

WORKSHOP MEETING - MAY 4, 2000

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on May 4, 2000, in the Fort Walton Beach Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place, SE.

PRESENT: Rodney Walker, Chairman
Cindy Frakes, Vice-Chairman
Howard Hill

Walter Gordon, Superintendent
C. Jeffrey McInnis, Esq., Attorney to the Board

ABSENT: Don Gaetz
Lloyd Taylor

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.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.

Dr. Bill Smith advised the Board that the School Zone Marking Project previously approved by the Board in a Joint Project Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation is ready to begin. He requested the Chairman and the Superintendent allocated funds to a special project account for this purpose. In accordance with the Agreement, upon completion of the project the funds will be reimbursed to the district by the Department of Transportation.

The Chairman asked the Superintendent to consult with Mr. Hundley and make a recommendation for the source of funds to be allocated to this project.

Mr. McInnis presented the Lease Agreement between the Board and Okaloosa County for a parcel of real property adjacent to Shalimar Elementary for the purpose of constructing a judicial center complex. In response to Mrs. Frakes inquiry, he explained that the Lease Agreement allows the County thirty-six (36) months to secure funding and to commence the development of design/construction documents or the Lease Agreement will end and become null and void. A time limit for completion of the facilities is not specified in the Lease Agreement.

Mrs. Frakes expressed concern that the Lease Agreement does not have a Reverter Clause wherein the facilities would revert to the School District should the County's judicial programs vacate the facilities prior to the termination date of the Lease Agreement.

Mr. McInnis stated that the Scope of Use of Facilities specifies that the facilities must be used by the County for a judicial center or related public purposes which precludes the County from selling or leasing the facilities to a private entity.

Discussion concluded with agreement by the Board that the Lease Agreement should include reverter language clearly stating that the Lease Agreement will become null and void and the facilities will revert to the School District if the County's judicial services or related programs vacate the facilities prior to the termination date of the Lease Agreement.

Mr. McInnis asked Chris Holley, County Manager, if he thought the County would be agreeable to the reverter language. Mr. Holley stated that he thought there would be no problem with the reverter language so long as it did not limit the use of the facilities to a judicial center but allowed the County to use the facilities for other county government operations.

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The Board agreed that the facilities could be used by the County for public purposes other than a judicial center. Mr. McInnis stated that he would make these changes to the Lease Agreement prior to the regular meeting.

Mr. McInnis explained to the Board that in the adoption of the new policies concerning food services there was a provision which prohibited the charging of meals by students. This provision creates a practical problem when students forget their lunch money and it has now come up as an audit issue. In cooperation with the auditor, a new process is being developed that will allow the charging of meals and will meet with audit standards. This policy should be eliminated since it will be in conflict with the new procedure.

The Chairman added as Consent #20, Acceptance of a donation of \$500 from David Pleat to Destin Middle School; and added as Consent #21, Acceptance of a donation of \$1200 from Jessie Taylor to Laurel Hill School.

Becky Spence submitted revisions to the Superintendent's recommendations for administrative personnel for 2000-2001 relative to the date of termination of two positions.

Mr. Walker informed the Board that the Superintendent's recommendations for instructional, administrative and managerial personnel for the next fiscal year are submitted for approval with the understanding that the budget for the next fiscal year has not been approved. He further stated that he would not vote to approve the reduction of any personnel until the financial status of the district for the next fiscal year is known.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

WALTER C. GORDON
SUPERINTENDENT AND
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD