

REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 26, 2012

The Invocation was offered by Mr. Kelley; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Thigpen.

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on March 26, 2012, in the Okaloosa County Courthouse, Crestview, Florida.

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

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

Consent Agenda: Added as item #17, Request to Reinstate Geometry Credit for 2010-2011 Freshman Cohort

Discussion Agenda: Added as item #1, Change in Northwood Elementary School bell schedule, effective 2012-2013 school year

VISITORS: None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: No Request

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: None

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:

1. In-County Travel paid for the period of February 23 – March 7, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 12-153)
2. Out-of-County Travel paid for the period of February 23 – March 7, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 12-154)

CONSENT AGENDA:

Ms. Thrush asked about the possibility of some of the schools developing agreements with either Waste Management or Waste Pro in regard to recycling programs.

Dr. Bill Smith responded that he and staff have talked with the vendor currently collecting waste for the District, and with other vendors regarding a program that would lower the cost by reducing the amount of waste that is collected and the number of dumpsters at the schools. He stated that once all the information is gathered, a program will be drafted and presented to the Board for consideration.

In regard to the closing of the Blended School Program, Ms. Haan stated that enrollment has decreased significantly since initiation of the program in 2008, primarily due to the economy and fewer home-schooled students. She stated that parents of the

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students affected by the closure have been informed of options offered in the school system.

Mrs. Hendricks, Quality Assurance and Curriculum Program Director, spoke to the Board in regard to new legislation requiring Geometry credit be reflected on student transcripts as a graduation requirement. She stated that the District will restore the academic history of a small number of 8th grade students who completed Geometry Honors but elected not to take the high school credit, and then advanced to higher level math courses in high school.

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

1. Minutes of Workshop Meeting of March 8, 2012; Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 12, 2012; and Minutes of Student Disciplinary Hearings of March 8, 2012, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Appropriation of District 3 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Niceville High School for instruction technology equipment in the amount of \$5000.00, presented by Rodney Walker and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-155).
3. Payment of Invoices dated March 26, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-156).
4. Acceptance of Donations, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-157).
5. Non-Bargaining Personnel (Administrative/Managerial/Professional Technical) Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Salary Schedules – Effective July 1, 2011, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-158).
6. Non-Bargaining Personnel (Confidential District Secretary) Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Salary Schedules – Effective July 1, 2011, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-159).
7. Instructional Salary Schedule for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 – Effective July 1, 2011 (Verbiage Corrections), presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-160).
8. Joint Use Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners for use of Baker Park by Baker School for its school athletic programs and other school sponsored and approved events, presented by Dr. Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-161).
9. Application for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Food, Nutrition, and Wellness, submitted by Elliott Point Elementary School, presented by Ed Coleman and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-162).
10. Extension of Practicum/Student Teacher Education Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the University of West Florida, presented by Guyla Hendricks and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-163).

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11. Closing of Blended School Program effective 2012-2013 school year, presented by Debra Haan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-164).
12. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 12-165)
 - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 12-166)
 - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 12-165)
13. Employment Separations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-167).
14. 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 12-168):
 - A. Minerva Gadsden, Wright Elementary School, 2 hours
 - B. Michael Mitchell, Custodial Services, 75 hours
 - C. Thomas Valmus, Baker School, 3 hours
 - D. Greta Westbrook, Wright Elementary School, 7.5 hours
15. Zoning Waivers, presented by Rodney Nobles and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-169; see Zoning Waiver file).
16. 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 #10001031ITB with Orange County Public Schools for School Planners and Folders; multiple vendors, Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-170)
 - (2) Exempted Purchase, College Board, AP Exams, in the amount of approximately \$364,348.00, Curriculum Department (Exhibit 12-171)
 - (3) Exempted Purchase, Cambridge University, AICE Exams, in the amount of approximately \$75,167.00, Curriculum Department (Exhibit 12-172)
 - (4) Exempted Purchase, International Baccalaureate North America, IB Exams, in the amount of approximately \$37,915.00, Curriculum Department (Exhibit 12-173)
 - B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None
 - C. Service Agreements: None
17. Request to Reinstate Geometry Credit for 2010-2011 Freshman Cohort, presented by J.C. Connor and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-174).

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing at 4:15 p.m.

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PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Deletion of School Board Policy 6-26 Tobacco Use by Employees was presented and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Motion to delete School Board Policy 6-26 Tobacco Use by Employees effective July 1, 2012, was made by Mrs. Thigpen, seconded by Mr. Kelley and carried unanimously (Exhibit 12-175).

2. Revised School Board Policy 11-20 Tobacco Use on School Board Property was presented and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

Mr. Nobles stated that staff has met with Florida AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) and cessation programs have been prepared to begin when the policy takes effect on July 1, 2012. Mr. Patrick Strong, President of OCESPA, confirmed that concerns previously expressed have been addressed.

The Chairman called for public comment; there was none.

Motion to adopt revised School Board Policy 6-26 Tobacco Use on School Board Property effective July 1, 2012, was made by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 12-176).

The Chairman concluded the Public Hearing and returned to the Agenda for the Regular Meeting at 4:20 p.m.

DISCUSSION AGENDA:

1. Change in Northwood Elementary School bell schedule, effective 2012-2013 school year, presented by Jay McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Tabled 2/27/12; Exhibit 12-152)

Dr. Lynne Keefe commended the Board for considering a later start time for Northwood Elementary, and urged members to consider a later start time for Davidson Middle School and Crestview High School in an effort to save money.

Wendy Franke and Sonya Anderson, parents of students attending Northwood Elementary, commented on the impact the later start time would have on families, day care services, and the students. Ms. Franke stated that it is her understanding that the Northwood day care program is presently at maximum capacity.

Elizabeth Overstreet, a resident of Laurel Hill and parent of a student in an ESE program at Northwood, expressed concern regarding the length of time her child would be on the bus, and the impact the later start time would have on her employment which aligns with the current Northwood bell schedule.

In response to the parents' concerns, Mr. Rodney Nobles stated that bus schedules would be adjusted to a later pick-up time in order to accommodate the change in the bell schedule, and that a plan would be worked out in a timely fashion for those students who reside near other county boundaries to change buses at a central area and then transported to their respective schools.

Additionally, Mr. Nobles stated that Northwood offers day care services for \$40 per week, and that the current half-day prices will be adjusted with the change in the bell schedule. He commented that 90 students are currently enrolled in the

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day care at Northwood and there are no capacity issues. Mr. Nobles explained that staff is working on a transportation arrangement with Kids Discovery Day Care which provides services to 14 students attending Northwood.

Mr. Nobles stated that in addressing the safety concerns previously expressed, it has been determined that day care services at Northwood will be provided from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Office staff will be available at 7:30 to give direction to students and parents; however, they will not be handling the supervision of the students. Teachers will arrive at 7:55 and can begin supervising students at 8:00. Students arriving before 8:00 a.m. will have to be enrolled in day care in order to be supervised. Mr. Nobles informed the Board that during the first few weeks of school, staff will observe the number of students arriving unsupervised earlier than the school take-in time at 8:00 a.m., and those situations will be addressed to maintain a safe campus for those students.

On a motion by Mrs. Thigpen and seconded by Mrs. Frakes, the Board unanimously approved the 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).

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

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SEAT MANAGEMENT CONTRACT: None

BIDS AND PURCHASING: None

ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS:

1. Out-of-State Student Field Trips (Exhibit 12-177)

Dr. Tibbetts stated that Shoal River Middle School will host the District's IDEA competition Saturday, March 31st.

Dr. Tibbetts announced that Greer Harvell, Science teacher at Meigs Middle School, will be recognized Saturday, March 31st, as the University of West Florida's Distinguished Alumni of the Year.

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

Mrs. Frakes stated that a recent email from the FSBA indicated that the organization has recently updated to operating paperless through BoardDocs software, and they are offering training to any interested organizations.

Mrs. Frakes mentioned a recent article in the Daily News that brought awareness to The Backpack Program which, through the cooperation of several organizations and businesses, is designed to provide students in need with weekend meals.

The students in the IB program at Choctawhatchee High School will be holding their annual art show next week in the media center. Mrs. Frakes encouraged everyone to attend.

In follow-up to updating to a paperless agenda packet, Mrs. Thigpen informed the Board that she has met with Mr. Connor and Mr. Mitchell and a draft proposal will be presented to the Board in approximately two weeks.

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Mrs. Thrush stated that in regard to the conversion to a paperless agenda, the Board was made aware that there would be issues with bringing wireless devices to the Board meetings where the courthouse has a secured wireless network, and that an alternative site for the Crestview meetings may need to be considered. She stated that, in addition, it is difficult for the people who work to attend the Crestview meetings at 4:00 and she requested that also be a part of the discussion.

Ms. Thrush inquired about the job descriptions for the teachers at the STEMM Academy. Dr. Tibbetts responded that it is anticipated that an administrator will be assigned by May, and then teacher positions will be advertised and interviews will begin. She explained that teacher certification is no different than in the other schools. Highly qualified teachers with a degree or certification in subject area testing will be eligible. Dr. Tibbetts stated that approximately 55 students have registered in the program.

Mrs. Frakes asked about the extracurricular activities that would be offered at the STEMM Academy. Dr. Tibbetts responded that by statute any student can participate in an extracurricular activity at another school if it is not offered at the school where they attend. Students attending the STEMM Academy are encouraged to participate in after school activities at Lewis School, which is the closest school and bus transportation is already provided. Opportunities for co-curricular activities will depend on the number of students interested in the various activities. Mrs. Hendricks stated that the STEMM team is planning to make contact with several community opportunities and will provide as many options as possible to the parents.

There being no further business, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder

ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD