

REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 26, 2010

The Invocation was offered by Mrs. Frakes; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Hill.

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on April 26, 2010, in the Okaloosa County Courthouse, Crestview, Florida.

PRESENT: Rodney Walker, Chairman
Cindy Frakes, Vice-Chairman
Howard Hill
Chuck Kelley
Cathy Thigpen

Alexis Tibbetts, Superintendent
C. Jeffrey McInnis, Esq., Attorney to the Board

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed visitors and presenters.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Consent Agenda: Added as item #2D, Appropriation of District 1 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Wright Elementary School; item #18D was deleted; revision of language to item #23; added as item #24, DJJ Proposal for professional development opportunities; added as item #25, Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Northwood Elementary School.

VISITORS:

1. The Antioch Elementary School Knowledge Masters Team was recognized as First Place winners of the 5th Grade Knowledge Master Open, March 2010 (Exhibit 10-250).

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: No Request

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: None

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:

1. In-County Travel paid for the period of March 18 – April 7, 2010, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 10-251)
2. Out-of-County Travel paid for the period of March 18 – April 7, 2010, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 10-252)
3. Science Activity Update, presented by Shawnee Tallman (Exhibit 10-253)

Ms. Tallman presented a science activity update which included recognition of partnerships, teacher awards and recognitions, and the International and State Science Fair awards. Three teachers have received national recognition, with Rick Soria having been recognized in the Florida Monthly Magazine as one of "21 Most Intriguing Floridians", for his leadership in the Engineers for America Program, and he was also featured in the National Science Teacher Association Reports. The EFA program has received various national recognitions, such as from the Director of Education of New England Air Museum; the Chief Scientist at the USAF Academy has requested an EFA team to conduct a workshop to

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establish an EFA type activity in the Colorado Springs School District, and Mr. Soria has given STEM presentations at the National A. Scott Crossfield Teachers Workshop in Dayton, Ohio. The EFA continues to seek NDIA and National Defense Education program funding.

Ms. Tallman reported that twenty-three Okaloosa County students received awards at the State Science Fair, and five students will represent Okaloosa County at the International Science Fair.

Ms. Tallman recognized students Katherine Stone from Fort Walton Beach High School and Kyle Saleeby from Niceville High School, who teamed on a project and placed second at the I-SWEEP international competition (International Sustainable World Energy, Engineering, & Environment). She noted that this international competition is by invitation only.

An update of growth and expansion of programs was provided by Ms. Tallman. She stated that approximately \$30,000 has been awarded from NDIA grants and from other STEM grants. She explained one project that supports the bringing of more technology into the hands of elementary school teachers. In support of the new Biomedical Science CHOICE program at Fort Walton Beach High School, elementary school students are being prepared through various projects in that area of science.

Ms. Tallman listed the various awards the NaGISA program has received, the most recent being the 2010 Sea World/Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Award of \$10,000. She introduced the NaGISA leadership team members from Niceville High School.

Representatives of NaGISA student leadership at Niceville High School, Matthew Abbott, Alexis Reddington, Jeremy Hsiang, Stephanie Hsiang, Heather Caulkins, and Alyssa Kittell, provided a Power Point presentation on their university and high school participation in the international research study on marine biodiversity. Each student explained their role and responsibility in the NaGISA program.

The NaGISA project is among the first to experimentally and conclusively prove the extent to which humanity, pollution, climate change, as well as other factors, have affected their oceanic environment. NaGISA represents an opportunity for high school students to become involved in one of the greatest scientific undertakings of this century. Benefits that students obtain from being a part of NaGISA allow students to interact internationally with different cultures, while expanding their education and goals of the educational community, and the opportunity to develop interpersonal and leadership skills.

The NaGISA program has expanded to include universities and high schools around the world to collect and analyze data from sites visited. There have been opportunities to expand the project in other schools in Florida, as well as international schools and universities in Egypt, Tanzania, and Crete. Expansionary trips such as these are essential to NaGISA, as they provide new sampling sites and a wealth of new data.

A future expansionary trip is scheduled to the Black Sea near Istanbul, Turkey where another school will integrate into the NaGISA project and an additional sampling site will be developed. Mr. Hernandez and two students will travel to the Final Report of the Census of Marine Life in London. This conference represents one of the most important and greatest opportunities that the Niceville High School NaGISA program has received as they are the only high school to be

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invited. Students will be given a chance to interact with international scientists and see first-hand the results of the biodiversity studies from around the world.

Mr. Hill commented that Niceville High School was the first high school to participate in the NaGISA project. He stated that the students have brought a lot of claim to Mr. Hernandez and to Niceville High School in this program.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Minutes of Workshop Meeting of April 8, 2010; Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 12, 2010; Minutes of Student Disciplinary Hearing of April 8, 2010; and Correction to Minutes of Student Disciplinary Hearing of March 4, 2010, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-254).
2. Appropriation of District 1 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to the following schools, presented by Cindy Frakes and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-255):
 - A. Longwood Elementary School for cafeteria tables and storage cabinets in the amount of \$4870.00
 - B. Kenwood Elementary School for a workstation to manage the Smart Lab (\$3700), sixty 8gb flash drives (\$1200), and \$634.88 for additional cost of Tech Lab Project (Project #1387), total amount of \$5534.88
 - C. Shalimar Elementary School for DLP Projector in the amount of \$15,000.00
 - D. Wright Elementary School for Tech lab wiring (\$7705 for Task Order No. 1-30) and furniture (\$7071.56), total amount of \$14,776.56
3. Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Crestview High School for the stadium platform and sound system in the amount of \$5808.96, presented by Cathy Thigpen and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-256).
4. Appropriation of District 5 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Crestview High School for the stadium sound system in the amount of \$2000.00, presented by Howard Hill and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-257).
5. Budget Amendment #7 for Fiscal Year 2010, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-258).
6. Monthly Financial Report for March 2010, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-259).
7. Acceptance of Donations, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-260).
8. Payment of Invoices dated April 26, 2010, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-261).
9. Payroll Calendars for Fiscal Year 2010-2011, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-262).
10. Florida Back to Work Subsidized Employment Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa

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- and Walton Counties, Addendum #1, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-263).
11. State Board of Education Capital Outlay Bonds, 2010 Series, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-264).
12. Easement for Electric Service to Gulf Power to provide utility services to the Richbourg School site, presented by Dr. Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-265).
13. Overhead Distribution Easement to Gulf Power to provide utility services to portable classrooms at Longwood Elementary School, presented by Dr. Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-266).
14. Application for the U. S. Department of Education 2010 Magnet Schools Assistance Program Grant submitted by Edwins Elementary School, presented by Connie Hall and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-267).
15. Application for the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs Culture Builds Florida Grant submitted by Edwins Elementary School, presented by Connie Hall and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-268).
16. AMilkids Emerald Coast 2010 Summer School Calendar and 2010-2011 School Year Calendar, presented by Maria Przybylski, Executive Director, and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-269).
17. Athletic Coaching/Sports Medicine Endorsement Program for Okaloosa County School District, presented by Carolyn McAllister and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-270).
18. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 10-271)
 - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 10-272)
 - C. Transfer Report (No Report)
 - D. Deleted - Suspension of Employee #xxx-xx-8888
 - E. Suspension of Employee #xxx-xx-3641 (Exhibit 10-273)
19. Employment Separations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-274).
20. Reinstatement of Sick Leave due to line-of-duty illness/injury/medical examination, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-275):
 - A. Fiona Lukas, Baker School, 5 hours
 - B. Julie Nobles, Plew Elementary School, 2.75 hours
21. Zoning Waivers, presented by Deputy Superintendents and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-276; see Zoning Waiver file).
22. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (see bid file for additional information):
 - A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests:
 - (1) RFB 10-B21 Relocation of Portable Modular Buildings District Wide, awarded to Ducky Johnson House Movers as the primary;

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and to Avatar Construction as the secondary, Fixed Prices, Maintenance Department (Exhibit 10-277)

B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None

C. Service Agreements: None

23. Management Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Florida Community College at Jacksonville for the CHOICE program to accept the transfer of technology equipment declared surplus by the college, presented by Patti Bonezzi and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-278).

24. DJJ Proposal for professional development opportunities, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-279).

25. Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Northwood Elementary School for MIMOs in the amount of \$14,342.50, presented by Cathy Thigpen and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-280).

DISCUSSION AGENDA:

1. Mr. McInnis presented the Superintendent's recommendation for approval of Resolution No.10-04, calling for a referendum election to be held on August 24, 2010, for approval to levy a one-half percent sales surtax to finance a comprehensive plan to expand and modernize educational improvements and facilities countywide, upgrade technology and retire related debt service, if any, and provide for proper notice of such election. A ten-year capital projects plan and estimated budget was provided with the Resolution.

Motion was made by Mrs. Thigpen and seconded by Mr. Kelley to approve Resolution No. 10-04.

Mr. Hill stated that he did not support the Resolution. Although the State has cut back on Capital Outlay funding and he recognizes the District's long-term capital needs, he does not feel it is a good time for a tax increase. He stated that he is concerned with the current economic situation as people in the community have either been laid off, are out of work, or have had a reduction in salaries or work hours. Times are hard right now and families are on fixed budgets. He suggested that the Board look at other options, such as considering a tax increase in a few years when the economy may be better. He commented that it was important to show the breakdown of capital projects by school. He stated that funds from donations would have to be used to publicize the Resolution and anything in its regard.

Mrs. Frakes requested that the Resolution and the capital projects plan be posted on the District's web site, as she has received inquiries concerning how the money from the tax increase will specifically be used. She stated that it is important for the general public to view the capital projects that are being proposed for each school. She stated that it is up to the public to decide if they are willing to pay the extra half-penny sales tax.

Mr. Kelley agreed with comments by Mr. Hill and Mrs. Frakes, and clarified that the Board was not voting for a tax increase, but rather voting to bring a Resolution forward to the public to vote in August. He commented that the District is behind in upgrading facilities and has done the best it can with the

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funds that have been allocated to this point; however, it will continue to get further behind if nothing is done. Mr. Kelley stated that he supported the Resolution because it allows the voters to respond in August as to what they would like to do, and the Board will then follow their lead. He pointed out that it is noted in the Resolution that if the sales tax passes, it then freezes the millage rate of the noncapital school property taxes for at least three years.

Mrs. Thigpen stated that she supports the Resolution for the same reasons already mentioned. She stated that she would prefer to see a sales tax increase because it applies to everybody, rather than a property tax increase which would apply only to property owners. She commented on the importance of making information available to the public that shows exactly how the funds will be spent, and that the more informed we are as a community, the better we make a decision. She stated that the funds cannot and will not be spent on any kind of salary as it is capital funding for projects.

Mrs. Frakes stated for the record that the School Board never meets behind closed doors and that they have not met behind closed doors to discuss this issue or to determine where the money would be allocated. The information provided is a public document and will be made available on the District's web site.

Mr. Walker stated that if the sales tax increase passes, the money will be used only for capital improvements. He noted that the overall budget has decreased approximately \$30 million from three years ago, and 85% of that reduction has been in salaries. He emphasized that the sales tax increase has to be passed by the community, not by the school board members. He stated that advertisements or publications regarding this issue will be paid with donations, not with tax dollars.

Mrs. Thigpen's motion carried 4-1; Mr. Hill dissenting.

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

ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS:

Mr. McInnis asked for the Board's approval to sign a retainer agreement with the law firm of Allen, Norton & Blue to provide legal services in a pending labor matter.

Approval of a retainer agreement with the law firm of Allen, Norton & Blue to provide legal services in a pending labor matter and authorization for the Chairman to sign the agreement was approved on a motion made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 10-281).

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SEAT MANAGEMENT CONTRACT:

1. On a motion by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mrs. Thigpen, the Board unanimously approved Seat Management Task Order No. 1-33, Shalimar Projector and Installation, amount not to exceed \$15,000.00, presented by Eric Mitchell and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-282).

BIDS AND PURCHASING: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:

1. Out-of-State Student Field Trips (Exhibit 10-283)

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Dr. Tibbetts announced that Baker School and Walker Elementary School have each been awarded a grant from the SunSmart E-Shelter School program.

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

Mr. Hill provided the Board members and Superintendent with an article from the Crestview News Bulletin regarding middle school athletes who attend K-12 schools participating in varsity sports for the purpose of filling a roster so a team can compete. Mr. Hill requested that Jerry Sansom or staff provide information on this matter at the next Board Workshop so that the Board can discuss the pros and cons. He stated that even though the FHSAA allows it, there is a concern about the potential injury of a middle school student when competing with a high school student. Dr. Tibbetts stated that Bob Kellogg or another staff member would provide the Board with information on the matter.

Mrs. Frakes extended congratulations to Linda Evanchyk, a journalism and language arts teacher at Choctawhatchee High School, who has been named to the National Teachers Hall of Fame. Only five teachers nationwide are selected for the honor each year, and to date, only 90 teachers nationwide have been selected for the honor.


Mrs. Frakes asked Mary Beth Jackson to speak about the Pryor Middle School Odyssey of the Mind team. Ms. Jackson announced that seven Pryor Pirates will attend the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in Michigan. She noted that three of the students are in the school's pre-engineering and aviation program, and their project included a flight simulation.

Mrs. Frakes informed the Board that Eric Mitchell was recently featured in the newspaper regarding his reference to a pamphlet that will be distributed by principals called "Net Cetera: Chatting with Kids About Being Online". The pamphlet helps parents explain to their children about safe web sites and being safe on the internet. Dr. Tibbetts stated that the pamphlets have been provided to the principals who will begin handing those out this month and that parents should be looking for them. She urged parents that after reading the pamphlet they have a dialogue with their children about being safe on the internet.

Mrs. Thigpen congratulated the Baker girls' track team for winning the District title. Tom Shipp, Principal, stated that this past weekend the boys and girls teams placed fourth at Regionals and seventeen students are advancing to State.

There being no further business, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder


ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY


RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD