

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2010

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 February 8, 2010, in the School District Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place, SE, Fort Walton Beach, 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 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 Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously:

Visitors: Added as item #3, Recognition of Ruckel 6th grade Knowledge Masters Team, First Place in Sixth Grade Division.

Consent Agenda: Added as item #14F, Suspension of Employee xxx-xx-7246; added as item #19C(1), Amendment to SA# 10-89 Dee Dee Watson, Choreographer/Clinician for Indianettes, Choctawhatchee High School; added as item #21, Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Walker Elementary School.

Discussion Agenda: Added as item #1, Suspension of Employee #xxx-xx-8826 (tabled 1-25-10).

Attorney's Business: added as item #1, Motor Vehicle Lease for Disaster Transportation Services between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the City of Fort Walton Beach for and on behalf of its Emergency Management Agency.

VISITORS:

1. The Ruckel Knowledge Master Team was recognized as First Place winners in the Middle School Division, Fall Competition (Exhibit 10-69).
3. The Ruckel 6th grade Knowledge Master Team was recognized as First Place winners in the Sixth Grade Division of the January 2010 Knowledge Master Open Exhibit 10-70).
2. The Board recognized the 2009 National Board Certified Teachers: Amy Dale, Kelly Dean, Judy Dunlap, Tracy Fister, Angela Fortune, Marilyn Gates, Amanda Krantz-Lee, Evangeline Laurich, Maria Lewis, Kim McCarthy, Angela Oberchain, Barbara Smith, and Carol Webster. There are a total of 131 National Board Teachers in Okaloosa County classrooms (Exhibit 10-71).

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: No Request

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: None

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2010

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS: (Workshop Only)

1. In-County Travel paid for the period of December 17, 2009 – January 20, 2010, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 10-72)
2. Out-of-County Travel paid for the period of December 17, 2009 – January 20, 2010, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 10-73)
3. Review of Charter School, Charter Technical Career Center, and District School Board Audit Reports Prepared by Independent Certified Public Accountants for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 10-74)
4. State of Florida Resolution proclaiming the week of March 8-12, 2010, as National School Breakfast Week, presented by Rick Norris (Exhibit 10-75)
5. Report on CHOICE Programs, presented by Mary Beth Jackson (Exhibit 10-76)
6. Report on Pilot Program for Custodial Services with GCA Services Group, Inc., presented by Bill Smith (Exhibit 10-77)

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Minutes of Special Meeting/Public Hearing of January 19, 2010; Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 25, 2010; and Minutes of Student Disciplinary Hearing of January 25, 2010, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Re-appropriation of District 1 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Pryor Middle School, Project 9393, to a new project for the purchase of technology equipment in the amount of \$13,874.35, presented by Cindy Frakes and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-78).
3. Appropriation of District 2 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to the following schools, presented by Chuck Kelley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-79):
 - A. Bruner Middle School for winches used in raising/lowering the basketball goals in the gym in the amount of \$5200
 - B. Fort Walton Beach High School for technology needs in the amount of \$24,847.07
4. Appropriation of District 3 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Eglin Elementary School for MILMIOs in the amount of \$5375.00, presented by Rodney Walker and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-80).
5. Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Laurel Hill School to purchase computer monitors for the electrical program in the amount of \$671.16, presented by Cathy Thigpen and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-81).
6. Payment of Invoices dated February 8, 2010, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-82).
7. Warrants in the amount of \$15,293,953.06 presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-83).

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2010

8. Acceptance of Donations, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-84).
9. BENCOR National Governmental Employees Retirement Plan updates, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-85; Original BENCOR Plan on file in Finance Department).
10. Notice of Intent to request renewal of license AFMC-EG-3-06-005 with the Department of the Air Force for adding portable bleacher seats and parking area adjacent to Addie R. Lewis Middle School, presented by Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-86).
11. Adoption of vocational courses for Department of Juvenile Justice facilities, presented by Dr. Robert McEachern and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-87):
 - A. Course #9100110 Orientation to Career Occupations and Career Planning (grades 6-9)
 - B. Course #9100210 Exploration of Career Occupations (grades 6-9)
12. School Volunteer Lists, presented by Kaye McKinley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-88).
13. Acceptance of ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Grant by Destin Middle School in the amount of \$750, presented by Kaye McKinley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-89).
14. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 10-90)
 - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 10-91)
 - C. Transfer Report (No Report)
 - D. Suspension of Employee #xxx-xx-4440 (Exhibit 10-92)
 - E. Suspension of Employee #xxx-xx-8911 (Revision of prior action) (Exhibit 10-93)
 - F. Suspension of Employee #xxx-xx-7246 (Exhibit 10-94)
15. Employment Separations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-95).
16. 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 10-96):
 - A. Linda Cavett, Student Services, 7.5 hours
 - B. Sharon Woods, Plew Elementary School, 75 hours
17. Cleared certification requirements for issuance of contract for the 2009-2010 school year, presented by Carolyn McAllister and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-97).
18. Zoning Waivers, presented by Deputy Superintendents and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-98; see Zoning Waiver File).
19. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Rick Norris and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-99; see bid file for additional information)
 - A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests:

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2010

- (1) RFB 10-B11 Petroleum Products awarded to Alithicon Lubricants Co., Inc., Davison Oil Co., The McPherson Co., Inc., and Ward International Trucks, Fixed Prices
- (2) Tag-on Bid 7093 with Sarasota County for Basketball/Tennis and Playcourt Resurfacing with Line Striping awarded to Stewart Tennis Courts & Fencing, Inc., Fixed Prices
- (3) Gemmaire Distributors, Sole Source for Factory Direct Agreement
- B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None
- C. Service Agreements:
 - (1) Amendment to SA# 10-89 Dee Dee Watson, Choreographer-Clinician for Indianettes, Choctawhatchee High School (Indianettes Internal Account)
20. Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Bob Sikes Elementary School for playground equipment in the amount of \$16,000.00, presented by Cathy Thigpen and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-100).
21. Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Walker Elementary School for carpet, DLP projector and accessories in the amount of \$15,966.00, presented by Cathy Thigpen and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-101).

DISCUSSION AGENDA:

1. Suspension of Employee #xxx-xx-8826 (tabled 1-25-10).

Motion to remove from the table Suspension of Employee #xxx-xx-8826 was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously.

The Chairman recognized Dr. Evan Meeks who addressed the Board concerning follow-up to a bus incident involving his child in which he addressed the Board at the previous meeting. He stated that dismissal of the employee was warranted due to the seriousness of the incident, and that the employee has a greater responsibility to the community than permitting a child to hit another child. He informed the Board that a police report outlines what took place. He stated that because of the incident, his son is now on a different bus route and the bus driver continues to drive the same route.

The Chairman asked Dr. Meeks if he received a copy of the letter Mr. Foxworthy sent to the Superintendent addressing the situation since he appeared before the Board at the last meeting. Dr. Meeks did not recall receiving the letter in which the Chairman was referring, and Mr. Foxworthy responded that a copy was emailed to Dr. Meeks. Dr. Meeks then responded that he had not checked his email account to which the letter may have been sent.

The Chairman commented that Mr. Foxworthy outlined the situation sufficiently in the letter and gave an understandable explanation of the recommended discipline. Mr. Hill stated that he reviewed the situation with Jay McInnis, Program Director of Transportation, and the employee had a serious lapse in judgment; however, when he realized this he took immediate steps to stop the situation. Mr. Hill stated that the employee's actions did not warrant a dismissal, and that he would support the recommendation of a two-day suspension.

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2010

Motion was made by Mr. Hill to approve the suspension of employee #xxx-xx-8826 as recommended, and seconded by Mrs. Thigpen (Exhibit 10-102).

Discussion followed regarding the events that took place on the bus and clarification of Dr. Meeks' understanding of what happened. Mr. Kelley stated that due to the seriousness of this incident he was not in support of a two-day suspension; however, the employee's actions did not justify termination. Mr. Jeffrey McInnis stated that personnel recommendations are within the superintendent's jurisdiction and the Board either accepts or rejects the recommendation.

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

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

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SEAT MANAGEMENT CONTRACT:

1. On a motion by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mrs. Thigpen, the Board unanimously approved Seat Management Task Order No. 1-31, Walker Elementary Projector Project, cost not to exceed \$12,950.00, presented by Eric Mitchell and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 10-103).

BIDS AND PURCHASING: None

ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS:

Mr. McInnis requested Board action on the motor vehicle lease between the School Board and the City of Fort Walton Beach for Disaster Transportation Services which has been submitted for renewal effective December 1, 2009. He stated that it is the standard bus contract that the School Board has with a number of agencies.

1. Motion to approve the Motor Vehicle Lease for Disaster Transportation Services between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the City of Fort Walton Beach for and on behalf of its Emergency Management Agency, retroactive to December 1, 2009, was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 10-104).

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:

1. Out-of-State Student Field Trips (Exhibit 10-105)

Dr. Tibbetts stated that over the past few months several parents and community members have mentioned the possibility of a potential source of revenue for capital projects that would come in the form of a half-cent sales tax. She noted that over the course of the last few years, the District's .25 mill has been shifted by the State Legislature to operating funds, and those are the funds that in the past were used for capital projects. She further stated that between 42 and 45 percent of the revenue generated by a sales tax would come from tourists.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that the Governor's proposed budget assumes that districts have levied the optional .25 mill. She wanted to know the Board's view before moving forward and gathering further information. She stated that principals would provide input to District staff to compile a list of needed capital projects, and staff would look at the processes and procedures and talk with the individuals who have expressed an interest to serve on a citizens committee.

Mr. Hill responded that although he appreciated the District's capital needs, he did not feel it was a good time for a tax increase, as the State has increased other fees,

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2010

such as car registrations and fishing licenses; and at the same time people have lost their jobs or their salaries have been reduced.

Mrs. Frakes, Mrs. Thigpen, and Mr. Kelley agreed that this is a decision that can be made by a vote of the people, and would be willing to let the community decide if the District's circumstances are such that they are willing to pay the extra half-cent sales tax.

Mr. Walker stated that he would support letting the community decide on the half-cent sales tax, but it is imperative that the community promote this type of project and that support for the tax be generated by a citizens committee using privately raised funds for their expenses.

Dr. Tibbetts thanked the Board and stated she would provide them with a list of priority capital projects by Friday.

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

Mr. Kelley asked for the Board's position on re-evaluating the Board's expulsion policy to determine if there is an alternative short of expulsion for students based on individual circumstances.

Mr. Walker suggested that a Board member serve on a committee with the Superintendent, District staff, and principals to re-evaluate the expulsion policy. Alternatives can be presented to the Board for consideration. Mr. Kelley agreed to serve on the committee as the Board's representative.

Dr. Tibbetts commented that re-evaluating the expulsion policy is a good suggestion and that Mr. Sanson would present alternatives to the Board.

Mrs. Frakes suggested that Mr. Sanson re-activate the Tell Somebody Campaign.

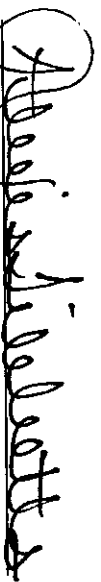
Mrs. Thigpen announced the Teacher of the Year Banquet will be held Thursday evening.

Mrs. Thigpen congratulated the Crestview Cheerleading squad for placing first in the State Championship competition.

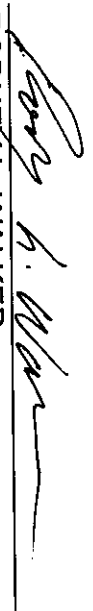
Mrs. Thigpen inquired about the follow-up to the surveys of the ten pilot program schools receiving custodial services. Patrick Strong responded that the survey was completed by teachers and support staff at the ten pilot program schools, and was similar to the survey completed by the principals. The Board will be provided the results once they are compiled. Mrs. Thigpen requested that the Board be provided a copy of comments and everything that he receives so they can be sure that concerns are being addressed.

There being no further business, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder



ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY



RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD