

WORKSHOP MEETING – OCTOBER 7, 2010

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on October 7, 2010, in the School District Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place, SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

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

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

ABSENT: Cathy Thigpen

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 by the Board.

The Chairman made the following changes to the Agenda: Add to item #1, Minutes of Special Meeting/Attorney-Client Session of September 27, 2010; added as item #19D, Suspension of Employee # xxx-xx-7292.

Chairman Walker stated that the Board received the Race to the Top Grant Application yesterday and had not had a chance to review it for discussion at today's Workshop; however, the Board would be prepared for discussion at the meeting Monday evening. He advised that the Superintendent's staff that completed the application meet with the teachers and involve them in the process as they are an important part of the program. He stated that in order for the Board to support the project and make a decision, they must be assured that all parties involved have taken part. Dr. Tibbetts noted that the deadline to submit the District's RTTT Application to the State is Tuesday, October 12, 2010.

The Chairman stated that the School Health Services Plan 2010-2012 would be presented at this time because Mrs. Handzo needed to attend another meeting. Mrs. Handzo stated that, as required by law, the plan was collaboratively developed by Pediatric Services of America, the Okaloosa County Health Department, the School Health Advisory Council and herself as the LEA representative. She stated that the State Health Department has reformatted the plan to follow the State statutes and that all the statutes are addressed.

The Chairman returned to the order of items as listed on the Agenda.

Mr. Walker stated that Mr. Buchanan will make his presentation at the Board Meeting Monday evening and would be allotted three minutes to make his comments to the Board. He informed the Board that Jay McInnis has followed up on Mr. Buchanan's proposal.

Mr. Nobles gave a presentation on the proposal for the Education Jobs Fund, listing several options where funds could be expended. He noted that some of the options are negotiable items with the Union if that was a direction the Board would decide. He also explained the specific areas in which the Education Jobs Fund may not be used.

He stated that the intent of the Education Jobs Fund is to keep people employed in the schools closest to the students. The District's proposal is to use the Education Jobs Funds to supplant instructional expenditures which are currently funded from the

WORKSHOP MEETING – OCTOBER 7, 2010

general fund, and save an equal amount of those general fund dollars that were supplanted to be rolled over and used to keep teachers employed for the 2011-2012 school year.

There was discussion regarding the manner in which to allocate the funds, and Mrs. Scallan explained that by law, the funds can only be spent at the school level and the District has until September 2012 to spend the money. Mrs. Frakes suggested that it be stipulated that the schools are to expend these funds on school needs, not to build up their reserve. Mrs. Scallan commented that some schools are in a good financial position so they may not have the need to spend the funds, but they could supplant those funds.

Mr. Hill asked how the expenditure of funds that are freed up in the general revenue would be tracked. Mrs. Scallan responded that tracking would occur in the federal funds, and that schools would elect to move instructional positions into the federal fund source. There is no way to track the equivalent that is released into the schools' discretionary fund source.

Mr. Walker suggested that Board members take their ideas to the Superintendent, Mrs. Scallan and Mr. Nobles so that the Board can discuss all options before making a final decision. Dr. Tibbetts stated that she would submit options for the Board's consideration at the October 25th Board meeting.

With regard to the Termination of the Retiree Medicare Advantage Plan, Mrs. Frakes asked what other options were available for retirees. Jim Palmer responded that retirees will have the option to transfer to one of the health plans that are in effect with active employees. He stated there is no cost to the district.

In reference to the Voluntary Group Vision Insurance Renewal, Mr. Palmer stated that there is a lower premium cost with equal or better benefits with the recommended option. The cost is not supplemented by the District.

Mr. Kelley stated that while reviewing the Crestview Winter Guard Contract, he has concern with the per-member cost to the participating students. He stated that he understands that the student members raise funds; however, it is exclusionary of students being able to participate. Additionally, he voiced concern regarding the perception of offering these types of services at a time when schools are having difficulty providing textbooks and cancelling programs.

Dr. Tibbetts responded to Mr. Kelley's comments, stating in regard to groups such as cheerleading, winter guard, and dance line, she has been assured from the club sponsors and principals that there is a scholarship plan for every student at their school, and that it is also made clear to all the students that if money has to be raised for an event, that it must be raised from the local business community in Okaloosa County.

Mr. Kelley stated that the idea of scholarships should be fully enveloped and utilized, and he asked that club sponsors and principals be cognizant of the perception in these difficult economic times.

Mr. Hill noted a discrepancy in the number of fall instructional clinics in the Crestview Winter Guard Contract. He also commented that the clinics listed were held before Board approval of the contract and he stated that the contract should be submitted for Board approval prior to the event. Mrs. Scallan stated that the discrepancy in the number of fall instructional clinics was a typographical error, and that the contract would be corrected to show two clinics instead of three clinics.

WORKSHOP MEETING – OCTOBER 7, 2010

Mr. Hill requested that the Addendums to the Master Contracts with OCEA and OCESPA, and the Administrative, Managerial, Professional/Technical and Confidential District Secretary Salary Schedules be moved to the Discussion Agenda.

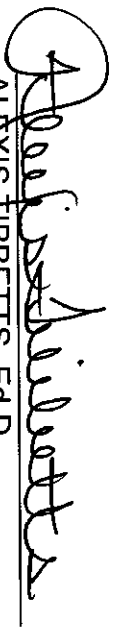
Mr. Hill inquired as to the overall cost to the District for the Plan Administration and Compliance Services for 403(b) and 457 Plans, and asked who pays the fees. Mr. Palmer responded that the District pays the fees and that he would provide the information concerning the current cost of the existing contract with TSA Consulting Group.

Board Members stated that Choctawhatchee High School's field house does not have water or air conditioning, and that the band room and auditorium do not have air conditioning. Dr. Bill Smith stated that the sewer problem at the field house will be resolved this week, and that an air conditioning unit has gone out and is in the process of being replaced. He anticipates that the air conditioning unit will be replaced in December.

Mr. McInnis advised that the Board is scheduled to meet in an attorney-client session on Monday, October 11, 2010 at 5:00 p.m., for the purpose of discussing a matter of pending litigation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder



ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY



RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD