

REGULAR MEETING - SEPTEMBER 11, 2000

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on September 11, 2000, in the Okaloosa County Courthouse, Crestview, Florida.

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:

The Superintendent requested, and the Chairman approved, an additional State Food Waiver for Oak Hill Elementary to be added to the Discussion Agenda. All other changes were approved by Chairman at Workshop.

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

Consent Agenda: Added as item #20, Donation of \$1665 to Laurel Hill School; added as item #21, Agreement with Okaloosa-Walton Child Care Services; added as item #22, Representation Letter for Attorney Harry Barr

Discussion Agenda: Added as item #1D, State Food Waiver for Oak Hill Elementary

Superintendent's Business: Added as item #4, Niceville High School trip to Troy State University; added as item #5, Niceville High School trip to North Carolina

VISITORS:

1. Deferred to the next meeting because Ms. Evanchyk was unable to attend this meeting - Recognition of Linda Evanchyk, presented the Lantern Award of Excellence for publication of *The County Line* by the Southern Public Relations Federation, presented by Walter Gordon
2. The Superintendent presented for adoption by the Board a Proclamation of Kids Vote Too week, September 25-29, 2000. Mr. Gaetz moved to adopt the Proclamation as presented with the added commendation of Mrs. Pat Hollarn, Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections, for her leadership in this program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously. (Exhibit 00-550)

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: No Request

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS:

1. The Superintendent's recommendation for the appointment of Donna Holloway to the position of Assistant Principal II, Richbourg Middle School, was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mrs. Frakes (Exhibit 00-551).

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS (Workshop Only):

1. Facilities Construction Update, presented by Bill Smith

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CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Minutes of Budget Workshop of August 21, 2000; Minutes of Budget Workshop of August 28, 2000; Minutes of Workshop Meeting of August 28, 2000; and Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 28, 2000, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Annual Financial Report of the Okaloosa County School District for Fiscal Year 1999-2000, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-552).
3. Monthly Financial Report for August 2000, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-553).
4. Payment of Invoices dated September 11, 2000, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-554).
5. Warrants in the amount of \$25,945,857.29, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-555).
6. Acceptance of donation from The Zoo in Gulf Breeze in the amount of \$1000.00 to Fort Walton Beach High School, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-556).
7. License Extension Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Valparaiso Realty Company for the playground area at Valparaiso Elementary School, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-557).
8. Volunteer List, compiled by Gayle Grimes and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-558).
9. Application for the Failure Free Reading/Bridges Program Grant submitted by the Okaloosa County Residential Department of Juvenile Justice Schools, presented by Mary Gunter and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-559).
10. Amendment to Articulation Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Troy State University/Florida Region, presented by Mary Gunter and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-560).
11. Request for extension of approval for Charter Status of The University Schools of Okaloosa County, presented by Susan Lowrey and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-561).
12. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Child Care Services, Inc., to provide continued services for Prekindergarten ESE students, presented by Liz Cavanah and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-562).
13. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 00-563)
 - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 00-564)
 - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 00-563)

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14. Employment Separations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-565).
15. Cleared Certification Requirements and Issuance of Contract for 2000-2001 School Year, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-566).
16. 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 00-567):
 - A. Gary Barrow, Silver Sands School, 2.5 days
 - B. Jocelyn (Dee) Davis, Wright Elementary, 10 days
 - C. Sammy Sowell, Niceville High, 1 day
 - D. Mary Louise Wilson, Niceville High, 5 days
17. Zoning Waivers, presented by Emmett Windham and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-568).
18. Agreement of Understanding between the School Board of Okaloosa County, Nutrition Center, and the Utah State University Dietetic Internship Program, presented by Jimmie Bobo and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-569).
19. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-570, see bid file for additional information):
 - A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests:
 - (1) Bid #01-B21 Large Kitchen Equipment for Davidson Middle, Destin Middle and Valparaiso Elementary, awarded to Kessenich's LTD in the amount of \$24,942.72
 - (2) Tag-on-Bid #00 65 03 with the School Board of Escambia County for Charter Bus Services, recommended use for September and October 2000 only.
 - (3) First Class Coach & Equipment, Inc., Sole Source, authorized Thomas/Freightliner Custom Chassis Dealer, Transportation Department
 - (4) Ward International Trucks, Inc., Sole Source, Bus parts, Transportation Department
 - (5) Florida Transportation Systems, Inc., Sole Source, authorized Blue Bird distributor for the State of Florida, Transportation Department
 - (6) Renewal of Sole Source Agreement with Dow Corning for Silicon Roof Coating, Maintenance Department
 - (7) New Century Education Corporation, Sole Source, purchase of New Century Integrated Instructional System in the amount of \$32,236.00, Fort Walton Beach High School
 - B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None
20. Acceptance of donation to Laurel Hill School from George B. Wittmer in the amount of \$1665.00, presented by Dennis Hundley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-571).

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21. Cooperative Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Okaloosa-Walton Child Care Services, Inc., to provide ancillary services for the Teenage Parent Program, presented by Barbara Edenfield and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-572).
22. Representation Letter from Harry Barr, Esq., to provide representation to the Board in insurance claims and workman's compensation defense, presented by Jeff McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 00-573).

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 Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously (Information on file in the District School Improvement Office):
 - A. State Food Waiver submitted by Longwood Elementary
 - B. State Food Waiver submitted by Oak Hill Elementary (Field Day)
 - C. State Food Waiver submitted by Plew Elementary
 - D. State Food Waiver submitted by Oak Hill Elementary (Fridays)

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE'S BUSINESS:

1. The Board acknowledged receipt of the Program Status Report for August 2000 covering the activities of Sverdrup/Delta on the Okaloosa County School District Construction Management Program, submitted by Ray Gabriel, Program Manager (Exhibit 00-574).

BIDS AND PURCHASING: None

ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS: None

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

The Chairman appointed Lloyd Taylor to serve as the Board's representative on the ESE Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Task Force.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:

At the request of the Superintendent, the Chairman scheduled an Executive Session at 3:00 p.m. on September 25, 2000, in the Fort Walton Beach Administration Building.

1. Choctawhatchee High School newspaper staff to attend a workshop at the journalism school of Troy State University in Alabama on September 21, 2000 (Exhibit 00-575).
2. Baker School FFA Chapter to attend the SunBelt Agricultural Exposition in Moultrie, Georgia, October 17-19, 2000 (Exhibit 00-576).
3. Baker School seventh grade students to visit Stennis Space Center in Mississippi and the Aquarium of the Americas and the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans, Louisiana, April 19-20, 2001 (00-577).
4. Niceville High School students to attend a journalism workshop at Troy State University in Troy, Alabama, on September 21, 2000 (Exhibit 00-578).
5. Niceville High School speech and debate team to attend the Earlybird Speech and Debate Tournament in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, September 15-17, 2000 (Exhibit 00-579).

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The Chairman recessed the Regular Meeting at 6:08 p.m. and reconvened at 6:15 p.m. for the scheduled Public Hearing; all members present as before.

PUBLIC HEARING - POLICY:

Mr. McInnis presented the proposed revision to School Board Policy 6-16, Volunteers, which has been re-titled as "Community Involvement" and incorporates guidelines for volunteers, mentors, and business partners.

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Mr. McInnis stated that technical corrections have been made to the proposed policy based on the discussion at Workshop. Included in the policy now recommended for adoption is language stating that a current criminal background screening by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement will be accepted; current is defined as within 90 days of application to be a mentor; the School Board will pay any required fees for screening; and that all mentoring activities will take place on School Board property during school hours.

Motion to approve the recommended policy with the noted corrections was made by Mrs. Frakes, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-580).

The Chairman concluded the Public Hearing and recessed the Regular Meeting at 6:18 p.m. The Chairman reconvened for the next scheduled Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.; all members present as before.

PUBLIC HEARING - BUDGET:

Mr. McInnis stated that the Board was in Public Hearing session to receive public comment and consider approval of the proposed millage rate and school district budget for 2000-2001 recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 00-10 determining the amount of revenues to be produced and the millage (Total Millage Rate of 8.218; Required Local Effort at 6.211; Discretionary at 0.510; Additional Discretionary at 0.208; and Capital Outlay at 1.289) to be levied for the Okaloosa County School District was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

Mr. McInnis stated that the next matter to be considered was the operating budget for the school district for the 2000-2001 fiscal year and it would be appropriate at this time to discuss any amendments to the budget that board members would like to propose.

Mr. Gaetz asked if the budget document being presented for approval included any changes to the original budget document other than the \$8000 appropriation for the Secondary Education Young Authors Conference (see minutes of August 28, 2000).

Mr. Hundley responded that the document before the Board also includes the amendment proposed by Mr. Taylor to supplement the budgets of seven schools (Exhibit 00-514, 8/21/00) and the \$12,000 appropriation for the check signing equipment.

Mr. Hill stated that he submitted budget amendments for consideration at the first public hearing (Exhibit 00-480, 7/31/00). Two of the amendments are no longer valid as they have been addressed in other ways. However, one of the amendments was to allocate funds and two teacher on special assignment (TSA) positions to establish a middle school reading support program. He stated that he would like to revise the proposed amendment by withdrawing the additional allocation of funds and proposing only one TSA position. Mrs. Hannah has suggested that the schools and her department may be able

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to combine funds to purchase the necessary materials for the program and one TSA position will be able to get the program started. He recommended the vacant student intervention position (Student Services Department), being held in abeyance by the Board, be transferred to Secondary Education and allocated as the TSA position for the reading support program.

Mr. Walker stated that he would probably support the recommendation but he would prefer it be held in abeyance in order to give the incoming Superintendent the opportunity to restructure the staff and make his recommendations regarding personnel. Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Frakes agreed with Mr. Walker in this matter.

The Chairman stated that there are some current positions being held in abeyance that the Board needs to take action on at this time - the student intervention position, the administrative position shared by Destin and Kenwood, and the Safety Specialist position.

Motion to remove from the table the student intervention position was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

Motion to place a freeze on filling this position was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously.

Motion to remove from the table the administrative position shared by Destin and Kenwood Elementary Schools was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Gaetz and carried unanimously.

Mr. Hill stated that he questions the need for this position as he has seen no evidence that justifies the position.

Motion to remove from the table the Safety Specialist position was made by Mr. Gaetz, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously.

Mr. McInnis stated that these two positions (the administrative position and the Safety Specialist position) are occupied and included in the budget. The Board's approval of the budget will approve the allocation of the positions and the incumbents.

The Superintendent stated that at the last meeting he submitted a proposal to reduce out-of-county travel in district department budgets (approximately \$65,557.40) and to use the funds to purchase math manipulatives for the elementary and middle schools (Exhibit 00-515, 8/28/00). The schools have been surveyed for their needs in this area and are in favor of receiving these materials. The cuts recommended in the technology budget cannot be used for this purpose so those funds will not be taken. He asked the Board's approval of this recommendation.

Mr. Taylor moved to approve reducing the out-of-county travel budgets of the district departments as recommended by the Superintendent and that the funds be placed in Reserve to allow the incoming Superintendent to evaluate the curriculum and make a recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaetz and carried unanimously.

Superintendent Gordon recommended the deletion of four positions: Secretary I, Superintendent's office; Technology Specialist; Safety Specialist; and Director of Elementary Education. He stated that only the Safety Specialist position is filled at this time. He further recommended that a portion of the funds from the deletion of these positions be used to fund the two TSA positions for the middle school reading support program recommended by Mr. Hill.

Chairman Walker passed the gavel to Vice-Chairman Frakes and made a motion that no personnel position be deleted at this time. He commented that he was taking the position that the incoming Superintendent should be given the latitude to make personnel

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recommendations upon taking office. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously. The gavel was returned to the Chairman.

Mr. Hill moved to allocate \$50,000 from Reserve for one TSA position for the middle school reading support program. The motion died for lack of a second.

Chairman Walker passed the gavel to Mrs. Frakes and made a motion that \$100,000 in Capital funds be allocated for stadium lights at Destin Middle School. He explained that in reviewing the budget he found a duplication in a budgeted item. The same equipment had been budgeted by both the Food Services and Facilities Departments. He stated that this is money that can only be used for capital needs and cannot be used for salaries.

Mr. Gaetz stated that he would second the motion since these funds cannot be used in the salary package and because the installation of the lights will eliminate the loss of instructional time when classes are shorten so that athletic events can take place before dark.

Mr. Hill stated that he supports lighted athletic fields; however, in the last budget there was a shortage in capital outlay funds for music labs, multi-purpose rooms and covered walkways. He added that he felt these projects should be high on the priority list and any additional funds should be allocated toward these projects.

Mr. Gaetz stated that he agrees with Mr. Hill that there are still unmet capital needs, but a couple of things have occurred since two years ago when that issue was raised. One, is the reduction in enrollment in some of the elementary schools raising the issue of the possibility of restructuring elementary schools in some places in the county. Secondly, a \$100,000 can fix a clear and present need but would be nowhere close to addressing the other needs.

The motion made by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Gaetz to re-appropriate \$100,000 of Capital funds already in the budget to install stadium lights at Destin Middle School carried unanimously. The gavel was returned to the Chairman.

Motion to approve the Okaloosa County School District Budget, as amended, for the 2000-2001 fiscal year was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 00-581).

The Chairman concluded the Public Hearing.

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

WALTER C. GORDON
SUPERINTENDENT AND
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD