

## **REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 8, 2001**

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

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on October 8, 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 6:40 p.m., immediately following the Special Disciplinary Hearing.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

Consent Agenda: Item #16D was revised as Continuation of Suspension of Employee #439944440

Superintendent's Business: Added as item #2, Travel Request by the Niceville High School debate team

### **VISITORS:**

1. The Florida Department of Education Five Star School Award was presented to Mary Esther Elementary School. This award is presented annually to schools that have shown evidence of exemplary community involvement. A certificate was presented to Daphne Player, School Principal, by Ray Sansom and Superintendent Gaetz.
2. Mrs. Frakes introduced Diane Conroy, Ginny Barr, Pete Saul, and Don Fountain, members of the "Tell Somebody" Committee. Ms. Conroy thanked the Board for the funds they have provided and their support of the program. Last year's campaign focused on getting students to tell somebody if they knew of some dangerous, harmful or illegal activity happening in the school. This year's campaign has been expanded to show students who to inform of this type of activity. Selective members of the community have been given "Tell Me" buttons to wear that identifies them as someone who would be receptive to a student telling them about a problem and who would act responsibly.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** No Request

**PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS:** None

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

1. Facilities Construction Update, presented by Bill Smith
2. Community Affairs/Grants Update, presented by Ray Sansom

## REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 8, 2001

- A. Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation update on Take Stock in Children Scholarship Program
- 3. In-County Travel paid from the period of September 13 - 26, 2001, presented by Patricia Wascom (See Finance Department files)
- 4. Out-of-County Travel paid from the period of September 13 - 26, 2001, presented by Patricia Wascom (See Finance Department files)

### CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Walker stated that he would support the recommendation of the Superintendent for the termination of Employee #439944440 if in fact this employee did make threatening statements about the President of the United States.

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

- 1. Minutes of Special Meeting of September 17, 2001; Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 24, 2001; Minutes of Special Disciplinary Hearing of September 24, 2001, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
- 2. Payment of Invoices dated October 8, 2001, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-681).
- 3. Warrants in the amount of \$40,684,936.12, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-682).
- 4. Program Cost Report for Fiscal Year 2000-2001, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-683).
- 5. Acceptance of donation to Crestview High School from Campus Recognition in the amount of \$1400.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-684).
- 6. Acceptance of donation to Davidson Middle School from King Electric in the amount of \$500.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-685).
- 7. Acceptance of donation to Destin 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 01-686).
- 8. Acceptance of donation to Fort Walton Beach High School from Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Henry in the amount of \$1000.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-687).
- 9. Acceptance of donations to Fort Walton Beach High School from Orthopedic Associates in the amount of \$500.00 and from Publix Supermarkets in the amount of \$500.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-688).
- 10. Acceptance of donation to Destin Elementary School from Rally for Recreation in the amount of \$2000.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-689).

## REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 8, 2001

11. Acceptance of donation to Niceville High School from Gemini Design Custom Screen Printing in the amount of \$1400.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-690).
12. Authorization to tag on to Bid #01-B13 for the construction of a metal building at Antioch Elementary School, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-691).
13. Grant Applications, presented by Ray Sansom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
  - A. Information Technology Instructional Training Program for 2001-2002 (Exhibit 01-692)
  - B. Tobacco Prevention and Intervention Teacher Training Project (Exhibit 01-693)
  - C. Continuation of the Public Charter Schools Federal Grant Program for Okaloosa-Walton Community College Charter High School (Exhibit 01-694)
14. Drop-out Prevention Plan, presented by Betty Howard and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-695).
15. Interinstitutional Articulation Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Troy State University/Florida Region for The University School, presented by Terry Bevino and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-696).
16. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
  - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 01-697)
  - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 01-698)
  - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 01-697)
  - D. Continuation of Suspension of Employee #439944440 (see Personnel file)
17. Employment Separations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-699).
18. Cleared Certification Requirements and Issuance of Contract for 2001-2002 School Year, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-700).
19. Addendum to Out-of-Field Report for Fall 2001-2002, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-701).
20. Request to advertise a public hearing for adoption of a new job description for Web Technician, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-702).
21. Zoning Waivers, presented by Assistant Superintendents and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-703):
  - A. North Zone Schools
  - B. South Zone Schools
22. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-704, see bid file for additional information):
  - A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests:
    - (1) Bid #02-B17 Cereal awarded to Mutual Division, District Nutrition Center

## REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 8, 2001

- (2) Bid #02-B20 Transportation Services, Charter Buses, awarded to Dreamcatcher Shuttle, Good Times Tours, Triumphet Coach, Southern Motor Coach, G & M Travel, Colonial Trailways, and Sunshine Express Tours
- (3) Renewal of Bid #01-B30 Seat Covers and Foam awarded to United School Bus Seat Service, Transportation South
- (4) First Class Coach & Equipment, Inc., Sole Source for Bus Parts (authorized Thomas/Freightliner Custom Chassis Dealer), Transportation
- (5) Florida Transportation Systems, Inc., Sole Source for Bus Parts (authorized Bluebird Distributors), Transportation
- (6) Ward International Trucks, Inc., Sole Source for Bus Parts, Transportation
- (7) Renewal of Sole Source Agreement with Dow Corning for Silicon Roof Coating, South Maintenance
- (8) Renewal of Sole Source Agreement with Ivanco Company (Edwards Systems Technology) for Fire Alarm Systems, Maintenance
- (9) Renewal of Sole Source Agreement with Systems Specialist, Inc. (Barber Colman Controls) for Fire Alarm Systems, Maintenance
- (10) Letter of Agreement with Kellogg Sales Company for Cereal (State of Florida Contract), District Nutrition Center
- (11) Renewal of Sole Source, Sagebrush Technologies, Inc., for District-wide Athena Technical Support in the amount of \$13,156.63, Media Services

### B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None

In reference to Consent #16D, Mr. Gaetz noted for the record that while OCEA and the District are at odds regarding this matter, he would like to thank Mr. Foxworthy for working cooperatively with the District so that both have additional time to gather information in an effort to do what is right in this situation.

### 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 approve the recommendation of the Superintendent for the continuation of benefits for employees called into active service for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 01-705).

This action authorizes the Superintendent to take all necessary actions to:

1. continue all employee benefits for individuals who are called into active military service by the President for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

## **REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 8, 2001**

2. ensure that such employees, when they return from active service, retain rights to rejoin group insurance coverage.
3. expend funds up to \$100,000 from undesignated fund balance to pay the full cost of family health insurance coverage on behalf of such employees who already have opted for such coverage for up to six months while they are on active duty in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.
4. seek a waiver of the union contract in order to provide these benefits to employees who are called to active duty.

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

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

1. Sverdrup/Delta Program No. 2, Task Order No. 2, Change Order No. 18, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-706).
2. Sverdrup/Delta Program No. 2, Task Order No. 2, Change Order No. 19, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-707).
3. The Board acknowledged receipt of the Program Status Report for August 2001 covering the activities of Sverdrup/Delta on the Okaloosa County School District Construction Management Program, submitted by Steve Hancock, Program Manager (Exhibit 01-708).

**BIDS AND PURCHASING:** None

### **ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS:**

Mr. McInnis stated that he received a contract from Sverdrup/Delta for internet access service with Sprint. He requested the Board authorize the Chairman and Superintendent to execute the contract after he reviews the contract and confirms with Johnny Bruner that it meets the terms he has negotiated.

Motion to authorize the Chairman and Superintendent to execute the contract with Sprint for internet access service was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 01-709).

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

1. Crestview High School band to participate in the Daleville Invitational Band Festival in Daleville, Alabama, on October 6, 2001 (Exhibit 01-710).
2. Niceville High School debate team to participate in the Bronx Invitational Debate Tournament at Bronx High School in New York, New York, on October 19-21, 2001 (Exhibit 01-711).

Mr. Gaetz announced that the School Calendar Committee for the 2002-2003 school year has been established. The Parent Leaders Council has elected three representatives to serve with representatives from OCEA and J. C. Connor to gather information, solicit input from parents and teachers, evaluate possibilities and to bring recommendations forward.

## REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 8, 2001

### BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

Mr. Hill stated that the Niceville newspaper has published information about a new Bluewater Sports Complex to be built on School District property on Lancaster Road. After having discussed this issue with the Superintendent he asked that it be noted for the record that there is no plan or proposal to build anything on the Lancaster Road property being considered.

Mr. Walker passed the gavel to Mrs. Frakes and made a motion to impose a hiring freeze on all administrative and non-instructional positions. Mr. Hill seconded the motion with the understanding that this does not include teaching positions.

Mrs. Thigpen asked if bus drivers were included in non-instructional positions. Mr. Walker responded that the intent of this action is to avoid lay-off of current personnel. If a bus driver or other position is needed in order to provide adequate service, then the position will be filled.

The motion carried unanimously and the gavel was returned to the Chairman.

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 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