

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

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on October 22, 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 4:05 p.m. and welcomed visitors and presenters.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. McInnis requested a revision to Consent item #16D in order to hold the recommendation for termination of Employee #439944440 until the next meeting and to continue the suspension with pay of the employee until that time. He also requested the addition of an Educational Services Agreement with Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation.

The Superintendent requested two travel requests by the Crestview High School band be added under his business.

Mr. Hill requested Consent #23 be moved to the Discussion Agenda.

These changes to the Agenda were approved by the Chairman.

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

Consent Agenda (C.A.): Item #16D was revised as Continued Suspension of Employee #439944440 with the recommendation for termination being deferred to the next regular meeting; item #23 was moved to D.A. #5; added as item #24, Educational Services Agreement with Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation

Discussion Agenda (D.A.): Added as item #5, C.A. #23

Superintendent's Business: Added as item #3, Crestview High School band to attend the Deep South Music Festival; added as item #4, Crestview High School band to attend the Smoky Mountain Music Festival

VISITORS:

1. The Title 1 PreK Programs at Laurel Hill School, Northwood Elementary and Southside Elementary were recognized for receiving National Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
2. Patti Kroeger was recognized as the recipient of the Northwest Florida Arts Council and Cox/Bravo Champion for the Arts 2001 Award.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: No Request

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: None**COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:**

1. Facilities Construction Update, presented by Bill Smith

Bill Smith advised the Board that an easement is being requested from the City of Crestview for the parking area in front of Northwood Elementary School to be used for parking and for the placement of mechanical equipment. This area has been used as parking space for years under the premise that the property was owned by the school district. It has been determined that the property is owned by the City of Crestview and it would be appropriate to request a right-of-way easement from the City.

Mr. McInnis stated that he has sent a draft of the easement to the City of Crestview. Because of the amount of activity in this area, the City has asked that the School District indemnify them if there is an accident or damage there. Indemnification has been included up to the Board's limits of sovereign immunity. He added that there are municipal utilities running under this area. If the City has to make utility repairs in this area, the school district will be responsible for replacing the parking lot.

2. Community Affairs/Grants Update, presented by Ray Sansom (Exhibit 01-712)

Mr. Hill asked if the COPS in School grant was received. Mr. Sansom responded that the District was not awarded the grant but Sheriff Morris has agreed to place the additional resource officer in each high school at no cost to the District.

Mr. Hill also asked that an evaluation of the Governor's Mentor Initiative grant be provided since the grant was awarded a year ago.

Mr. Walker requested the Superintendent develop a system for monitoring grant funds once they are passed on to the schools. Board members also requested that the Grant Summary include the date the grant was awarded and the renewal date if it is a multiple year grant.

3. Okaloosa Academy, Inc. Financial Statements for June 30, 2001, presented by Terry Bevino (Exhibit 01-713)
4. Okaloosa-Walton Community College Collegiate High School Financial Statements for June 30, 2001, presented by Terry Bevino (Exhibit 01-714)

In reference to the financial statements provided by the charter schools, Mr. Gaetz stated that the fact that the Board receives these reports in no way suggests that the Board agrees with these financials statements nor any numbers or representations contained therein.

5. In-County Travel paid from the period of September 27 - October 10, 2001, presented by Patricia Wascom (Exhibit 01-715; see Finance files for additional information)
6. Out-of-County Travel paid from the period of September 27 - October 10, 2001, presented by Patricia Wascom (Exhibit 01-716; see Finance files for additional information)

Mrs. Frakes asked that efforts be made to coordinate out-of-county travel when employees are going to the same place.

Mr. Gaetz stated that because of the current budget shortfall all out-of-county travel will be restricted to those trips he specifically approves, including trips that would be paid from a funding source other than district funds.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mrs. Frakes noted that during the Special Disciplinary Hearing on October 8, 2001, Mr. Sabu Williams was not placed under oath to provide testimony. She asked that the minutes of the hearing reflect that correction.

Mrs. Frakes questioned the \$2.3 million increase under Vocational Education reflected in Budget Amendment #1. Mrs. Wascom explained that this reflected a movement of funds from reserve and a change between functions to better utilize funds.

Mr. Hill asked where the loss recovery funds from Hurricane George would be placed. Mrs. Wascom responded that these funds would be placed in a new reserve account to offset the deductible in the event of another emergency.

Mr. Gaetz noted that the \$7,400,000 revolving line of credit with Bank of America was not a new commitment but a renewal of the line of credit with the terms and conditions of the original closing documents remaining in full force and effect. The District does not currently anticipate the need to utilize the line of credit and there is no cost for continuing the commitment.

Mr. Gaetz also explained that the District must annually renew its Section 237.161, F.S., Capital Improvement loan. There is an outstanding principal balance of \$600,000 and the principal and interest payments have been budgeted for this year.

Patti Boyles and Skippy Rashinsky responded to questions from Board Members regarding the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Grant applications. Mrs. Boyles stated that the District would have no continuing financial obligation, other than what Title 1 supports anyways, once the grant period has ended.

Responding to Mrs. Frakes question regarding training for the Carbo Reading Styles Program, Debbie Boutwell stated that travel was not required. The trainers come to the district to provide four days of teacher training and two days of technical assistance in the classroom. She added that if funds are not available to pay substitutes, she will look for alternative ways to provide the training.

Mr. McInnis stated that the attorney for Employee #439944440 has requested additional time to provide the information requested by the District. He requested the Board continue the suspension of the employee with pay and that the recommendation for termination be held until the next regular meeting.

Mrs. Frakes asked that it be verified that the Compass Software Program to be purchased by Choctawhatchee High is compatible with their equipment in order to avoid the problem encountered by OATC when they purchased the new software.

Mr. Hill proposed a revision to School Board Policy 4-16 (A), Attendance Zoning for Middle School Athletes. The revision will allow middle school athletes the same eligibility rights as Florida high school students with regard to the changing of schools within the first ten (10) days of a semester.

Mr. McInnis stated that the policy revision has been advertised for emergency adoption based upon the pending commencement of winter sports for the 2001-2002 school year.

The Chairman called for public comment on the proposed revision; there was none.

Motion to adopt an emergency amendment to School Board Policy 4-16 (A), Attendance Zoning for Athletes, recommended by the Superintendent for approval, was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 01-742).

Mr. McInnis stated that under the Educational Services Agreement with Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation the District will forward the FTE funding to the residential treatment facility for the educational services being delivered to the student. The District has no obligation to make payment for the treatment and residential services being provided to the student.

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

1. Minutes of Special Meeting of October 1, 2001; Workshop Meeting of October 4, 2001; Regular Meeting of October 8, 2001; Special Disciplinary Hearing of October 4, 2001; and Special Disciplinary Hearing of October 8, 2001, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Budget Amendment #1, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-717).
3. Monthly Financial Report for September 2001, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-718).
4. Payment of Invoices dated October 22, 2001, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-719).
5. Acceptance of donation to Destin Elementary School from the Destin Rotary Club in the amount of \$5000.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-720).
6. Acceptance of donation to Destin Elementary School from the Wal-Mart Foundation in the amount of \$1000.00, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-721).
7. Renewal of commitment for \$7,400,000 revolving line of credit with Bank of America, N.A., presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-722).
8. Annual renewal of Section 237.161, F.S., Capital Improvement Note issued January 27, 1998 - Maturity date of January 28, 2003, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-723).
9. Resolution No. 01-28 authorizing the Superintendent to execute financial reports, presented by Patricia Wascom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
10. Final payment for the Driveway Entrance Project at Choctawhatchee High School to Gulf Coast Paving and Grading, Inc., in the amount of \$71,555.00, presented by Mark Gardner and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-724).
11. Volunteer Lists, presented by Ray Sansom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-725).
12. Grant Application, presented by Ray Sansom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration, submitted by Baker School, Laurel Hill School, Walker Elementary and Ocean City Elementary (Exhibit 01-726)
 - B. Research-Based Reading Program, submitted by Debbie Boutwell (Exhibit 01-727)

13. Professional Services Contract between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Okaloosa-Walton Community College for Even Start services, presented by Carolyn Lulue and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-728).
14. Service Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Okaloosa-Walton Community College Collegiate High School for a teacher of the Visually Impaired, presented by Carolyn Lulue and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-729).
15. Appointment of Betsy Pratt as the Okaloosa County School Board's representative on the PreK Coalition Council, presented by Joe Ann Tabor and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-730).
16. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 01-731)
 - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 01-732)
 - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 01-731)
 - D. Continuation of Suspension with pay of Employee #439944440 and to hold the recommendation for termination of the employee until the next regular meeting of the Board
17. Employment Separations, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-733).
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 01-734).
19. Reinstatement of Sick Leave due to line-of-duty illness/injury/medical examination, presented by Becky Spence and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. Rose Morgan, Crestview High, 11 hours (Exhibit 01-735)
20. Zoning Waivers, presented by Assistant Superintendents and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-736):
 - A. Central Zone Schools
 - B. South Zone Schools
21. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-737; see bid file for additional information):
 - A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests:
 - (1) Tag-On-Bid #99-04-08VH with School Board of Orange County for Landscape Equipment awarded to Highlander Southern Corporation and John Deere Company
 - (2) International Baccalaureate North America, Sole Source for IB Exams in the amount of \$24,446.00, Niceville High School
 - (3) Compass Learning, Inc., Sole Source for Compass Software Program in the amount of \$24,913.00, Choctawhatchee High School
 - B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None
22. Request to advertise a public hearing for revision of School Board Policy 4-16 (A) Attendance Zoning for Middle School Athletes, presented by Howard Hill and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-738).

23. Moved to Discussion Agenda #5 - Renewal of Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County Trustee Membership in the amount of \$2550.00, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
24. Educational Services Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation, Inc. , presented by Jeff McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-739).

DISCUSSION AGENDA:

1. Motion to approve a district waiver to use S/N/U grades for music, PE, art and technology submitted by Destin Elementary School and recommended for approval by the Superintendent was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 01-740).
2. Motion to approve the Okaloosa County School District 2002 State Legislative Agenda was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously (Exhibit 01-741):
 - A. Increase funding for career-technical education
 - B. Resolve inequities in per pupil funding
 - C. Ensure fair competition among public education entities
 - D. Funding for school nurses
3. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 01-29 amending the description of School Board Member Districts 2 and 3 and providing an effective date was made by Mrs. Thigpen, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously.
4. Adopted during Consent Agenda discussion - Emergency amendment to School Board Policy 4-16 (A), Attendance Zoning for Athletes, recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 01-742).
5. Mr. Hill recommended the Board not renew its Trustee Membership with the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County based on the budget shortfall. Mrs. Frakes and Mr. Gaetz concurred with the recommendation even though the District would be relinquishing its place on the Policy Council.

Mr. Walker expressed concern that the District may be disadvantaged without representation on the Policy Council. He asked that Mrs. Frakes, as the Board's representative on the Economic Development Council, and the Superintendent determine the impact of not renewing the membership before a decision was made.

Motion to table renewal of the Board's membership with the Economic Development Council was made by Mrs. Frakes, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE'S BUSINESS: None

BIDS AND PURCHASING: None

ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:

1. Fort Walton Beach High School chorus to participate in a performance cruise traveling to Nassau and Bahamas on March 27-31, 2002 (Exhibit 01-743).
2. Walker Elementary School fifth graders to visit St. Augustine, Florida, on May 6-7, 2002 (Exhibit 01-744).

3. Crestview High School band to attend the Deep South Marching Festival in Theodore, Alabama, October 27, 2001 (Exhibit 01-745).
4. Crestview High School band to attend the Smoky Mountain Music Festival in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, April 24-27, 2002 (Exhibit 01-745).

Mr. Gaetz distributed a letter to the Board that he circulated to parents, teachers, and staff regarding the State's revenue shortfall and the impact it will have on the school district (Exhibit 01-746). He requested the Chairman schedule a special meeting following the close of the Special Session of the Legislature to review the budget and make the necessary budget reductions.

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

Mrs. Frakes stated that in her recent visits to schools concern was expressed regarding the amount of down time on the computer network system. Mr. Gaetz responded that the district has experienced virus problems and overload on servers. These problems are being addressed.

Mr. Hill asked that the October FTE count, amount of funds already committed to capital projects, and the balance and description of reserve accounts be provided for the special budget meeting.

There being no further business, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Teresa Epperson, Recorder

DON GAETZ
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD