The Invocation was offered by Mr. Taylor; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Thigpen.

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on April 22, 2002, in the Okaloosa County Courthouse, Crestview, Florida.

PRESENT: Rodney Walker, Chairman (arrived 4:15 p.m.)
Cindy Frakes, Vice-Chairman
Howard Hill
Lloyd Taylor
Cathy Thigpen
Don Gaetz, Superintendent
C. Jeffrey McInnis, Esq., Attorney to the Board

Vice-Chairman Frakes called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and welcomed visitors and presenters.

VISITORS: None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

1. Mr. John Ensor, Principal of Davidson Middle School, stated disagreement with the hiring procedure for athletic directors. He stated that a well-qualified coach at his school applied for the athletic director position at Baker School and was not called for an interview. He added that he doesn’t believe a principal should be told who to hire, but firmly believes that in-county coaches should be given a fair chance at promotions.

Mr. Gaetz responded that the current policy on hiring athletic directors outlines a fairly detailed procedure but does not require in-county coaches to be interviewed. He stated that he is satisfied that Mr. Shipp, Principal of Baker School, followed the appropriate process for hiring an athletic director. He added that he agrees with Mr. Ensor’s position and will be proposing an amendment to this policy which will include a requirement for qualified coaches currently employed in the district to be given the courtesy of an interview for other coaching positions in the district when an opening occurs.

Mr. Hill stated that if this is going to be the policy for athletic directors it should be the policy for all positions. Mrs. Frakes and Mrs. Thigpen agreed.

Mr. Gaetz stated that this has been the practice for all other positions - administrative, instructional and non-instructional.

Mr. Foxworthy stated that at one time it was a requirement of the non-instructional personnel contract that any employee requesting a transfer to an open position must be interviewed for the position. A few years ago the bargaining unit removed this requirement from the contract. The qualifications for non-instructional positions are more general than for instructional and administrative positions. The principal or supervisor has more latitude in determining the exact qualifications based on the job requirements. An employee would travel to an interview when in fact they were not qualified to meet the job specifications. He concluded by stating that if the Board wants the interview requirement for transfers, it can be taken back to the bargaining table this summer.

Mr. Walker joined the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: None

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:
1. Facilities Construction Update, presented by Bill Smith (no report)

2. Community Affairs/Grants Update, presented by Ray Sansom (Exhibit 02-257)

   Mr. Hill inquired about the grant submitted through the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Departments and stated that he thought the district had been awarded the grant.

   Mr. Gaetz responded that the information on the awarding of the grant was received verbally but no official notification has been received. Mr. Sansom stated that he would follow-up on this inquiry.

3. In-County Travel paid from the period of March 28 - April 10, 2002, presented by Patricia Wascom (Exhibit 02-258)

4. Out-of County Travel paid from the period of March 28 - April 10, 2002, presented by Patricia Wascom (Exhibit 02-259)

   Mrs. Frakes questioned payment to three individuals to the same conference. Mrs. Bevino responded that eleven people rode in three cars to attend the conference.

5. Information Only - Revision of Purchasing Card Procedure, presented by Patricia Wascom (Exhibit 02-260)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

   Mr. McInnis requested an addition to the Agenda for approval of the fee proposal from Hanscomb, Inc., to provide cost verification services for the Technology Retrofit programs. Mrs. Frakes approved the request and added the item as Consent #21.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

8. Mr. Hill asked for an explanation of the Agreement with EdEval. Mr. Sansom stated that it is required that an evaluation be conducted at the conclusion of a grant period. EdEval will provide this assessment of the grant at a cost of up to 4% of the grant funding and the cost is charged to the grant.

9. Mr. Gaetz noted that additional information was sent to the Board which included the recommended Elementary K-5 Reading series for ESE.

20. Mr. Gaetz acknowledged the work of Bill Bain and others at the bargaining table to avoid going to impasse over the education support personnel contract. He stated that while neither side is proud of the contract, it is the best agreement that could be reached based on the financial restrictions.

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

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 8, 2002, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

2. Budget Amendment #7, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-261).

4. Acceptance of donations, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-263):
   A. To Destin Elementary School from the “Learn How To Do” Foundation in the amount of $3000
   B. To Destin Middle School from the Destin Snowbirds, Inc., in the amount of $2000
   C. To Destin Middle School from the Destin Optimist Club in the amount of $1000
   D. To Destin Middle School from Ariel Seafood, Inc., in the amount of $1500
   E. To Destin Middle School from Rick and Sharon Nesius in the amount of $500
   F. To Niceville High School from an anonymous donor in the amount of $2000

5. Reallocation of PECO Funds for Maintenance Projects in South Zone, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-264).

6. Award of Bid #02-RFB02 for the Niceville High School Science Lab Renovation to Alabama Contract Sales in the amount of $59,705.00, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-265).

7. Volunteer List, compiled by Ray Sansom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-266).

8. Renewal of Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and EdEval, Inc., to conduct assessments and evaluations for the school district, presented by Ray Sansom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-267).

9. Adoption of Elementary K-5 Reading Series (including ESE), presented by Patti Boyles and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-268).

10. Continuation of Contract for Professional Services between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Okaloosa-Walton Community College for Even Start Program, presented by Carolyn Lulue and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-269).

11. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
   A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 02-270)
   B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 02-271)
   C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 02-270)

12. Employment Separations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-272).

13. Cleared Certification Requirements and Issuance of Contract for 2001-2002 School Year, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval - None.

14. Reinstatement of Sick Leave due to line-of-duty illness/injury/medical examination, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
   A. Janet Butler, Bruner Middle School, 13 days (Exhibit 02-273)

15. Zoning Waivers, presented by Assistant Superintendents and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
   A. South Zone Schools (Exhibit 02-274)
16. Motor Vehicle Lease for Disaster Transportation Services between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Ramsey Youth Services, Inc., presented by Jay McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-275).

17. School bus to be declared surplus and donated to the Niceville City Fire Department, presented by Jay McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-276).

18. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-277; see bid file for additional information): A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests:

   (1) Bid #02-B31 Roll Toilet Tissue and Paper Towels awarded to Gulf Coast Paper for Group 1, estimated amount of $35,922.56, and to Supreme Paper for Group 2, estimated amount of $44,413.39; estimated bid total of $80,335.95

   (2) Bid #02-B32 Concession Trailers awarded to Elite Trailer

   (3) Bid #02-B34 Cut Size Office Bond Paper awarded to Gulf Coast Paper, estimated amount of $65,801.00

   (4) Renewal of Bid #01-B48 Janitorial Supplies awarded to Gulf Coast Paper in the amount of $336.76; Supreme Paper in the amount of $336.88; and Crest Supply in the amount of $360.72

   (5) Letter of Engagement for Renewal of Auditing Services for School Internal Funds in the amount of $104,000.00 annually

   (6) NCS Pearson, Inc., Sole Source for Successmaker Software in the amount of $45,540.00, Walker Elementary School

B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None

19. Request to advertise a public hearing for revision of School Board Policy 2-17(A)(8) Purchasing Procedures/Bid Limits, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-278).

20. Approval of Addendum to Master Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the Okaloosa County Education Support Personnel Association, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-279).

21. Approval of contract and fees for construction cost verification services on Technology Retrofit at Valparaiso and Edwins Elementary Schools under a Task Order between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Hanscomb, Inc., presented by Jeff McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 02-280).

DISCUSSION AGENDA:

1. Consideration of School Improvement Plan Requests, Responses and Updates, presented by Assistant Superintendents and recommended by the Superintendent for approval: None

2. Motion to approve the proposed uniform dress code for Edwins Elementary School was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 02-281).
Mrs. Thigpen stated that she did not approve of uniform dress codes but supported the proposal because it stated that the uniform dress code was not mandatory and because there was a high return rate on the surveys indicating that a large percentage of the parents were in favor of a uniform dress code.

3. Motion to approve the following projects to be funded from District 4 Board Member Capital Outlay funds already included in the Board-approved FY 2001-2002 budget was made by Mrs. Thigpen, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 02-282):
   A. New carpet in the media center at Crestview High School - $10,000
   B. Paving of the west parking lot at Davidson Middle School - $10,000

4. Motion was made by Mr. Walker to appropriate $50,000 to purchase student combo desks and teacher task chairs for Choctawhatchee High School from District 3 Board Member Capital Outlay funds already included in the Board-approved FY 2001-2002 budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously. (Exhibit 02-283)

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE'S BUSINESS: None

BIDS AND PURCHASING: None

ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS:

   Mr. McInnis advised the Board that a pending Section 504 Student Grievance has moved to Level 3 which means that an appeal has been filed and the Board will need to hear the complaint. He stated that the appeal was received late Friday, April 19, 2002, and that there was not sufficient time to prepare a Board materials package for review prior to the Special Meeting that was schedule for this purpose today. Board policy requires that the case be considered by the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting following receipt of the appeal. He suggested the Board schedule a special meeting preceding the next regular meeting to hear the grievance.

The Board agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Monday, May 13, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. in the School District Administration Building, Fort Walton Beach, for the purpose of conducting the Section 504 Student Grievance Hearing.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:

1. Bruner Middle School Roots Club to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, on April 26-28, 2002 (Exhibit 02-284).
2. Choctawhatchee High School JROTC to travel to the Army Aviation Museum and Helicopter Simulators in Fort Rucker, Alabama, on April 16, 2002 (Exhibit 02-285).
3. Meigs Middle School Cheerleaders to attend UCA Camp at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on June 11-15, 2002, and NCA Camp at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, on July 24-27, 2002 (Exhibit 02-286).
4. Pryor Middle School seventh grade students to travel to Mobile, Alabama, on May 9, 2002 (Exhibit 02-287).

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

   Mrs. Thigpen asked if there was any update from Tallahassee on the education budget. Mr. Gaetz responded that the legislature has not reconvened; therefore, there is no news yet. He added that it will probably be late May or after before the final budget is received.
Mrs. Thigpen asked what the time line was for selecting a provider for the University School program and when the information would be available to students and parents. Mr. Gaetz responded that he has written a letter to all families involved in the program notifying them of the change in enrollment requirements at the University of Florida and the changes to be made in the University School Program. Proposals have been solicited and Okaloosa-Walton Community College is the only provider to submit a Letter of Intent. Negotiations will be based on the specifics in the Request For Proposals and the new provider will have to offer a program no less than that offered by Troy State University. He added that the RFP states that current credits must be accepted by the new provider.

Mr. Hill stated that the policy on student expulsion allows the parent, with the support of the principal, to request early reinstatement; but, the policy on student suspension gives the principal no latitude on the number of days of suspension based on the circumstances of the incident. He requested the policy be reviewed and possibly revised to include a review or appeal process at the district level.

Mr. McInnis stated that Florida Statute gives principals the authority to determine the number of days of suspension with a maximum of ten days allowed. There are only two or three discipline situations in which the number of days of suspension are mandated by Board policy. During the last re-write of the discipline policy these were included to establish levels of disciplinary action before recommending expulsion.

Mr. Walker stated that he will be proposing some revisions to the discipline policy in the near future and will take Mr. Hill’s request into consideration.

Mrs. Frakes asked for some clarification regarding a sunset date for Bright Futures Scholarships. Mrs. Bevino stated that the scholarships were eliminated in the previous budget cuts; however, they have been included in the new proposed budget. Cindy Massarelli will be meeting with state representatives on April 23 and will request additional information.

There being no further business, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

DON GAETZ                     CINDY FRAKES
SUPERINTENDENT AND           VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
CORPORATE SECRETARY