

WORKSHOP MEETING - JANUARY 11, 2001

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on January 11, 2001, in the School District Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place, SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

PRESENT: Rodney Walker, Chairman
Cindy Frakes, Vice-Chairman
Howard Hill
Lloyd Taylor
Cathy Thigpen

Don Gaetz, Superintendent
C. Jeffrey McInnis, Esq., Attorney to the Board

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 from the Board.

The Chairman recessed the Workshop for the Special Disciplinary Hearing and reconvened the Workshop at 9:30 a.m.

The Chairman added as Personnel Appointment #7, Food Service Manager at Elliott Point Elementary.

Superintendent Gaetz announced his recommendations for the following position: Assistant Superintendent-North County School Operations, Wayne Ansley; Assistant Superintendent-Central County School Operations, Dr. Robert McEachern; Assistant Superintendent-South County School Operations, Dr. Frank Fuller; Chief Officer-Quality Assurance & Curriculum, Terry Hecker; Principal of Longwood Elementary, Donna Hannah; and Principal of Niceville High, Janie Varner.

The following temporary assignments were announced by the Superintendent: Carol Grandstaff as Principal of Bob Sikes Elementary; Mary Gunter as Principal of Bluewater Elementary until June 30, 2001; Glenn Bowen as Assistant Principal at Crestview High until June 30, 2001, and Susan Lowrey as Principal of Shalimar Elementary School.

Mr. Gaetz stated that he would announce his recommendations for the remaining positions on the Agenda prior to the regular meeting.

The Chairman stated that the progress report on Sverdrup/Delta Construction Management Program 2 will be given at a later workshop meeting.

Bill Smith gave a brief update on the progress of the stadium lighting projects at Crestview High and Destin Middle and the Northwood Elementary renovations. He provided to the Board information on improvements to athletic facilities at the middle and high schools since the 1997 survey of these facilities.

Addressing concerns regarding the \$4 million to be set aside for a technical high school, Mr. Walker stated that he has looked at the 1999 Five-year Capital Outlay Work Plan to research the issue. There was suppose to be \$400,000 budgeted as seed money for the project with \$1.8 million to be budgeted the next two years for the project. However, in looking at the Work Plan, no appropriations were made for this project. He pointed out that the funds for this project were never available but were to be appropriated based on anticipated revenue. Additionally, the \$4 million was for the facility only and funds would still be needed to operate the school.

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Mr. Gaetz stated that \$4 million was budgeted in Sverdrup/Delta Program No. 2 for a technical high school and then set aside pending the development of a plan for the school. Subsequently, a plan was developed and approved by the Board. He stated that he would be auditing this issue and providing a report to the Board on the sequence of events regarding this project. He stated that he would also be recommending to the Board alterations to the five-year plan to restore funding to the technical high school in the last years of Program No. 2.

Mr. Walker further noted that \$2 million was built into the budget by Sverdrup/Delta that was to be generated through grants, but to date, no grant money has been obtained; therefore, that amount had to be backed out of the program.

Mr. McInnis interjected that the contract for Program No. 2 was specifically written to allow the Board to reduce or increase the scope of work based on funding.

Mr. Gaetz stated that Dr. Smith will be providing a list of projects that have been taken out of Program No. 2 based on reduced funding.

In concluding the discussion Mr. Gaetz stated that the Chief Finance Officer, Patricia Wascom, is working on a financial plan for the technical high school. Also, a part of the recommended Legislative Agenda is to request adequate funding for career/technical education.

Presented for the Board's review was a draft of the 2000-2001 Five-year Capital Outlay Work Plan. The Superintendent requested each board member discuss the plan with Dr. Smith and make their suggestions for revising the plan with the understanding that the out years are based on anticipated revenues. He stated that he would like to workshop the plan in February in order to obtain Board approval and to forward the plan to Tallahassee.

Dr. Smith responded to questions from Mr. Hill regarding the status of athletic facilities at the middle and high schools. Mr. Gaetz stated all athletic facilities are being evaluated in order to address Title IX issues.

JoAnn Tabor provided explanation of the VSA Arts of Florida program. Mr. Hill questioned language in the Agreement. Mr. Gaetz stated that he would have Mr. McInnis review the Agreement before the meeting and make the appropriate changes if necessary.

In response to Mrs. Thigpen's question regarding the Title VI amendment, Mr. Walker explained that roll forward funds are monies not spend during the previous fiscal year and a request must be made to carry forward the funds to the current fiscal year.

Mrs. Thigpen asked if contracting lawn service at the schools was common practice. Mr. Norris responded that three schools contract the service because they do not have the equipment and/or staff available to do the job.

At the request of Dr. Smith, the Chairman added as Consent #21 a request for approval of a self-help project for additional parking at Silver Sands School.

Mr. Hill asked if authorizing membership in the Florida League of the Arts would be opening the door for other organizations to solicit the membership of the Board. Mr. Gaetz stated that already there are a number of memberships being paid throughout the county and that these memberships are currently being reviewed for their benefit to the District. This particular organization provides substantial services to students and acts as a facilitator for grants; therefore, approval of the membership is recommended.

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Mr. Gaetz stated that he has been informed that it is not necessary to advertise for a public hearing on the revisions of the HRMD Plan because it is not considered Board policy. With this clarification, he stated that his recommendation is to approve the HRMD Plan Revisions.

Because Board Members received the revised HRMD Plan just prior to the workshop and had not had time to review it, he requested each member contact Dr. Fuller prior to the meeting to have their questions addressed. He stated that there would be open discussion of the revisions at the meeting if necessary.

Mrs. Frakes stated that there will be a meeting with the Legislative Delegation next Thursday to present the Okaloosa School District State Legislative Agenda for 2001. She distributed and briefly reviewed the proposed Legislative Agenda stating that she will be requesting the Board approve the School District Legislative Priorities as well as endorse the Legislative Priorities of the Florida School Boards Association during the meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Walker provided information on funding options for the proposed athletic complex at Fort Walton Beach High School and to address Title IX needs at all middle and high schools. He also provided information prepared by Mrs. Wascom outlining the District's current debt service. Discussion of the information followed. Mr. Walker recommended each of the members discuss the issue with Superintendent Gaetz and Mrs. Wascom prior to the meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Walker stated that at Tuesday's meeting he will be requesting the Board commit to building athletic facilities at Fort Walton Beach High School and to addressing Title IX issues at all schools. A recommendation on the total amount will be made at a later date after receiving an estimate on costs.

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

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

DON GAETZ
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD