

## WORKSHOP MEETING - JULY 24, 2000

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on July 24, 2000, in the Fort Walton Beach Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place, SE.

PRESENT: Rodney Walker, Chairman  
Cindy Frakes, Vice-Chairman  
Don Gaetz (arrived at 4:20 p.m.)  
Howard Hill  
Lloyd Taylor

Emmett Windham, Assistant Superintendent  
C. Jeffrey McInnis, Esq., Attorney to the Board

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.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.

Bill Smith advised the Board that the title search on the property in old Valparaiso revealed that the property belongs to OWCC. He is in the process of having the property removed from the State Property List and the Tax Role under the School Board's name. Mr. McInnis added that the property was conveyed by Quit Claim Deed to OWCC some years ago. All the documentation from the title search has been provided for the files.

Dr. Smith also informed the Board that he has received notification from the Corp of Engineers of their application for a land lease and dredging permit on the property adjacent to Destin Middle School. There have been long term plans for the development of a marina on this site. The development could be beneficial to the district because they plan to build a very large parking lot adjacent to school district property.

Mr. Hill asked if the safety issues discussed at an earlier meeting have been included in the new budget. Dr. Smith responded that he would have to address this matter with Mr. Burrows, who handles safety issues.

Mr. Walker stated that Dennis Hundley, Chief Finance Officer, would be presenting the tentative budget and millage rate for the 2000-2001 fiscal year. He explained that the budget would not be fixed until the final public hearing in September. Board members who wish to make changes in the proposed budget will have the opportunity to do so until that time. He asked the board members to contact the Finance Department to have their questions answered and to discuss changes prior to the first public hearing on July 31.

Mr. Hundley gave a brief presentation of the budget which included the proposed millage levy of 6.211 Required Local Effort; 0.510 Discretionary; 0.208 Additional Discretionary; 1.289 Capital Outlay; for a total of 8.218; and the proposed budget of \$220,626,882.85.

Mr. Gaetz commented that the \$6.3 million increase in revenue is from local property taxes mandated by the legislature and if the increase is not adopted, the revenue received from the state will be drastically reduced.

Mr. Walker stated that the schools will be receiving all their carryover funds from the previous year; however, district department carryover funds have been placed in Reserve. District departments have been funded at last year's rate minus adjustments to those departments that have lost positions. He added that in regard to salaries, the budget is based on a fixed rate for current employees including the schools and the district office.

Mr. Gaetz requested the Finance Department provide to the Board a schedule showing by school the number of positions for 99/00 versus 00/01 broken down by

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instructional positions, education support positions, administrative positions, and the instructional positions with less than a full class load but perform administrative duties and showing the dollar amounts. He also requested a schedule of the schools' FTE for the current year and their projected FTE for 2000-2001.

Mr. Gaetz asked if adoption of the proposed budget would eliminate the music teacher at Northwood Elementary and Edwins Elementary.

Mr. Walker responded that the elimination of positions at a school is the principal's decision based on the revenue received at the school and has nothing to do with the Finance Department or the Board unless the Board gives them additional funding.

Mrs. Frakes stated that the funding of positions has to do with the budget allocation formula which is set by the Board. If positions are being eliminated based on the lack of revenue, the Board may choose to adjust the allocation formula or make cuts elsewhere in the budget.

Mr. Gaetz stated that he would just like to know the implication of approving the budget as presented. Mr. Windham responded that based on his last conversation with the principals of these schools, Northwood will have a music teacher and Edwins will not.

Mr. Gaetz asked if approval of the proposed budget will in effect be placing Destin Middle School in the position of eliminating their vocal music program. Mr. Windham responded that he would have to contact the principal to get an answer.

Mr. Gaetz asked if another implication of this budget will be a split position for a guidance counselor at Southside Elementary and Destin Middle School. Mrs. Spence responded that they will be splitting the position. He then asked how many other split class positions there will be in the district. Mrs. Gunter responded that, to date, there are six split classes.

Mr. Hill suggested the School Resource Officer Agreement be amended to state that if an SRO is assigned to an off-campus activity by the principal, the principal is required to request and pay a substitute resource officer.

Mr. McInnis noted that the SRO Agreement includes a substitute/floater position to substitute for regular duty resource officers who are off duty and to provide assistance to the larger schools.

Discussion of these two changes in the Agreement concluded with the Chairman moving this item to the Discussion Agenda (#2) for further consideration.

The Chairman deleted the Code of Student Conduct (Consent #5) from the Agenda due to the need to make some last minute changes. He directed the Attorney to advertise a Special Meeting in conjunction with the Public Hearing on July 31 for the purpose of considering approval of the Code of Student Conduct for 2000-2001.

Mr. Gaetz asked if approval of Consent item #13D, Allocations for Spanish and Reading Teachers, would be ensuring the schools that these programs and positions are being funded. The Chairman confirmed that was correct.

Mrs. Frakes requested that the Board be provided a copy of the evaluation of the services provided by the Panhandle Management Development Network.

Mr. McInnis informed the Board that he received notice of a protest being filed relative to the bid for life insurance. After reviewing the protest and the bid process with the directors of the purchasing and insurance departments, he stated that he could not

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advise the Board at the current time that it is a valid protest as the agency did not submit a response to the bid which is a requirement in order to file a protest.

Mr. Gaetz requested Mr. Palmer provide the Board with a comparison of the Board's cost for employee health insurance for 99/00 and the projected cost for 00/01 with the increase in premiums.

Mr. Hill expressed concern with primary care physicians' contracts with the insurance company expiring during the year and employees having to change physicians. He suggested there be a provision to allow for continuity of physician care when this happens.

The Chairman moved this item to the Discussion Agenda (#3) in order for the staff to assemble and provide the information requested.

The Chairman added to the Consent Agenda (#21A) three sole source requisitions to CTB/McGraw-Hill for testing materials, pre-coding services and scoring services for the Fall 2000 Terra Nova submitted by the Student Services Department.

Mr. McInnis requested the renewal of the Motor Vehicle Lease and the Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Agreement with Okaloosa Academy be added to the Consent Agenda (#22 and #23, respectively) for the Board's approval. The Chairman so approved the additions.

Mr. McInnis reviewed technical changes to the Proposal and Purchase Agreement with GibCo Educational Technologies, Inc. regarding training, the payment schedule, and ownership of the software. The Agreement is for the development and implementation of the software product Dynamo designed to reduce paperwork for the ESE teachers.

Mr. McInnis reviewed technical changes to the Service Level Agreement with Sverdrup/Delta. The document was developed to provide clarification for the provider and the district of the roles and responsibilities of the Technology Help Desk. The Agreement is not intended to amend or expand the scope of the original contract.

Pat McClure, representing Sverdrup/Delta, responded to questions from Mr. Hill regarding the number of computers to be maintained under this agreement and the development of diagnostic software.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

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EMMETT WINDHAM  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

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RODNEY L. WALKER  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD