

WORKSHOP MEETING - OCTOBER 23, 2000

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on October 23, 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

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 informed the Board that the cost of installing stadium lights has significantly increased due to the change in wind load requirements. He stated that he would be re-bidding the installation of the lights and concrete poles for Destin and Crestview.

Mr. Gaetz stated that he has received calls from teachers expressing concern regarding the additional paperwork required for Medicaid administrative claiming. Liz Cavanah explained the required one-time training session and the one form to be completed by teachers. Discussion concluded that the time involved was minimal for the amount of revenue it generated for the district.

Dr. Karen Chapman, Director of the Okaloosa County Health Department, recommended the Board discontinue the requirement for food service workers to have a Health Card. She stated that Florida Statute lifted that requirement in the late 1980's but many school districts have continued the practice. She recommended the district's procedures be modified to include guidelines for employees returning to work following an illness and that training in sanitation and the proper handling of food be emphasized.

Board members were in agreement with Dr. Chapman's recommendations. Mr. Walker requested Mrs. Spence work with Dr. Chapman to modify the Personnel Guidelines and Procedures in this area.

Mary Gunter responded to comments from Mr. Hill regarding student performance as reported in the Instructional Technology Utilization Report. She noted that this was the final year of the 3-year contract for evaluation of technology utilization in the classroom.

Mr. Walker explained that the request to move funds from the Insurance Reserve to the insurance claim fund was because of the number of large and unusual claims which have occurred after the budget was set. The district has experienced several lightening storms causing considerable damage as well as a storm that damaged the roof on the old K-Mart building.

After inquiring as to the deadline for submitting the District Facilities 5-Year Work Plan, Mr. Gaetz requested this item be pulled from the Agenda stating that he had questions about a number of items in the Plan. The Chairman approved the request.

Referencing a statement in the Reading Recovery Grant Application, Mr. Hill commented that some research indicates that gains from Reading Recovery are not long term once the student returns to the regular classroom. Mrs. Gunter responded that the study she read was looking at students three years outward to see if they are in a

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remediation, ESE or Chapter 1 program or being retained. Mr. Gaetz noted that a study from the University of Illinois also questioned the long term efficacy of this program.

Mrs. Gunter also responded to questions from Mr. Hill regarding the use of an alternative reading support program at one of the elementary schools with reading scores that fell below the district average.

Mr. Walker stated that, as mentioned previously by Mrs. Frakes and Mr. Hill, he believes there needs to be some tightening up on the reinstatement of Sick Leave because it appears that a high number of days are being taken for minor injuries.

Mrs. Frakes stated that she thought some safety training was needed to help eliminate some of the injuries to employees. She added that she has had conversation with Dr. Smith and Mr. Burrows regarding some training videos on safety issues.

The Chairman approved a request to add Valparaiso Elementary to Discussion #2 for approval of a waiver of the OCEA Master Contract to pay a bonus to teachers and support personnel from the Florida School Recognition Funds.

At the request of Mr. McInnis, the Chairman approved the addition of the following items to the Agenda: Consent #24, Professional Services Agreement with Anne Johnston for Crestview High School; Consent #25, Authorization to fund the purchase of the Valparaiso property adjacent to Valparaiso Elementary School from Reserves.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

EMMETT WINDHAM
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD