

WORKSHOP MEETING - MAY 22, 2000

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on May 22, 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 Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:06 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.

Vice-Chairman Frakes recessed the Workshop at 4:06 p.m. for the scheduled Special Disciplinary Hearing. At this time Chairman Walker received the gavel and Mrs. Frakes left the room. The Chairman reconvened the Workshop at 4:09 p.m. with all board members present.

Mr. Gaetz stated that the Board has received a request from the teachers of Ocean City Elementary to dismiss school early on the last day of school due to the need to clear all furniture and materials from the classrooms for the renovations to begin. He asked if the Board needed to take action on this request. Mr. Gordon stated that he would make the necessary arrangements with the school.

Donna Boles presented the annual report on the Okaloosa World Languages and Title VII Foreign Language Assistance Program. She reviewed the implementation of the program, program data, the curriculum, grant funding, results of the parent and teacher surveys, and the future direction of the program.

Beth Holmes, Kathleen Ard, and Gethyn Giordano presented the 1st Site Report on the Reading Recovery Program. The report included facts and figures to show student growth in reading, the number of students served in the program, and information illustrating the strengths of the program and areas for improvement. The presenters responded to questions from board members regarding evaluation of the program, comparison of the program to other reading programs, and continuation of program strategies in the regular classroom to provide a smooth transition for students. The Board requested a comparative analysis of the Reading Recovery Program performance evaluation with the performance evaluation of other tutorial reading programs be provided using norm-referenced test results.

The Chairman recessed the meeting at 4:58 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 5:02 p.m.; all members present as before.

The Ruckel Middle School Knowledge Masters team was recognized for winning their third State Championship this year. Certificates were presented to the team members and team coach by Superintendent Gordon.

Mr. Gordon also presented certificates to the Ruckel Middle School students winning the State Championship in the Florida Math League Competition.

The Okaloosa Academy Charter School Mid-Year Report for 2000 was presented by Dr. Frank Fuller. In response to a question from Mr. Hill regarding an alternative suspension program, Dr. Fuller stated that it is suggested that the Academy and the District work cooperatively to develop a program to suspend students for code of conduct violations to an off campus site rather than on to the streets of the community.

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Mr. Gaetz stated that it is his understanding that Florida Statute requires that teachers be informed of students in their classroom who have been charged with a felony offense or are in the juvenile process. Dr. Fuller responded that there is a distinction between a student being arrested for a felony offense and a student being charged with a felony offense in regard to the notification requirement.

Certificates were presented by the Superintendent to the Niceville High School Knowledge Master teams in recognition of their accomplishments. The ninth grade team took First Place in national competition and in international competition. The varsity team won the State Championship for 2000 in the spring and fall competitions.

Mr. Gordon presented for adoption Resolution No. 00-5 urging educators to refrain from using writing as a means of punishment. A similar Resolution was adopted in 1989. Mr. Hill asked if there is a policy to this effect. Mr. Walker stated that there is not a policy; that this is a matter handled by the Superintendent. Mr. Gaetz asked that this item be moved to the Discussion Agenda so that he could vote to oppose the adoption of the Resolution. The Chairman agreed to the request.

The Chairman deleted Consent Agenda item #14D upon being informed by Mrs. Spence that the employee has resigned.

The Superintendent recognized *Opus One* of Niceville High School for being selected as Florida Outstanding Choral Ensemble by the Florida League of the Arts. Certificates were presented to members of the choral group and Director Michael Dye.

The Chairman moved Consent items #18 and #19, both regarding changes to the District HRMD Plan, to the Discussion Agenda to be tabled due to an error in the information presented.

The Chairman added the following items to the Consent Agenda: Item #22, Donation of \$3000 to Shalimar Elementary; item #23, Donation of \$2000 to Choctawhatchee High School; item #24, Donation of \$2660 to Edge Elementary.

The Superintendent requested an addition to the Agenda to approve an alternate summer school schedule for original credit summer classes at Choctawhatchee High School. The Chairman approved the request as an emergency matter in order to accommodate the staffing and scheduling of the summer course.

Mr. Gaetz stated that he had received calls from parents regarding a fee being charged for a physics class being offered during the summer. Mr. Gordon stated that there would be no fee charged for a class offered to students for credit.

Mr. Gordon requested an Agreement between the Board and Gulf Coast Treatment Center be added to the Agenda for approval. The Chairman approved the addition of the Agreement as an emergency matter in order for services to be continued.

The Chairman added to the Agenda a school trip request submitted by Davidson Middle School for 8th grade students to visit Washington, DC, May 27-29, 2000.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

WALTER C. GORDON
SUPERINTENDENT AND
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD