

**WORKSHOP MEETING – MARCH 4, 2010**

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on March 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  
Chuck Kelley  
Cathy Thigpen

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:15 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: Consent item #4 was revised, amount changed to \$25,000; added as Consent #20E, Termination of Employee #xxx-xx-4370; added as Seat Management #1, Task Order No. 1-32, Lewis Middle School and Central Administration Complex Wireless System Replacement Project.

Mr. Kelley stated that rather than a renewal with Carr, Riggs & Ingram for the Independent Financial Statement and Compliance Audit Services for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, and for the Independent Audit of School Internal Funds for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the District is currently in a position to request bids from accounting firms for these audits. He stated that this is an opportunity for the District to possibly save more money than what is being offered in the renewal of the current contract, even though the contract renewal reflects a six percent fee reduction. He requested that Consent items #8 and #9 be moved to the Discussion Agenda for Board consideration at the meeting Monday evening. Dr. Tibbetts commented that this is the last year of the contract for the internal funds audit, and it is anticipated that both audits would go out for bid on November 1, 2010.

In regard to the Resolution for Educational Facility Projects of the Okaloosa County School District, Mr. Hill asked if the Leasing Corporation should convene to consider this item. Mr. McInnis responded that in discussions with Mrs. Scallan, there were no components in the Resolution requiring the Leasing Corporation to convene; however, he would confirm this with Mrs. Scallan.

Mrs. Frakes asked if there is a confidentiality agreement that goes along with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida, since under the terms of the MOU the District agrees to provide pertinent information on youth regarding academic performance, attendance, behavior, suspensions and expulsions. Mr. McInnis stated that there is a separate document the District uses with certain agreements that implements student privacy that can be put in place with this Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Hill inquired about the inconsistency of fees among the schools for Advanced Placement examinations. Mr. McLaughlin explained the three variables in determining the cost for each Advanced Placement examination that is administered.

Mrs. Frakes stated that she is in support of administering semester exams before the winter holiday break that is proposed in the 2010-2011 School Calendar B option; however, in response to concerns from elementary school teachers, she is concerned

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that there is not a sufficient number of pre-planning days. She proposed alternatives to Calendar B which included a school start date of August 9<sup>th</sup>, which adds two pre-planning days. Teachers would also have the option to flex post-planning days for additional pre-planning days. Discussion followed regarding alternatives for additional instructional days in order to equalize the semesters. Mrs. Frakes clarified that the school calendar process was not a Board-driven initiative. Dr. Tibbetts stated that Ryan Gore would provide Board members with a draft of Mrs. Frakes' proposal before the meeting Monday evening.

Karen Peek addressed the Board on behalf of OCEA, stating that although the Association does not have a position on the school calendar, they represent the process. She commented that the surveys were completed based on personal preferences, and that teachers have voiced frustration with the rationalization of the outcome.

Chairman Walker stated that he supported School Calendar A because more people favored it on the two surveys that were completed. He stated that any amendments to the proposed calendars would be considered at the Board meeting Monday evening, and that the Board would decide on a school calendar at that meeting.

Dr. Tibbetts informed the Board that Ms. Noechel, Instructional Technology Specialist, recently received the ETT Grant application that is due on April 8, 2010. She stated that it will take at least a month to gather the data and complete the application; therefore, it is possible the Grant will be submitted for Board consideration after the deadline date.

Dr. Tibbetts announced that the Sloan Foundation has awarded the Niceville High School NaGISA program with a \$10,000 grant. Mr. Hernandez and two NaGISA students will travel to London in October for the Census of Marine Life Project.

Dr. Tibbetts informed the Board that the March 2010 publication of the National Science Teachers Association's cited the Okaloosa County School District and the Engineers for America Program with the U.S. Air Force Armament Museum.

Karen Peek, OCEA President, spoke to the Board regarding Senate Bill No. 6 which was made available on March 2, 2010, and is supported by seven senators. She encouraged the Board and Superintendent to read the Bill and work with their Associations to voice their opposition, as there are several issues that will affect Okaloosa County Schools, and removes authority from the School Board.

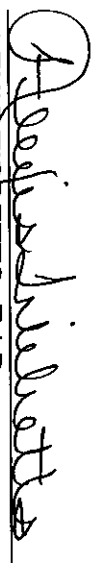
Greg Butler, OCEA and OCESPA Director, asked the Board that when considering the 2010-2011 school calendar, the semesters do not have to have an equal amount of days. In response, Ryan Gore stated that the uneven semester issue is addressed from time to time. He explained that Okaloosa School District keeps an equal 90-day semester due to the posting of the District's academic history by the semester, rather than by the year. He stated that the District collects data on 90 days of instruction per course, and he gave examples of how this affects schedule changes and students who may have to repeat a course due to failure. He added that there are also FTE issues with uneven semesters, and it would be problematic to post academic history with uneven semesters. Dr. Tibbetts stated that posting academic history by the semester helps the graduation rate and the credit recovery rate, which benefits the students.

Mrs. Thigpen stated that she will be meeting with Greg Butler and Patrick Strong concerning the results of the surveys completed for GCA custodial services. She requested that Mr. Butler and Mr. Strong brief the Board in the next few weeks regarding the survey results in order for the Board to move forward in the process of determining custodial services for next school year.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder



ALEXIS TIBBETS, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT AND  
CORPORATE SECRETARY



RODNEY L. WALKER  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD