

REGULAR MEETING - SEPTEMBER 24, 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 September 24, 2001, in the Okaloosa County Courthouse, Crestview, 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 4:00 p.m. and welcomed visitors and presenters.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. McInnis requested the renewal of a Professional Services Agreement with Dinah Remington to provide counseling services at Longwood Elementary be added to the Consent Agenda.

Patricia Wascom requested Consent #2, Program Cost Report for Fiscal Year 2000-2001, be deleted.

Carolyn Lulue requested a School-to-Work Program Agreement with ABC Kiddie Kollege be added to the Consent Agenda.

All of the above requests were approved by the Chairman.

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

Consent Agenda: Item #2 was deleted; Item #7 became #7A; added as #7B, School-to-Work Program Agreement with ABC Kiddie Kollege; added as item #20, Professional Services Agreement with Dinah Remington

VISITORS:

1. The Florida Department of Education Five Star School Award was presented to Baker School and Southside Elementary. This award is presented annually to schools that have shown evidence of exemplary community involvement. Certificates were presented to each school by Ray Sansom and Superintendent Gaetz.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: No Request

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: None

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:

1. Facilities Construction Update, presented by Bill Smith - no report
2. Community Affairs/Grants Update, presented by Ray Sansom - written report submitted (Exhibit 01-654)

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3. Evaluation of Title VII Foreign Language Assistance Grant, presented by Terry Bevino and Don Gaetz (Exhibit 01-655)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Frakes regarding recommendations for continuation of this program, Mrs. Bevino responded that this particular evaluation did not provide enough quantitative data and a better assessment of the program with reliable statistics is needed to make recommendations. She added that some schools have stated an interest in providing more intensive foreign language instruction.

4. In-County Travel paid from the period of August 30, 2001 through September 12, 2001, presented by Patricia Wascom (see Finance Department files)

Mr. Walker noted that there were several large payments made for reimbursement of in-county travel. He stated that he has discussed these with Mrs. Tabor and Mrs. Wascom and they will be monitoring employees' school assignments/schedules and changes will be made if necessary. He requested that the Board be made aware of any future agreements to pay travel reimbursement to an individual providing transportation for a student.

5. Out-of-County Travel paid from the period of August 30, 2001 through September 12, 2001, presented by Patricia Wascom (see Finance Department files)

The Chairman recessed the Regular Meeting and called to order the Public Hearing at 4:15 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. McInnis presented for the Board's approval revised School Board Policy 2-11(O), Cost of Athletic Event Tickets for Senior High Schools. He noted that on August 13, 2001, the Board adopted an emergency amendment to this policy and subsequently approved an increase in the price of football tickets at two senior high schools. Approval of the revised policy at this time will be the permanent policy adoption.

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Motion to adopt School Board Policy 2-11(O), Cost of Athletic Event Tickets for Senior High Schools, as presented and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously. (Exhibit 01-656)

The Chairman concluded the hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 4:18 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mrs. Frakes expressed thanks to the individuals involved in the development of the Supplemental Academic Instruction Plans. She stated that the plans reflect creative ways to make a difference in academic instruction. She offered two suggestions for next year's plans: One, that every school use the same format and secondly, the use of percentage or number of students affected.

Dr. Spence presented the recommended procedures for the Teacher Computer Program. Mr. Gaetz stated that there was some questions by the bargaining unit regarding the funding source for the computers and the training requirements. He clarified that the funding and the program has been provided through the Board's approved Capital Outlay Budget and he recommended the procedures for distribution of computers to new teachers be approved as presented with these amendments: "Recruitment/Retention" being removed

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from the title of the proposed procedures and the deletion of the second sentence of procedure #3.

Mr. Hill questioned procedure #4 regarding the teacher's responsibility to pay the cost of repair or replacement of a computer due to intentional damage or damage caused by willful neglect. In response, Mr. Gaetz suggested the word "such" be deleted from the second sentence of this procedure in order to clarify that teachers will be responsible for the cost of repair or replacement in this case.

The Chairman asked if OCEA was in agreement with these changes. Sheila Olsen, OCEA President, confirmed that she was in agreement with these procedures with the changes recommended by the Superintendent.

In reference to the suspension of Employee #439944440 without pay pending further investigation, Mr. McInnis advised the Board that he has heard from the employee's attorney. Though the attorney is not appearing before the Board at this meeting, he has requested a letter he is sending be made a part of the record. Their position is that they want to reserve the right to challenge the suspension pending the outcome of the investigation. The Chairman authorized the letter from the attorney to be made a part of the record upon receipt.

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

1. Minutes of Workshop Meeting of September 6, 2001; Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 10, 2001; and Minutes of Special Disciplinary Hearing of September 6, 2001, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Deleted - Program Cost Report for Fiscal Year 2000-2001, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
3. Monthly Financial Report for August 2001, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-657).
4. Acceptance of donation to Laurel Hill School from George B. Wittmer in the amount of \$539.64, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-658).
5. Acceptance of donations to Destin Middle School from The Nesius Family Trust in the amount of \$3025.00; Mike Meyer Skimboards, Inc., in the amount of \$1100.00; Emerald Coast Sports Camp, Inc., in the amount of \$500.00; KMO Enterprises of Destin in the amount of \$1000.00; and Beach Services in the amount of \$500.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-659).
6. Acceptance of donation to Davidson Middle School from Timothy M. Clark in the amount of \$2500.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-660).
7. Agreements between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the following employers to provide training for ESE students participating in the School-to-Work Program, presented by Carolyn Lulue and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-661):
 - A. Kelley's Supervalu, Inc.
 - B. ABC Kiddie Kollege
8. Amendment 1 to Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the Okaloosa County School Readiness Coalition to provide prekindergarten early

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- intervention services, presented by Carolyn Lulue and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-662).
9. Amendment 1 to Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Okaloosa-Walton Child Care Services to provide educational services to prekindergarten students, presented by Carolyn Lulue and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-663).
 10. Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) Plan, presented by Terry Bevino and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-664).
 11. Procedures for the Teacher Computer Program, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-665).
 12. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 01-666)
 - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 01-667)
 - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 01-666)
 - D. Termination of Employee #400885357 (Exhibit 01-668)
 - E. Suspension of Employee #439944440 (Exhibit 01-669)
 13. Employment Separations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-670).
 14. Cleared Certification Requirements and Issuance of Contract for 2001-2002 School Year, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval - None.
 15. Out-of-Field Report for Fall 2001-2002, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-671).
 16. 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 01-672):
 - A. Diane Devine, Valparaiso Elementary, 2 days
 - B. Sam Radford, Nutrition Center, 10 days
 - C. Michelle Rock, Baker School .75 day
 17. Request to advertise a public hearing for revision of School Board Policy 5-3 entitled Directory Information, presented and recommended for approval by the Superintendent (Exhibit 01-673).
 18. Zoning Waivers, presented by Assistant Superintendents and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-674):
 - A. Central Zone Schools
 - B. North Zone Schools
 - C. South Zone Schools
 19. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None
 - B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None
 20. Professional Services Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Dinah S. Remington, LMHC, to provide counseling services at Longwood Elementary

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School, presented by Jeff McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-675).

DISCUSSION AGENDA:

1. Consideration of School Improvement Plan Requests, Responses and Updates, presented by Assistant Superintendents and recommended by the Superintendent for approval: None
2. Motion to amend Form For Submitting Agenda Item (MIS 5235) to include the following check list of information to be provided for major agenda items (routine items exempted) was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously (Exhibit 01-676):
 - a. the reason for the recommended action on the item
 - b. how the action will be accomplished
 - c. what the desired results are
 - d. what alternatives have been considered
 - e. what resources will be needed
 - f. who will be affected and whether they have been advised of and given opportunity for input on the proposed action
 - g. how the proposed action will affect students and parents
 - h. what policy or law may apply to the item
 - i. whether the item complies with, duplicates, modifies, or affects existing policies or procedures
 - j. whether a new policy is needed to implement the proposed action
 - k. what the time frame is for implementing and completing the proposed action
 - l. who will evaluate the proposed action and how it will be evaluated

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE'S BUSINESS:

1. Funding for the Proposed Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Bruner Middle School Renovation and Remodeling Project, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended for approval by the Superintendent, was approved on a motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 01-677).

BIDS AND PURCHASING: None

ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS:

Mr. McInnis stated that he would be contacting the board members to schedule a Special Session regarding pending litigation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:

1. Choctawhatchee High School Minority Council to attend the Gulf Coast Classic football game in Mobile, Alabama, on September 22, 2001 (Exhibit 01-678).

Mr. Gaetz thanked the board members, principals, and teachers for their support and leadership during this time of national tragedy. He stated that although our community has been affected indirectly up to this point, we will now be directly affected by the deployment of military personnel in our community. He asked for their continued efforts to make sure support services and counseling services are available to students and employees.

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Mr. Gaetz also thanked Gloria Frazier and Cindy Frakes, ERA American Realty, for placing American flags around all the schools. And, thanks was given to Pastor Jim Grabo for coordinating the memorial service held at Etheridge Stadium.

Mr. Gaetz noted that *Christian Science Monitor*, a national newspaper, used Okaloosa County as an example of how a school district acts with care and with calm in the face of crisis.

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

Mrs. Frakes acknowledged receipt of a letter regarding spelling and grammar errors in the Master Contract for support personnel. She stated that no educational document should have those kinds of errors and that she hopes it is being addressed.

Mr. Gaetz responded that he has spoken with Mike Foxworthy about this issue. Mr. Foxworthy states that it is a document that has been created over many years by negotiations and there are some areas where he is embarrassed that there are mistakes of grammar. But, there are some areas of awkward syntax and weird meaning in the grammar which was actually negotiated at that time and are deliberate.

Mrs. Frakes expressed thanks to the Superintendent for his calm leadership during the time of tragedy and for his efforts to keep everyone informed of the district's position during this time.

Mr. Walker presented the Board meeting schedule for November and December 2001. He asked members to notify Mr. McInnis or Ms. Epperson if they have a scheduling conflict. (Exhibit 01-679)

To diminish apparent misunderstandings within the community and schools, Mr. Walker stated that there is no intention of the Board or Superintendent to take 60% of Booster Club funds for use in the General Fund or for other sports. He stated that there will be some minor modifications in procedures to comply with Title IX guidelines.

To conclude the meeting Chairman Walker asked Ray Sansom to say a prayer for our country.

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

DON GAETZ
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD