in the Finance Office on Wednesday and the computers should be arriving in February. This will be done in phases because of the required training attached to receiving the computers.

Mr. Hill asked the status of the review of the vendor qualifications in the RFP for the computers. Mr. Gordon responded that he has requested a copy of the RFP from the program manager but has not received the document or any correspondence as of date.

Mr. Walker stated that the Board will be taking responsibility for the Honors Banquet this year and he asked Mr. Gaetz to chair that function. He asked the Board Members to direct their input on the banquet to the Board's secretary, Maryann Foreman.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:

1. Crestview High School softball team to play Escambia County High School in Atmore, Alabama, on April 6, 2000 (Exhibit 00-61).
2. Niceville High School JROTC cadets to participate in National Drill Competition in Montgomery, Alabama, on February 4-5, 2000 (Exhibit 00-62).
3. Walker Elementary fifth graders to travel to Mobile, Alabama, on January 27, 2000 (Exhibit 00-63).
4. Mr. Gordon requested the Board designate School-Within-A-School programs at Edwins, Northwood and Shalimar Elementary Schools allowing the District to apply to DOE for a master school identification number for each of these sites. He stated that this is an opportunity for the schools to look at some innovative educational programs and give parents some choice in educational programs. (Exhibit 00-64)

Mike Foxworthy, OCEA Director, stated that this action may have some implications beyond the School-Within-A-School designation if the intent is to convert to a charter school. He requested this matter be delayed until more information is available.

Mrs. Frakes and Mr. Hill stated concurrence with Mr. Foxworthy's request but also asked if there were any implications for delaying. Mr. McInnis responded that if the plan is to convert these programs to a charter school, as with The University Program, then the deadline of February 1 for submission of a charter application will be missed.

Board members agreed that they were not prepared to vote on the request with such short notice and lack of information on the proposals. A Special Meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 31, 2000, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fort Walton Beach Administration Building for the purpose of considering recommendations regarding the establishment of School-Within-A-School programs at the three elementary schools.

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

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WALTER C. GORDON
SUPERINTENDENT AND
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY

RODNEY WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD