

## **REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 25, 2010**

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

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on January 25, 2010, in the Okaloosa County Courthouse, Crestview, Florida.

**PRESENT:** Rodney Walker, Chairman  
Cindy Frakes, Vice-Chairman  
Howard Hill  
Chuck Kelley  
Cathy Thigpen

Alexis Tibbetts, 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:**

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

Consent Agenda: Revision to item #5, Appropriation of District 5 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to the central schools should be \$45,832; added as item #22, Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Antioch Elementary School

### **VISITORS:**

1. Joshua Hinton, Winner of the 2009 Governor's Recognition Scholarship Essay Contest, was recognized by State Representative, Brad Drake, and was awarded a four-year university tuition scholarship by Casey Fisher of The Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

The Chairman moved the proposals for the re-missioning of Valparaiso Elementary and Lewis Middle Schools, and new student attendance zones for certain central zone schools, forward on the agenda in order to accommodate visitors.

### **DISCUSSION AGENDA:**

Chairman Walker explained that Board action would be taken only on the Resolutions concerning the re-missioning of Valparaiso Elementary and Lewis Middle Schools, and the new student attendance zones for certain central zone schools. Additionally, the Board could vote on any recommended amendments that relate to the schools in the advertised Resolutions. He further explained that the Board would not take action at this meeting on any recommendation that does not relate to Valparaiso Elementary School and Lewis Middle School.

The Chairman stated that each Board member will be given an opportunity to address concerns and questions regarding the proposed Resolutions, or recommend changes to the proposed Resolutions, or discuss any recommended changes. Following Board input, individuals requesting to express their questions or concerns related to the proposals will have an opportunity to address the Board members. Individuals requesting to speak would be allotted three minutes to make their comments if speaking on their own behalf, and five minutes if speaking on behalf of a group or organization.

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Mr. McInnis stated that in a previous public session Mr. Hill proposed amendments to the Resolutions which are within the scope of the overall recommendations that have been advertised, and that the Board can consider those amendments at this meeting. Additionally, the Board can consider any recommendations or amendments that are proposed at this meeting that affect Valparaiso Elementary and Lewis Middle Schools and the overall plan for realignment. He explained that if a recommendation is made that impacts a different school which has not been addressed at any of the previous public discussions, then that recommendation would be advertised for public hearing at a future Board meeting.

The Chairman recessed the Regular Meeting and called to order the Public Hearing at 4:18 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

New School Board Policy 2-6, Cash & Investment Management Policy, which will replace in its entirety the current Policy 2-6, Investment of Temporarily Idle Funds, was presented for consideration. The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Motion to approve New School Board Policy 2-6, Cash & Investment Management Policy, which will replace in its entirety the current Policy 2-6, Investment of Temporarily Idle Funds, was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 10-29).

The Chairman concluded the Public Hearing and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 4:19 p.m.

Mr. Hill stated that State law requires K-1 classrooms to have age-appropriate restrooms attached; therefore, under the original proposal, portable buildings would be brought to Lewis for elementary classrooms rather than making major modifications to existing classrooms. In addition, it was pointed out in the previous public hearing that age-appropriate restrooms are needed in other places around the school, such as the cafeteria and media center. Since the age-appropriate facilities exist at Valparaiso Elementary School, he suggested that K-1 students remain at Valparaiso Elementary School. Mr. Hill proposed amending Resolution No. 10-01 to re-mission Valparaiso Elementary School to include providing kindergarten, first grade, and select ESE educational programs, and that it be named Valparaiso School rather than Valparaiso Center. He stated that although his recommendation would not eliminate all portable buildings at Lewis, it would eliminate portables for K-1 students.

Mr. Hill proposed amending Resolution 10-02 to re-mission Lewis Middle School to be established as Lewis School providing a grades 2-8 school program, and that middle school for Lewis be defined as grades 5-8 to allow students to participate in extracurricular activities.

In regard to Resolution 10-03, Mr. Hill suggested amending Resolution 10-03 to zone the area south of Valparaiso Boulevard as a dual attendance zone for elementary students to attend either Plew Elementary, K-1 at Valparaiso School, or 2-8 at Lewis School, with transportation provided. He recommended re-zoning the area south of State Road 20 between Turkey Creek and Swift Creek as a dual attendance zone for middle school students to attend either Ruckel Middle School or Lewis School, and that middle school be considered grades 5-8 as it currently is at Lewis.

Mr. Hill suggested that Resolutions 10-01 and 10-02, if amended, be re-evaluated in one year, and that Resolution 10-03, if amended, be re-evaluated in three years.

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Discussion followed regarding the cost projection for transportation, and the number of routes and buses impacted by Mr. Hill's proposal. It was noted that transportation costs are dependent on enrollment figures, which will not be available until approximately April.

Mr. Kelley asked Ms. Scallan if the equalization funds were used in the cost savings information she provided previously in regard to consolidating Lewis into one school with two campuses. Ms. Scallan responded that equalization funds were used in the information previously provided, and if Lewis were consolidated approximately \$735,000 in equalization funds would be eliminated, and approximately \$500,000 in personnel. Mr. Kelley noted that the total savings from the information Ms. Scallan provided would be approximately \$1.25 million.

Concerns raised by Mrs. Frakes included having younger children combined with middle school students, and that the projected enrollment will not support a more advanced curriculum. She opposed Mr. Hill's re-zoning recommendation and suggested keeping the zone south of Valparaiso Boulevard zoned to Lewis School. Issues she felt should be addressed were changing the start time of Valparaiso School, the potential of housing developments in the Edge attendance zone, and the military housing privatization initiative. Mrs. Frakes stated she was in support of grades K-1 remaining at Valparaiso School.

Chairman Walker stated that he opposed the re-missioning of Valparaiso Elementary School. He suggested that closing Eglin Elementary School would make Valparaiso Elementary, Longwood Elementary and Shalimar Elementary healthy and would not require moving any portable buildings. Eglin Elementary receives approximately \$10,000 more in supplemental funding than Valparaiso Elementary.

Chairman Walker added that in addition to his proposal to close Eglin Elementary School, he would recommend zoning 100 students from Ruckel to Lewis, and allow 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Valparaiso Elementary to go to Lewis, which would increase enrollment at Lewis by approximately 150 new students. Supplemental funding would then be needed for Lewis Middle and Ruckel Middle Schools with this recommendation.

The Chairman stated that the District is experiencing declining enrollment along with declining funds. Under the original proposed Resolutions, students will be placed in portable classrooms. Due to a decline in capital funding, portables will not be replaced with regular classrooms as has been done in previous years.

The Chairman recessed the Regular Meeting and called to order the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Okaloosa School Board Leasing Corporation at 4:50 p.m., at which time he recessed the Leasing Corporation Directors meeting and reconvened the Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Hill stated he was hesitant to close Eglin Elementary School because under the terms of the lease agreement with Eglin Air Force Base, the District would have to relinquish the facility if it is not maintained as a school. He commented on the military housing privatization initiative and the potential of increased housing on Eglin Air Force Base in the future. He stated that Valparaiso School would remain open, with a portion moth-balled, and could be re-opened if there is an increase in population since it is the property of the District.

The Chairman recognized the following individuals requesting to express their opposition to the proposed Resolutions to re-mission Valparaiso Elementary School, Lewis Middle School, and re-zoning of certain central zone schools: Christi Moore, David Keller, Heather Tidwell, Neal Sherner, Heyward Strong, Jr., Melissa Thrush, Diane Miller, Thomas Miller, Hannah Moore.

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Concerns addressed included the drop-off locations of elementary students at Lewis School, the amount of time the K-1 students would be on the bus before they are dropped off with middle school students, the quality of ESE services at Valparaiso Elementary, the Board not asking questions earlier in the process, congested traffic at the gate to Eglin Air Force Base at Lewis Middle School, cost savings. Individuals expressed appreciation to the Board for being accessible and helpful during this process.

Nathan Bohler, a fifth grade student at Valparaiso Elementary School, thanked the Board for taking the time to answer phone calls, reviewing the emails from parents, and addressing concerns and ideas from the community. He stated that he is proud to be involved in many extracurricular activities at Valparaiso Elementary School and plans to be active in sports and band when he attends Lewis Middle School next year. He stated that he would be disappointed if the school did not have enough students for the various athletic teams, and for a good marching band. He requested that the Board keep Lewis Middle School a 5-8 school and not close Valparaiso Elementary.

The Chairman recognized the following individuals requesting to address the issue of closing Eglin Elementary School: Tina Merker, Destiny Hill and Minda Smith. He stated that the Board was not taking action on the closing of Eglin Elementary School at this meeting; therefore, their concerns would be addressed at a future meeting.

To clarify any misconception by the public, Mr. Kelley stated that the Board was not presented with the information concerning Valparaiso Elementary and Lewis Middle Schools until late 2009. He stated that the District operates differently than the School Board, and that although the District has been evaluating schools in its entirety for several years, as a Board member, he cannot act on any issue until it is brought before the Board for consideration.

1. Motion was made by Mr. Hill to approve Resolution No. 10-01 with his proposed amendment and to re-evaluate the program in one year. This Resolution is for the purpose of providing for the re-missioning of the Valparaiso Elementary School at the end of the 2009-2010 school year to be established as the Valparaiso School providing a Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, Pre-Kindergarten Disabled, Kindergarten and First Grade educational program. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thigpen.

Mr. Kelley stated that he was in support of Mr. Hill's proposal as it would eliminate the portables for K-1 students and minimize the number of portables at Lewis. He commented that even though Lewis School may be comprised of more elementary students, there will not be a lack of opportunities for academics, athletics and band. He remarked that after hearing public input, he believes this is the best suggestion and a long-term solution.

Mrs. Thigpen stated that due diligence is the responsibility of the Board, and that with declining enrollment and declining dollars, the District and the Board will need to come up with creative ways of educating the students. She stated that as school populations change, the Board could be addressing this issue again next year.

Mr. Hill's motion carried 3-2, Mr. Walker and Mrs. Frakes dissenting.

2. Motion was made by Mr. Hill to approve Resolution 10-02 with his proposed amendment and to evaluate the program in one year. This Resolution is for the purpose of providing for the re-missioning of the Addie R. Lewis Middle School at the end of the 2009-2010 school year to be established as the Addie R. Lewis School providing a 2-8 school program, and grades 5-8 shall be considered as

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the middle school grade levels for all purposes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried 3-2, Mr. Walker and Mrs. Frakes dissenting.

3. Motion was made by Mr. Hill to approve Resolution 10-03 with his proposed amendment to zone the Niceville area south of Valparaiso Boulevard as a dual attendance zone for elementary students to attend either Plew Elementary, K-1 at Valparaiso School, or 2-5 at Lewis School, with transportation provided, and to zone the Niceville area south of Highway 20 between Turkey Creek and Swift Creek, to include the area south of Valparaiso Boulevard, as a dual attendance zone for Ruckel Middle School and grades 5-8 for Lewis School, with transportation provided. The Board will re-evaluate the attendance zones in three years. This Resolution is for the purpose of establishing new student attendance zones for those students currently zoned to attend the Bluewater Elementary School, Plew Elementary School, Valparaiso Elementary School and the Addie R. Lewis Middle School and C. W. Ruckel Middle School, which is necessitated by the re-missioning of the Valparaiso Elementary School and the Addie R. Lewis Middle School at the end of the 2009-2010 School Year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried 4-1, Mr. Walker dissenting.

The Chairman thanked visitors for attending the meeting and expressed appreciation for everyone's comments and input.

The Chairman called a brief recess at 5:50 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 5:55 p.m.; all members present as before.

Chairman Walker recessed the Regular Meeting and called to order the meeting of Board of Directors of the Okaloosa School Board Leasing Corporation at 5:55 p.m. At the conclusion of the business of the Leasing Corporation (see separate minutes), the Chairman reconvened the Regular Meeting of the School Board at 6:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** No Request

**PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS:** None

**COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:**

1. In-County Travel paid for the period of December 3 – 16, 2009, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 10-30)
2. Out-of-County Travel paid for the period of December 3 – 16, 2009, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 10-31)
3. Grants Update, presented by Kaye McKinley (Exhibit 10-32)
4. DoDEA, Education Directorate: Overview Information on Promoting Student Achievement at Schools Impacted by Military Force Structure Changes Discretionary Grant Program, presented by Kaye McKinley (Exhibit 10-33)
5. Quarterly Report on Contracts/Leases less than \$5000, presented by Rick Norris (Exhibit 10-34)
6. Quarterly Report on Service Agreements under the \$5000 threshold, Service Agreements for Law Enforcement received October – December 2009, presented by Rick Norris (Exhibit 10-35)

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**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mr. Hill asked if the mentors pay for the Level 2 screenings for the *GoodGuides* Youth Mentoring Program under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Goodwill East Seals. Mrs. McKinley stated there are approximately eight mentors who will complete their screenings through the District's Community Affairs Office, which includes fingerprinting by Human Resources. The District's cost is \$34.25 per mentor. The total cost for Level 2 screening for eight mentors is \$274.

In regard to the agreement with Project Lead the Way for a high school and middle school biomedical sciences and technology curricula, Mrs. Frakes inquired as to the payment of the annual fee of \$2,000 for each participating school. Mary Beth Jackson, CHOICE Director, responded that CHOICE will pay the fee from Perkins funds.

Mr. Hill stated that the Driver's Education program offered under the Community Education program occurs during March and April which is during the school year. He asked about offering a community education program and students not receiving credit during the school year. Dr. Tibbetts responded that the driver's education program is offered after school hours.

The Chairman recognized Dr. Evan Meeks, who requested to address the suspension of Employee # xxx-xx-8826. Dr. Meeks stated that the recommendation for a 2-day suspension was inappropriate due to the severity of the incident. He requested that the Board consider an immediate dismissal of the employee, for the reasons outlined in email correspondence he sent to Human Resources.

Mr. McInnis responded that personnel recommendations are developed through District staff, submitted to the Superintendent, and then the Board considers those recommendations which they have received from the Superintendent. He stated that the Board is not in a position to change the Superintendent's recommendation, or to consider a change that she has not recommended. He explained that when a recommendation gets to Board level, the Board is acting on the recommendation of the Superintendent as presented. He stated that Dr. Meeks would need to address his concerns to Mr. Foxworthy in Human Resources.

Dr. Meeks responded that he had sent an email to Mr. Foxworthy prior to the Board meeting, addressing the incident and his concerns that the employee was still around children and the suspension was too lenient. Mr. Foxworthy commented that although the recommendation is suspension without pay, the employee is currently employed until the Board acts on the recommendation. He stated that the recommendation came from the Safety Committee of the Transportation Department; however, he would re-address the matter. Dr. Tibbetts stated that the issue would be re-addressed and that Dr. Meeks should meet with Mr. Foxworthy.

Motion to table item #15D, Suspension of Employee # xxx-xx-8826 was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously.

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

1. Minutes of Workshop Meeting of January 7, 2010 and Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 11, 2010, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Appropriation of District 1 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Pryor Middle School for the purchase of two (2) Classroom Performance Systems in the amount of \$3450.00, presented by Cindy Frakes and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-36).

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3. Appropriation of District 2 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds in the amount of \$5000 and District 3 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds in the amount of \$10,576.18 to the CHOICE Program for computers and equipment for startup of the Biomedical Sciences Program (Project Lead The Way) at Fort Walton Beach High School, presented by Chuck Kelley and Rodney Walker and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-37).
4. Appropriation of District 3 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Bluewater Elementary School to help with funding of a portable computer lab in the amount of \$10,000, presented by Rodney Walker and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-38).
5. Appropriation of District 5 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds in the amount of \$45,832 for the purchase of MIMIOs, MOBIs and CPS for the following central schools, presented by Howard Hill and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-39):
  - A. Bluewater Elementary School - \$6529.50 for 10 MIMIOs
  - B. Edge Elementary School - \$6529.50 for 10 MIMIOs
  - C. Lewis Middle School - \$6529.50 for 10 MIMIOs
  - D. Plew Elementary School - \$6529.50 for 10 MIMIOs
  - E. Valparaiso Elementary School - \$6529.50 for 10 MIMIOs
  - F. Ruckel Middle School - \$6395.65 for 5 MOBIs and 7 MIMIOs
  - G. Niceville High School - \$6788.85 for 3 MIMIOs, 2 MOBIs and 2 CPS
6. Budget Amendment #4 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-40).
7. Monthly Financial Report for December 2009, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-41).
8. Acceptance of Donations, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-42).
9. Warrants in the amount of \$24,806,703.42, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-43).
10. Payment of Invoices dated January 25, 2010, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-44).
11. Volunteer Lists, compiled by Kaye McKinley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-45).
12. Memorandum of Understanding between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Goodwill Easter Seals of the Gulf Coast, presented by Kaye McKinley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-46).
13. Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Project Lead the Way, Inc., for the Fort Walton Beach High School Biomedical Institute projected to open in the 2010-2011 school year, presented by Mary Beth Jackson and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-47).
14. Community Education: Baker School Driver's Education Program, presented by Al Gardner and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-48).
15. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
  - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 10-49)

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- B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 10-50)
  - C. Transfer Report (No Report)
  - D. Tabled - Suspension of Employee # xxx-xx-8826 (Exhibit 10-51)
  - E. Termination of Employee # xxx-xx-3262 during probationary period (Exhibit 10-52)
  - F. Termination of Employee # xxx-xx-1290 during probationary period (Exhibit 10-53)
16. Employment Separations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-54).
17. Reinstatement of Sick Leave due to line-of-duty illness/injury/medical examination, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval: (Exhibit 10-55)
- A. Lynda Woods, Walker Elementary School, 2.75 hours
18. Out-of-Field Report for second semester of the 2009-2010 school year, presented by Carolyn McAllister and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-56).
19. Zoning Waivers, presented by Deputy Superintendents and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-57; see Zoning Waiver file).
20. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-58; see bid file for additional information):
- A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests:
    - (1) Renewal of Tag-on-Bid B086749JM with United School Bus Seat Service, Inc. for Replacement of School Bus Seat Covers, Fixed Prices
    - (2) Atomic Learning, Sole Source for Site License, Instructional Technology/Media Services, \$27,500
    - (3) Pearson, Sole Source for Site License, Baker School, \$25,200
  - B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None
  - C. Service Agreements:
    - (1) Amendment to SA# 10-28, addition of staff and personnel
    - (2) Amendment to SA# 10-30, addition of staff and personnel and to scope of work
    - (3) SA# 10-89 Dee Dee Watson, Choreographer/Clinician for Indianettes, Choctawhatchee High School - \$8000 (Indianettes Internal Funds)
    - (4) SA# 10-90 Nancy Thiele, Instruction to various groups in the band, Bruner Middle School - \$2400 (Band Parents Internal Funds)
    - (5) SA# 10-91 Emerald Coast Science Center, Traveling Science Program for students in Okaloosa County - \$4.50 per student



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21. Motor Vehicle Lease for Disaster Transportation Services between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Hawthorn House, presented by Jay McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-59).
22. Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Antioch Elementary School for the purchase of MIMIOs in the amount of \$15,912, presented by Cathy Thigpen and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-60).

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

1. Motion to authorize Faithful+Gould to provide cost verification services for the GMP for the Richbourg School Renovation Project (Program No. 4, Task Order No. 1), amount not to exceed \$16,000, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 10-61).
2. Motion to authorize Faithful+Gould to provide cost verification services for the GMP for the Choctawhatchee High School Administration Renovation Project (Program No. 4, Task Order No. 6), amount not to exceed \$7000, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 10-62).

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SEAT MANAGEMENT CONTRACT:**

1. Motion was made by Mr. Hill to approve Seat Management Task Order No. 1-26 Bluewater Elementary Wireless Campus, cost not to exceed \$39,410, presented by Eric Mitchell and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 10-63).
2. Motion was made by Mr. Hill to approve Seat Management Task Order No. 1-28 Fort Walton Beach High School CCTV Upgrade, cost not to exceed \$69,910, presented by Eric Mitchell and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 10-64).
3. Motion to approve Seat Management Task Order No. 1-29 Fort Walton Beach High School CCTV Upgrade, cost not to exceed \$10,520, presented by Eric Mitchell and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 10-65).
4. Motion to approve Seat Management Task Order No. 1-30 Wright Computer Lab, cost not to exceed \$7705, presented by Eric Mitchell and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 10-66).
5. Motion was made by Mrs. Thigpen to approve Technology Integration Project Awards, presented by Eric Mitchell and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, seconded by Mr. Hill and carried unanimously (Exhibit 10-67).

**BIDS AND PURCHASING:** None

**ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS:** None

**SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:**

1. Out-of-State Student Field Trips (Exhibit 10-68)

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Dr. Tibbetts provided a letter from Colonel McClintock of Eglin Air Force Base outlining the alternatives for the Military Housing Privatizing Initiative. She asked for the Board's permission to write a letter on behalf of the District in support of on-base housing and that area for development. Mrs. Frakes suggested that rather than writing in support of a preferred area of development, that she state the District does not prefer development in locations at the North end of the County or the White Point area because schools are at capacity or near capacity in those areas. The Board members concurred with Mr. Walker, requesting that the Superintendent draft a letter to Colonel McClintock for the Board to review.

**BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:**

Mr. Hill asked if the Supplemental Educational Services (SES) providers that the District has contracted are approved by the State, and if the District has the opportunity to evaluate or provide input on the quality of services. Mrs. Hendricks responded that all providers are approved by the State. Although the District does not have the opportunity to rate the providers, the parents have an opportunity to rate and provide input.


Mrs. Thigpen expressed concern that small school supplements are now expected by the schools, and it is difficult for schools to build a budget within their means because FTE continues to change. She requested that staff re-evaluate small school supplements. She commented that with declining funds, other alternatives should be considered, such as combining more schools. Dr. Tibbetts responded that Mrs. Scallan and Mr. Nobles are currently looking at the formula and working on alternatives. She stated that increasing the threshold to qualify as a small school and decreasing the amount of the supplement is an option.

Chairman Walker commented that legislation has changed, requiring that 90% of the District's revenue be spent where it is generated, creating a different type of funding system than in previous years. With the new funding system, the District will need to be as efficient as possible because it will always have to supplement some schools. Mrs. Scallan explained that class size funding is used to supplement the schools. She stated that she has looked at a break-even point, and combining other schools may need to be considered, or some schools may have to cut programs because they cannot continue to offer all the current programs with their funding and operate in an efficient manner.

Chairman Walker commended his colleagues for reviewing the realignment options thoroughly, and requested that everyone be prepared to make the plan work for the ones impacted; the students and the teachers.

There being no further business, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder

  
ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT AND  
CORPORATE SECRETARY

  
RODNEY L. WALKER  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD