

## **REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 27, 2012**

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 February 27, 2012, in the Okaloosa County Courthouse, Crestview, Florida.

**PRESENT:** Rodney L. Walker, Chairman  
Cathy Thigpen, Vice-Chairman  
Cindy Frakes  
Chuck Kelley  
Melissa Thrush

Rodney Nobles, Deputy Superintendent for Operations  
C. Jeffrey McInnis, Esq., Attorney to the Board

**ABSENT:** Alexis Tibbetts, Superintendent

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 was made by Mrs. Thigpen, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously:

**VISITORS:** None

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** No Request

**PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS:** None

### **COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:**

1. In-County Travel paid for the period of January 26 – February 8, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 12-93)
2. Out-of-County Travel paid for the period of January 26 – February 8, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 12-94)
3. Grants Update, presented by Kaye McKinley (Exhibit 12-95)

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mr. Jay McInnis, Director of Transportation, explained the process of the efficiency evaluation of the District's bus routes recently completed by TransPar Group. One of the recommendations from the study was to change the Northwood Elementary School bell schedule from 7:30-2:00 to 8:30-3:00, which would reduce five buses at an approximate savings of \$250,000.

Angie Holbrook and Wendy Franke, parents of students at Northwood Elementary, expressed their concern that the day care facilities their children attend would not be able to continue serving children attending Northwood Elementary because they will not be able to transport them to school in the mornings because they currently provide transportation services to students at other elementary schools with the same start time.

Ginny McCallum, Director of Kids Discovery Day Care, stated that it would be impossible for her company to continue to transport students attending Northwood

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Elementary without providing an additional employee and bus because the proposed bell schedule change is at the same start time as other elementary schools they already serve.

Dr. Lynne Keefe addressed the Board as an advocate for improvement of school transportation and school start times for students. She thanked the Board for making the proposal with a savings that might improve transportation throughout the county.

Jacqueline Craig, Principal of Northwood Elementary School, stated that Northwood currently provides before and after school child care services. With a change in the bell schedule, the day care hours would shift and the rates would be adjusted accordingly. She stated that due to safety issues the proposed bell schedule change would not be in the best interest of the students at her school.

Following discussion, Mrs. Frakes suggested to postpone the proposal so that the day care issues could be addressed and other possibilities explored. She asked for the number of students that would be affected and for the number of students that arrive at school in the 6:00-6:30 a.m. timeframe.

Motion to table the change in Northwood Elementary School bell schedule until the regular meeting on March 26, 2012 was made by Mrs. Frakes, seconded by Mr. Kelley and carried unanimously (Exhibit 12-152).

Mrs. Thigpen offered to meet with staff and discuss the issues that were addressed to the Board.

Chris Poate and Leslie Parker, tennis coaches at Niceville High School and Ruckel Middle School respectively, presented preliminary illustrations of a model tennis court facility proposed to be constructed, as a self-help project, on the Ruckel Middle School property. Mr. Poate stated that a group of parents have formed an organizational committee and have developed a funding concept to raise 100% of the cost for the self-help project.

Board members commented that it is a great opportunity for the community and for both of the schools, and applauded the coaches and parents who have contributed considerable time and effort.

Mr. McInnis explained the Board's process for self-help projects, stating that the proposal is being presented to the Board at this time for initial conceptual approval. Fundraising must follow the Board's policies, some of which require Board approval. He explained that funds must be raised in full and be on deposit in school district bank accounts before groundbreaking for the project on the school property. Prior to groundbreaking, completed construction plans should be prepared and properly sealed and certified by an architect or engineer, as appropriate, then submitted to the District's Facilities Department, who will then insure the plans meet building codes. Once the Board has reviewed the final plans and has received confirmation that the funds are in school district bank accounts, the District will issue construction permits. At that time, the Board will give final approval to begin construction. Mr. McInnis emphasized that funds must be raised in full and in the bank before any type of project on school district property can begin.

Mr. Poate acknowledged understanding of the self-help policies and procedures as explained by Mr. McInnis.

In regard to the naming rights of the facility and courts, Mr. McInnis stated that Niceville High School, Ruckel Middle School and their organizational committee have requested that the Board authorize a portion of the fundraising to fall under the Board's policy on naming of facilities. He clarified that Board action at this meeting would allow

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requests to be presented for Board consideration to name the courts or facility after an individual who is making a significant donation. Mr. McInnis stated that Board procedure would be followed as donors are identified for each specific portion of the tennis complex. Mr. McInnis recommended the final approval of all naming of the courts and the facility be included in one action that comes to the Board at the conclusion of the fundraising for the project when all the funds are in place.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mrs. Thigpen and seconded by Mr. Kelley, with item #7, Change in Northwood Elementary School bell schedule, being tabled until the Board's regular meeting on March 26, 2012. Mrs. Thigpen's motion carried unanimously:

1. Minutes of Workshop Meeting of February 9, 2012; Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 13, 2012, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Re-appropriation of the remaining balance of \$2012.49 from Choctawhatchee High School technology equipment project (#1345), funded by District 1 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds, to purchase security cameras, presented by Cindy Frakes and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-96).
3. Budget Amendment #5 for 2011-2012, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-97).
4. Monthly Financial Report for January 2012, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-98).
5. Acceptance of Donations, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-99).
6. Payment of Invoices dated February 27, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-100).
7. Tabled - Change in Northwood Elementary School bell schedule, effective 2012-2013 school year, presented by Jay McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-152).
8. Certification of the Okaloosa County FISH (Florida Inventory of School Houses) Facilities Data for 2012, presented by Dr. Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-101).
9. Joint self-help project between Niceville High School and Ruckel Middle School to build eight tennis courts on the Ruckel Middle School campus, presented by Rodney Nobles and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-102).
10. Naming rights of the tennis courts and facility at the proposed joint self-help project between Niceville High School and Ruckel Middle School to build a tennis facility, presented by Rodney Nobles and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-103).
11. Volunteer Lists, compiled by Kaye McKinley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-104).
12. 2012-2013 School Year Calendar for Department of Juvenile Justice Schools, presented by Billy Mikel and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-105).

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13. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
  - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 12-106)
  - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 12-107)
  - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 12-106)
  - D. Suspension of Employee #xxx-xx-9115 (Exhibit 12-108)
14. Employment Separations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-109).
15. 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 12-110):
  - A. Jose Fernandez, Niceville High School, 15 hours
  - B. Trouretha Henry, Walker Elementary School, 4.25 hours
  - C. Greta Westbrook, Wright Elementary School, 7.50 hours
16. Zoning Waivers, presented by Rodney Nobles and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-111; see Zoning Waiver file).
17. Bids and Purchasing, presented by Vince Windham and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (see bid file for additional information):
  - A. Approval of Bids and Purchasing Requests:
    - (1) Renewal of Tag-on-Bid RFP 08/09-3 with Clay County Board of County Commissioners - Various Equipment and Amenities for Parts and Playgrounds, multiple vendors – Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-112)
  - B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None
  - C. Service Agreements:
    - (1) Amendment to SA# 12-77 Tiffany Reeves, Additional Services and increase in funding of \$750, Baker School (Baker Band Boosters) (Exhibit 12-113)
    - (2) SA# 12-86 John Rosemond, Presentation of “Love and Leadership”, Niceville High School and Ruckel Middle School - \$6500 (Internal Funds, Eagle Ram Tennis Center) (Exhibit 12-114)
    - (3) SA# 12-87 Dorothea L. Baltes, Grant writing services for Head Start Program, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum Department - \$4995 (General Funds, Summer VPK) (Exhibit 12-115)

**DISCUSSION AGENDA:** None

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

1. Motion to authorize Faithful+Gould to provide cost verification services for Program No. 4, Task Order No. 23, Fort Walton Beach High School Phase 1 Renovation and Roofing Project, amount not to exceed \$10,960.00, presented by Dr. Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, was made by Mrs. Thigpen, seconded by Mrs. Frakes and carried unanimously (Exhibit 12-116).

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**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SEAT MANAGEMENT CONTRACT:**

At the request of Chairman Walker, Mr. Eric Mitchell clarified that the entire support system for each laptop is included in the \$50 monthly cost.

**BIDS AND PURCHASING:** None

**ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS:** None

**SUPERINTENDENT’S BUSINESS:**

1. Out-of-State Student Field Trips (Exhibit 12-117)

**BOARD MEMBERS’ BUSINESS:**

In regard to the Workshop Minutes of February 9, 2012, Mrs. Frakes clarified her comment referring to the request for an RFP for a dropout prevention school and the Union’s concern that the District is willing to privatize its lowest performing students because of cost. Mrs. Frakes explained that privatizing the dropout prevention school would be the alternative education placement for low performing students with discipline referrals.

With reference to several public entities in the area using an E-agenda rather than traditional paper copies, Mrs. Thigpen made the recommendation to appoint a Board member to lead the effort in exploring this possibility for the School Board. She asked Mr. Nobles to inquire if the Superintendent would allow staff to provide either a proof of concept or to gather information on how to make E-agenda possible for the School Board meetings. Mrs. Thigpen offered to serve as the Board’s representative in this matter and will provide information to the Board for consideration of cost effectiveness. The Board members concurred that this was an appropriate direction to take at this time. Mr. Walker asked Mr. McInnis to assist Mrs. Thigpen in this process and with bringing a recommendation to the Board for consideration.

Karen Peek, President of OCEA, responded to Mrs. Frakes’ earlier comments regarding privatizing a dropout prevention program, stating that Okaloosa County is capable of educating all students, including those with discipline referrals. She challenged the Board to offer a program to the lowest performing 6<sup>th</sup> graders to determine if it makes a difference.

There being no further business, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder

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ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT AND  
CORPORATE SECRETARY

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RODNEY L. WALKER  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD