

## **REGULAR MEETING - MAY 14, 2001**

The Invocation was offered by Mr. Taylor; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Thigpen.

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on May 14, 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 6:00 p.m., and welcomed visitors and presenters.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

Public Discussion: Items 7 through 12 were deleted at the request of the presenters

Consent Agenda: Added as item #4A, School Calendar for DJJ Schools; item #4 was made #4B; item #5 was amended to include 6 computers and 2 printers for Finance; added as item #31, Renewal of Maintenance Agreement for the SEMS Program

### **VISITORS:**

- 1/2. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 01-14 honoring the Niceville High School 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and Varsity Knowledge Masters Teams and Coach George Dickey as State Champions in the Spring 2001 Knowledge Master Open was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously.
3. Resolution No. 01-15 honoring Jolyn Taylor, Choctawhatchee High School student, as the Florida State Champion in Tennis was adopted on a motion by Mrs. Frakes, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously.
4. Resolution No. 01-16 honoring the Choctawhatchee High School "Smoke Signals" Staff for receiving First Place in Florida in Student Journalism was adopted on a motion by Mrs. Frakes, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously. Members of the staff were also recognized for receiving individual awards in journalism.
5. Mr. Arden Farley introduced the Okaloosa County School-Related Employee of the Year, Gregory Patrick, and Finalists, James W. Woodward and Amy C. Carmical. Each was presented a plaque from the Okaloosa County School District and a monetary award from the Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation, Inc.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

1. Mr. Jim Haberlin expressed concern with violence in the schools and the way it is dealt with in the schools (Exhibit 01-279).

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Mr. Walker requested the Superintendent investigate the situation reported by Mr. Haberlin and report back to the Board.

3. Dr. Lynn Keefe stated that the early starting time for middle and high schools was not conducive to the sleep pattern of teenagers. The lack of sleep is affecting students medically and academically. She requested the Board consider a later starting time for school. (Exhibit 01-280)
6. Dr. Eugene Valentine stated that it has been medically proven that teenagers need more sleep. A study of a Minnesota school district that changed to a later starting time for high school students indicates improvement in academic performance, athletic performance and attendance. (Exhibit 01-281)
2. Dr. Eleanor McCain provided information on the affects of sleep deprivation. She reviewed the November 1998 results of the Minneapolis Public Schools Start Time Study. The results of the study for the following three years will be available in June. (Exhibit 01-282)
4. Ms. Lynne Shirley stated that the 7:00 a.m. starting time for students is too early. Many students are late for school or inattentive in their morning classes. (Exhibit 01-283)
5. Ms. Geri Wolfe expressed concern that the early starting time for high school students did not provide the best academic environment and that 7:00 a.m. was an unreasonable time for students to be at school. (Exhibit 01-284)

Mr. Walker stated that the Superintendent will be reviewing the bus schedule this year. He requested board members work with the Superintendent to find ways to adjust the schedule for the 2002-2003 school year.

Mr. Gaetz stated that he has provided to the Board some budget options for changing some starting times. He is requesting a comprehensive audit to determine the efficiency of the bus routes. He is further requesting input from public and private agencies on ways to minimize the cost of making changes in the schedule.

7. Deleted - Proposed Changes at Laurel Hill School, presented by James Dunn
8. Deleted - Proposed Changes at Laurel Hill School, presented by Carol Smith
9. Deleted - Proposed Changes at Laurel Hill School, presented by Laura Chamberlain
10. Deleted - Proposed Changes at Laurel Hill School, presented by Claudia Stewart
11. Deleted - Proposed Changes at Laurel Hill School, presented by Asher J. Kahler
12. Deleted - Proposed Changes at Laurel Hill School, presented by Martha Lundy

## **DISCUSSION AGENDA #5:**

Chairman Walker offered the following proposal for contingent approval to proceed with the Fort Walton Beach High School Stadium and Sports Complex (Exhibit 01-285):

The School Board acknowledges with gratitude the successful efforts of Senator Charlie Clary to secure designated funding in the FY 2001-2002 state budget in the amount of \$3 million for construction of a stadium and sports complex for Fort Walton Beach High School.

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The School District has been informed by Senator Clary that, due to the designated nature of this funding, no part of this appropriation can be used for operating expenses, employee salaries and benefits, or for any other purpose except design and building of a stadium and sports complex at Fort Walton Beach High School.

The District has been further informed that this designated appropriation was not a reduction in other funds which otherwise would have gone to Okaloosa County schools.

Senator Clary has advised the District that this \$3 million would have been designated by the Legislature for another local project in another county and, if it is not expended for the designated purpose, must be returned to the state.

The Board appreciates the advocacy and interest of Fort Walton Beach High School fans and boosters for this project, noting that without their loyalty and dedication, a stadium and sports complex would never have been possible. The Board encourages Viking boosters and fans to continue their efforts by encouraging the Governor to sign the budget and by persisting in their own private sector fund-raising efforts.

Therefore, contingent upon the Governor's approval of the budget, the Board directs the Superintendent to take all necessary action to fulfill state survey requirements and undertake all other steps consistent with Board policy and state law leading to the design and building of a stadium and sports complex at Fort Walton Beach High School within the \$3 million state appropriation and any private funds which are raised.

The Board further directs the Superintendent to assure faculty, staff, parents, and supporters of Edwins Elementary School that the development of this project at Fort Walton Beach High School will not cause the closure of Edwins Elementary School.

Motion to approve the Chairman's proposal was made by Mrs. Frakes, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

Board members and the Superintendent expressed their appreciation to Senator Clary for his support of Fort Walton Beach High School and the Okaloosa County School District and his efforts in securing the special appropriation.

The Chairman recognized Fort Walton Beach High School student Ben Wuerffel to read a letter from his brother Danny Wuerffel, former student and athlete. The letter expressed thanks to the School Board for its support of Fort Walton Beach High School students and community and the construction of the sports facility.

Also recognized by the Chairman was Fort Walton Beach High School student Amy Bonezzi. Speaking on behalf of the Fort Walton Beach High School student body, staff, and community, Ms. Bonezzi also thanked the Board, Superintendent, and Senator Clary for their support and expressed appreciation for the stadium funding.

The Chairman recessed the meeting at 7:20 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.; all members present as before.

**PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS:** None

**COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS (Workshop Only):**

1. Facilities Construction Update, presented by Bill Smith
2. Update on Community Affairs/Grants, presented by Ray Sansom
3. Minutes of Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation Meetings, presented by Ray Sansom (Exhibit 01-286)

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4. Priorities for Elementary Gifted Program Design, presented by Dr. Robert McEachern
5. Presentation of Draft School Performance Budgets for 2001-2002, presented by Superintendent Don Gaetz
6. Capital Outlay Proposal for Girls Athletic Facilities, School Roofs, and Bruner Middle School, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-287).

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 23, 2001, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Payment of Invoices dated May 14, 2001, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-288).
3. Warrants in the amount of \$52,388,127.68, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-289).
- 4A. School Calendar for Juvenile Justice Schools for the 2001-2002 school year, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-290).
- 4B. Payroll Calendars for FY 2001-2002, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-291).
5. Appropriation of \$400,000.00 to purchase two hundred (200) laptop computers for teachers, and \$15,000.00 to purchase six (6) computers and two (2) printers for the Finance Department, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-292).
6. Acceptance of donation to Destin Elementary School from Debra Anderson in the amount of \$2500.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-293).
7. Acceptance of donation to Elliott Point Elementary School from Todd Schweizer of Signature Buildings LTD Partnership in the amount of \$10,000.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-294).
8. Acceptance of donation to Fort Walton Beach High School from Russel Dwayne Williams in the amount of \$750.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-295).
9. Acceptance of donations to Destin Middle School from Allen C. Phillips in the amount of \$2400.00 and from Church of Resurrection in the amount of \$2000.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-296).
10. Acceptance of donation to Baker School from the Baker Lion's Club in the amount of \$500.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-297).

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11. Acceptance of donation to Cherokee Elementary School from the Wal-Mart Foundation in the amount of \$500.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-298).
12. Acceptance of donation to Laurel Hill School from Jessie Taylor in the amount of \$1200.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-299).
13. Surplus Property Lists, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-300):
  - A. List #01-22 Computers, Okaloosa Applied Technology Center
  - B. List #01-23 Playground Equipment, Florosa Elementary School
14. Self-help project for Antioch Elementary School for the construction of a pre-engineered 40' x 80' metal building, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-301).
15. Summer Bus Fees for outside agencies and authorization to not waive any user's fees during Summer 2001, presented by Jay McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-302).
16. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
  - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 01-303)
  - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 01-304)
  - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 01-303)
  - D. Suspension of Employee #592-20-4364 (Exhibit 01-305)
17. Employment Separations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-306).
18. Reinstatement of Sick Leave due to line-of-duty illness/injury/medical examination, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-307):
  - A. Camellia McSparren, Edwins Elementary, ½ day
  - B. Martha Erdbrink, Transportation, 4.25 hours
  - C. Lucretia Hayes, Edge Elementary, 10.5 days
19. School District of Okaloosa County Insurance Renewals for 2001-2002 for property, auto liability, workers' compensation, crime, boiler & machinery, errors and omission, student catastrophic, and special events policies, presented by Jim Palmer and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-308).
20. Rescind the zoning waiver freeze from Combs-New Heights Elementary School to other elementary school, presented by Dr. Frank Fuller and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-309).
21. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Gulf Exhibition Corporation, presented by Dr. Frank Fuller and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-310).
22. Elementary Textbook Adoptions, presented by Patti Boyles and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-311):
  - A. Harcourt Language Arts (K-5)
  - B. Harcourt Social Studies (K-5)

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23. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the Sheriff of Okaloosa County for the School Resource Officer Program, presented by Ray Sansom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-312).
24. Grant Applications, presented by Ray Sansom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
  - A. Voices in Harmony, submitted by Destin Middle School (Exhibit 01-313)
  - B. Business Partnership Challenge Grant Program (Exhibit 01-314)
  - C. Tobacco Prevention and Intervention Teacher Training Project (Exhibit 01-315)
  - D. Homeless Children and Youth Project (Exhibit 01-316)
25. Affiliation with Panhandle Library Access Network, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-317).
26. Crestview High School Summer Institute for Original Credit for Summer 2001, presented by Robert Jones and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-318).
27. Crestview High School Modified Block Schedule, presented by Robert Jones and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-319).
28. Final Exam Days for secondary schools designated as May 21, 22, and 23, 2001, and instructional time reduced from five hours to four hours, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-320).
29. Early release for graduating 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-321).
30. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-322; see bid file for additional information):
  - A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests:
    - (1) Renewal of Bid #00-B11 Film Wrap, Polyester, Polypropylene, awarded to Sun Packaging Tech, Inc., in the amount of \$19,342.50 (estimated total for year)
    - (2) Renewal of Bid #01-B06 Fresh Pizza awarded to Dominos for Fort Walton Beach High and Choctawhatchee High; Merlins for Pryor Middle; R & L Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Papa John's Pizza for Ruckel Middle, Crestview High, Baker School, and Destin Middle; Pizza Hut for Niceville High, Meigs Middle, Richbourg Middle, Bruner Middle and Davidson Middle
    - (3) Renewal of Bid #01-B10 Services & Materials for Pest Control awarded to Bryan Pest Control for the Fort Walton Zone in the amount of \$4440.00; Envirotec for the Niceville Zone in the amount of \$3000.00; and Bryan Pest Control for the Crestview Zone in the amount of \$2448.00; total amount of \$9888.00
    - (4) Renewal of Bid #01-B11 Paint - County-wide (Fixed Price Contract) awarded to Color Center (Fort Walton Beach), Color Wheel Paints & Coatings, Crestview Color Center, Destin Color Center, Hollywood Paint & Color Works, Niceville Color Center, The Sherwin-Williams Company, and Vaughn's Paint & Decorating

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- (5) Renewal of Bid #01-B14 Dishwashing Compounds awarded to Auto-Chlor System in the amount of \$24,090.00
  - (6) Renewal of Bid #01-B16 Wastewater Treatment Facility - Baker School awarded to Jerry D. Mitchem in the amount of \$18,600.00
  - (7) Renewal of Bid #01-B18 Lawn Service for Valparaiso Elementary awarded to Gulf Coast Landscape, Inc., in the amount of \$12,000.00
- B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None
31. Maintenance and Support Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and eSchool Solutions, Inc., (formerly TSSi MircoSage, Inc.) for the Substitute Employee Management System (SEMS) in the amount of \$5437.50 for the first year term, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-323).

### **DISCUSSION AGENDA:**

1. Motion to approve the District Waiver of requirement of World Geography for graduation for students participating in the Immersion Program at Fort Walton Beach High School, presented by Dr. Frank Fuller and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 01-324).
2. Wright Elementary School was designated the National Teacher Certification Center for the South Zone schools on a motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 01-325).
3. The Elliott Point Elementary School Dress Code was approved on a motion by Mrs. Frakes, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously (Exhibit 01-326).
4. Motion was made by Mr. Hill to authorize the issuance of I-20 Forms to foreign students applying for an F-1 visa subject to a parent, legal guardian or adult legally responsible for the student during his/her enrollment in the Okaloosa County School District completing and signing a notarized agreement that: A) the program is restricted to English-speaking students in grades 9-12; B) the cost of tuition will be the unsubsidized per capita cost of education within Okaloosa County using the Florida Department of Education formulas; C) payment must be made to the Okaloosa County School District by certified or cashiers check in U.S. dollars prior to issuance of the I-20 Form; D) I-20 Form will be for one time, non-renewable and will not extend past the end of the school year enrolled; and, E) the student will be dis-enrolled at the end of the school year. The District will retain 10% of the tuition and the remaining 90% will flow to the student's school. (Exhibit 01-327)

Mr. Gaetz stated that he recommends I-20 Forms be issued subject to the conditions outlined by Mr. Hill.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously.

### **CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE'S BUSINESS:**

Motion to approve the following Change Orders and Lease Agreement was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously:

1. Sverdrup/Delta Capital Outlay Program No. 2, Task Order No. 2, Change Order No. 15, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-328).

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2. Sverdrup/Delta Capital Outlay Program No. 2, Task Order No. 2, Change Order No. 16, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-329).
3. Sverdrup/Delta Capital Outlay Program No. 2, Task Order No. 3, Change Order No. 15, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-330).
4. Sverdrup/Delta Capital Outlay Program No. 2, Task Order No. 3, Change Order No. 16, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-331).
5. Sverdrup/Delta Capital Outlay Program No. 2, Task Order No. 3, Change Order No. 17, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-332).
6. Sverdrup/Delta Capital Outlay Program No. 2, Task Order No. 4, Change Order No. 4, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-333).
7. Lease between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Sprint-Florida, Inc., for the installation and maintenance of lines at certain school sites, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-334).

**BIDS AND PURCHASING:** None

**ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS:** None

### **BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:**

Mr. Hill stated that he has heard that some Laurel Hill School teachers are involving students in the conflict regarding the proposed changes at the school. He requested the Superintendent make sure this is not happening and that there are no violations of professional practices.

The Chairman asked Mrs. Thigpen to serve as the Board's representative on the selection committee for the Employee Assistance Program provider. Mrs. Thigpen accepted.

Mr. Walker stated that a plan for Laurel Hill School has been worked out by the School Advisory Council that is within the budget. Mrs. Wascom will be providing the updated plan for the budget book.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:**

1. The personnel recommendations for support, instructional and administrative employees were submitted for the Board's review. The Superintendent requested the Board consider approval of the recommendations at the Special Meeting on May 23, 2001. (Exhibit 01-335)

The Superintendent also requested the Board consider approval of the three budget options that were presented at Workshop during this Special Meeting.

Mr. Gaetz requested approval of the recommendations he made at Workshop for summer capital outlay projects which included the major renovations at Bruner Middle School, roofing projects, and girls athletic facility projects as well as the purchase of equipment for



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Project CHILD programs at Southside Elementary and Northwood Elementary. (Exhibit 01-287)

Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations as stated was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously.

Mr. Gaetz requested the Special Meeting scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on May 23 to consider personnel recommendations and other budget matters be continued through the afternoon to address specific questions from board members regarding the school budgets. He further requested a Workshop be scheduled for May 24 beginning at 9:00 a.m. to continue the review of the budget and that June 4 be tentatively scheduled for a workshop to complete the budget review. The Chairman approved these requests.

The Superintendent announced that the Finance Department has made arrangements for payroll checks to be ready for teachers to pick up on May 29, last day for teachers, rather than the scheduled last day of the month. He also advised the Board that at a later date he will be recommending the 2002 payroll calendar be amended to accomplish the same.

As a matter of record, Mr. Gaetz informed the Board that he has agreed to provide the required student data to OWCC and UWF for participants in the College Reach-Out Program.

Responding to board members' requests, Mr. Gaetz stated that every school will have a music program with the exception of Ocean City Elementary in which case the school advisory council voted to have a full-time art program instead.

2. Bruner Middle School baseball team to attend Atlanta Braves baseball games in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 19-20, 2001 (Exhibit 01-336).
3. Niceville High School Speech and Debate Team to compete in the Catholic Forensics League's Grand Nationals in New York City on May 25-29, 2001 (Exhibit 01-337).
4. Niceville High School yearbook staff to attend camp in Auburn, Alabama, on June 13-15, 2001 (Exhibit 01-338).
5. Richbourg Middle School summer basketball students to attend the Troy State University Basketball Camp on June 22-24, 2001 (Exhibit 01-339).

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

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DON GAETZ  
SUPERINTENDENT AND  
CORPORATE SECRETARY

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RODNEY L. WALKER  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD