

WORKSHOP MEETING – APRIL 8, 2010

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on April 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 9:05 a.m., the purpose of the meeting being to review Agenda items, thereby expediting the Regular Meeting. Items may be considered in random order to accommodate visitors and presenters. Routine items not discussed during the Workshop were reviewed prior to the meeting with no further questions or comments by the Board.

The Chairman made the following changes to the Agenda: Added as Construction #1, Establish an Owner Direct Allowance for a Summer 2010 Construction Period for Task Order #9, Longwood Elementary School HVAC Replacement Project.

The District Technology Forecast was presented by Eric Mitchell and Dolores Noechel. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is an increased demand for more technology resources with inadequate infrastructure, causing a technology infrastructure gap. The gap should be minimal so that technology and infrastructure in the schools will support what the schools want to do above and beyond the baseline minimum for technology growth. He explained the Federal and State technology requirements as well as the District's goals, and the factors needed to meet those requirements.

Ms. Noechel stated that the District's technology vision will provide the technology and infrastructure to engage students in their education, expand their learning opportunities, and improve students' rates of learning. She gave an overview of the District's visionary goals, and presented Florida's technology plan which charts a course for Instructional Communication and Technology in Florida's schools. She explained the national educational technology standards for students, teachers and administrators. Students' standards are measured by a test given to students in the eighth grade, which was piloted at Bruner Middle School last semester. All eighth grade students will be tested before the end of school this year. The standards have been provided to principals and teachers and those grade level standards are then integrated into their curriculum. Testing students' standards will be a requirement in two years in order to receive funding.

Mr. Mitchell presented grant information and stated that using technology stimulus funds, the District created a one-time grant program for schools to receive funding. Thirteen applications were awarded funding in the amount of \$200,000 for technology integration projects. He commented on the various projects which included handheld devices, digital divide, science, and rigor and remediation. He gave an overview of the District bandwidth which explained the needs for increased bandwidth. He stated that the District wants a managed growth for its technology.

Rodney Nobles provided infrastructure survey results of the District's facilities, along with a ten-year work plan. A draft of projects for each school was provided based on surveys completed by Jacobs-Titan, Seimens Air Conditioning Control Company, and L3 Technology, as well as observations by the District's Maintenance and Facilities Planning Departments. He described the projects that are to be completed which are in the areas of technology, 3 to 1 ratio, HVAC, and capital projects. Mr. Nobles explained

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that this is a plan for current District facilities, upgrading those facilities to where they will be functional far into the future. The plan does not include new construction. Mr. Nobles stated that more detailed information and pictures as to certain aspects of concerns for each school have been compiled in notebooks which are on file at the Facilities Department. The plan is still in the draft stages as estimates continue to be obtained, and it should be finalized in the near future.

In regard to the Resolution and Documents Related to First Amendment to Lease Schedule, Mr. Hill asked how much funding would be used from the Certificates of Participation on the projects. Mrs. Scallan responded that funding would be approximately \$7 million.

Mrs. Frakes inquired about two sections in the agreement with IVANCO, Inc. for the implementation of a district-wide intercom system. Mr. McInnis clarified that if parts are bought from outside vendors, the agreement states what the cost to the district will be. Item #13 of the agreement explains that this is not an exclusive agreement; that the school board is free to contract for similar services with any other party.

Mrs. Frakes asked about the condition of the intercom systems at Ruckel Middle School and Wright Elementary School. Mr. Steve Bolton, Maintenance Program Director, stated that there are approximately nine schools with intercom systems that are connected to the telephone system and they have not worked well. For example, when the telephone system goes down, the intercom system goes down as well. The replacement will also separate the intercom system from the cable system in which schools view programs on the cable. Other school systems of this type will be replaced as funds are available.

In regard to the revision of the School/Facility Use Contract, Mr. Hill inquired about allowing the principals to have discretion as to whether they charge a fee for use of the facility. Mr. Nobles responded that at the time the agreement was reviewed with high school principals and assistant principals, their input was that they preferred consistency, and the majority wanted to omit principal discretion from the contract. High school and middle school principals were concerned that charges from leasing different parts of the facility were not covering the total cost. In order to come up with a fair price, fees charged to outside groups by other entities in the county were considered.

Mr. Hill asked about transportation not being provided to students participating in the Destin Middle School Summer Intensive Studies/Summer School program. Mr. Nobles responded that the transportation arrangements are the same as last year's summer school program. The number of students participating in the Destin Middle School program is nominal.

Mr. Hill remarked that results from the Florida Innovates survey show that 90% of the teachers at Fort Walton Beach High School indicate they have no teacher level of technology integration. Dr. Tibbetts commented that the teachers may have thought the survey was asking about teacher level training; however, she would check into it.


Chairman Walker asked Mrs. Scallan to explain the Owner's Direct Allowance for the Longwood Elementary project. Mrs. Scallan stated that the District needs to move ahead with an owner's direct purchase of materials (chillers and equipment) for the Longwood HVAC project because of the summer 2010 construction period. If the equipment is not ordered at this time, project completion will be delayed. She explained that since it is an Owner's Direct Purchase, the District avoids sales tax which results in a savings of approximately \$30,000. Mr. Walker stated that the Board previously approved this part of the project and there is no additional cost. With the recent adoption of the 2010-2011 school calendar, the summer 2010 construction period has drastically reduced the time availability for the HVAC replacement project at Longwood Elementary School.

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Mrs. Frakes shared comments and discussion topics from the recent FSBA meeting with the Board members, such as Senate Bill 4, the graduation requirements and contract items in Senate Bill 6, end-of-course exams, and the Bill regarding Retirement. She provided the Board with a comparison of House and Senate 2010-2011 Education Budget Proposals. The House budget does not assume that school districts have passed the increased millage rate, whereas the Senate budget does assume that the increase was either passed last year or it will pass this year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder



ALEXIS TIBBETS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY



RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD