

**WORKSHOP MEETING – NOVEMBER 4, 2010**

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on November 4, 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  
Cathy Thigpen  
Alexis Tibbetts, Superintendent  
C. Jeffrey McInnis, Esq., Attorney to the Board

**ABSENT:** Chuck Kelley

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:05 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: Correction to Consent item #5, should be School Board Policy 1-16, Visits to School; added as Consent item #20, Apple Authorized Training Center Agreement and Amendment to Apple Authorized Training Center Agreement; added as Consent item #21, Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Riverside Elementary School in the amount of \$35338; added as item #22, Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Laurel Hill School in the amount of \$5000.

In regard to the Certiport Logo License Agreement, Mrs. Frakes asked how the logo would be used. Mrs. Bonezzi responded that the logo will be printed on student test certificates.

Mr. Hill asked if the Pre-K Disability Academic Class provides autism training to the teachers so they can handle autistic children in a Pre-K Disability classroom. Mrs. Handzo responded that the autism endorsement is a requirement for grades K-12 and does not impact Pre-K. She stated that the State has relaxed the requirement for Pre-K autism endorsement, making an exception for teachers who have taught anyone with autism for at least two full years during the past 5 years.

In reference to Dr. Bill Smith's recommendation to use the current chiller at Elliott Point Elementary as a substitute when needed, Mr. Hill asked Dr. Smith if the chiller would be adequate to use as a substitute given its maintenance issues for the past three years. Dr. Smith responded that after it is serviced, he is confident that the chiller would be efficient in a standby capacity which is similar to the one currently leased. In response to comments regarding a cooling tower, Dr. Smith stated that modifications will be made to an existing mechanical room inside the school for the cooling tower. Additionally, controls will be modified to match the new system.

Mr. Hill stated that in regard to the conversion of teacher laptop computers to desktop computers that was presented at the last Board meeting, it had been brought to his attention that desktop computers use more electricity and in the long run will cost more money. Mr. Mitchell briefly explained that while there is a savings from converting to desktops, the cost of electricity is not significant compared to the savings that the District will be making by eliminating the laptops.

Mr. Walker stated that the Board and staff should consider the few exceptions for employees who will need to keep their laptops in order to do their job better in providing service to the students. The two groups of employees identified are itinerants and

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literacy coaches. He asked for Board input to decide if the matter should be looked into further, and suggested that the matter be resolved prior to the Board meeting Monday evening or delayed until it is resolved.

Mrs. Thigpen suggested delaying the conversion until the issues are resolved and to look into whether a laptop computer is more of a convenience or a necessity as the itinerants' specific job is concerned. Of concern is whether the itinerants would have to change the way they do their business of the day if they change to a desktop, if there would be a desktop available to them to log onto at the schools, and if there would be problems with security breach. She volunteered to work with the Union to explore these issues, as well as to determine which employees should keep laptops. Mrs. Thigpen will bring a proposal back to the Board for consideration.

Discussion followed regarding the accessibility itinerants would have to desktop computers at the schools, their need for a laptop versus desktop, and the expense that would be incurred in the departmental budgets. Mr. Walker stated that the Board has concurred that the opportunity for itinerants and literacy coaches to keep their laptops needs to be worked out, and that Mrs. Thigpen will work with the Union and bring information to the Board for consideration. Additionally, he suggested that administrative staff who may need to keep laptops be included when determining which employees will not be included in the conversion process.

Dr. Tibbetts announced that November 17, 2010 is Education Support Professionals Day. She stated that if an administrator or Board member would like to shadow an educational support employee, to contact Karen Sinex for coordinating this activity.

Dr. Tibbetts announced that Governor Crist has declared November 2010 as Florida Family Engagement in Education Month. She stated that family involvement is important in the school learning environment, and she thanked parents for being involved in the schools.

Dr. Tibbetts expressed sympathy to the family of Florence Bumgardner, a longtime employee of the school district. Funeral services for Mrs. Bumgardner will be held Friday at the Shalimar Methodist Church.

Mr. Hill commended Dr. Linda Smith on her efforts in attempting to coordinate the administration of an AICE exam to two Niceville High School students who were competing in the State girls' golf championship in Ocala the same day.

Mrs. Frakes announced that Wright Elementary School is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Tuesday, November 9, and are inviting people to visit the classroom from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., followed by a veteran's walk at 2:00.

Mrs. Frakes informed the Board and Superintendent that Eglin Elementary is holding a veteran's walk on Wednesday, November 10, at 9:30 a.m., at the Memorial Park, with a Veteran's Day ceremony following at 10:00 a.m.

Mrs. Thigpen thanked Mr. Connor, Mr. Jay McInnis and Dr. Tibbetts for the re-zoning presentation that was given at the two public meetings at Riverside Elementary School last week. She invited Mr. Nobles to speak to the Board regarding the highlights of the meetings.

Mr. Nobles informed the Board that the presentation JC Connor and his staff gave at the last Board meeting regarding the re-zoning proposal was presented at two public meetings last week to parents at Riverside Elementary School. At those meetings, Dr. Tibbetts explained the process in more detail and alleviated some of the concerns that parents had with re-zoning. Jay McInnis gave a brief explanation on the

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changes with transportation, which are minimal. Approximately 80 parents will be impacted and a total of seventeen parents attended both meetings. He acknowledged Mr. Connor and his staff for the excessive time and effort they put into producing the maps and numbers for the proposal. He added that both meetings were very positive.

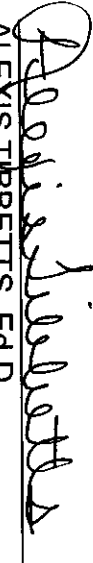
Mrs. Thigpen stated that the public hearing on the re-zoning proposal will be held at the regular Board meeting on December 13, 2010. At that time the Board will receive public input and vote on the proposal.

Dr. Tibbetts informed the Board that the Race to the Top Application was returned last week with a few insignificant changes, and the changes did not affect the scope and sequence. It is not necessary that the application with the changes go before the Board for approval; however, she stated that the changes have been emailed to the Board members for review and to address any questions to Mrs. Hendricks, Mr. Foxworthy or Ms. Baltes. Tuesday is the deadline to electronically submit the application to DOE.

Mrs. Frakes inquired about the status of including the new transportation tool on the District's web site. Mr. Nobles responded that the new transportation tool will show parents which zoned school their child will attend when they input their address. The information has been prepared for the web site and expected to go live this month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder

  
ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT AND  
CORPORATE SECRETARY

  
RODNEY L. WALKER  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD