

The Invocation was offered by Ms. Thrush; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Tibbetts.

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on April 23, 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 #21A(2), Amendment to Telecommunications Services Contract for RFB 11-B04; item #22, Recommendation of the Selection Committee for RFP 12-P05 Management Services for Dropout Prevention School, was moved to Discussion Agenda at the request of Ms. Thrush; item #23, Recommendation of the Selection Committee for RFP 12-P06 Energy Conservation & Management Program, was moved to Discussion Agenda at the request of Ms. Thrush; added as item #24, Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Bob Sikes Elementary School in the amount of \$10,000.00

Discussion Agenda: Added as item #1, Recommendation of the Selection Committee for RFP 12-P05 Management Services for Dropout Prevention School; added as item #2, Recommendation of the Selection Committee for RFP 12-P06 Energy Conservation & Management Program

**VISITORS:** None

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** No Request

**PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS:**

1. The Superintendent's recommendation for the appointment of Samantha Dawson to the position of Principal, Edge Elementary School, was approved on a motion by Ms. Thrush, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 12-220).
2. The recommendation of the Superintendent for the appointment of Ricardo Soria to the position of Assistant Principal, The Okaloosa STEMM Center, was approved on a motion by Mrs. Thigpen, seconded by Ms. Thrush and carried unanimously (Exhibit 12-221).

**COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:**

1. In-County Travel paid for the period of March 22 – April 4, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 12-222)
2. Out-of-County Travel paid for the period of March 22 – April 4, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 12-223)
3. Quarterly Report for Service Agreements under the \$5,000.00 threshold, January – March 2012, presented by Vince Windham (Exhibit 12-224)

4. Quarterly Report for Service Agreements for Law Enforcement under the \$5,000.00 threshold, January – March 2012, presented by Vince Windham (Exhibit 12-225)
5. Quarterly Report for Short-Term Facility Use Contracts and Lease Agreements with fees of less than \$5,000.00, January – March 2012, presented by Vince Windham (Exhibit 12-226)
6. Okaloosa County School District App for iPhone and iPad users, presented by Ryan Gore (Exhibit 12-227)

Ryan Gore, Information Systems Program Director, presented the iOCSD app initiative that merges technology and stakeholder communications. It makes information, such as breaking news in the district, at the fingertips of anyone with an iPhone, iPad or iTouch device. Additionally, the app will allow parents access to their children's grades, and it is linked to the District calendar which will allow parents the choice of receiving notifications the day before an event, and the choice to opt into an emergency notification system. With the coordination of L3, the link for the app will be included on the website for parents, students, and stakeholders to download to their device.

Mr. Gore introduced representatives of the District's programming staff, Roy Spann, Coordinator of Programming Services, and Bryan Hughes, Program Analyst and the primary developer of the app. Dr. Tibbetts commented that District staff will meet with principals next month to discuss ways they can customize the app to provide school information to parents.

7. Okaloosa Principal Leadership Assessment, presented by Christy McInnis (Exhibit 12-228)

Mrs. Christy McInnis, Program Director of Staff Development, spoke to the Board in regard to the Okaloosa Principal Leadership Assessment which is required of Okaloosa County as a Race to the Top District. She stated that the District chose to use the Florida School Principal Leadership Assessment which is the State model developed as an option for districts.

She noted that some of the procedures in regard to implementation of the assessment will be refined, but the rubric, weighting and the language contained in the model will be followed. Full implementation is expected to begin with the 2012-2013 school year. She explained that the assessment aligns directly with the new principal standards that were revised and adopted last year, and also with all of the statutes and required documentation. She answered questions concerning the impact climate surveys will have on the evaluations, and she explained the scoring process. The Department of Education will provide training for the four raters and the principals. Dr. Tibbetts stated that the assistant principals will be evaluated with the same model.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mr. Eric Mitchell explained that the additional cell phone allowance is an administrative tool used with the teacher evaluation program at the schools where Wi-Fi service is not available. It is an option that allows the principals to acquire the wireless access points from cell phone providers that aligns with the district's current cell phone policy. It is not intended for student use, and will no longer be needed as Wi-Fi is installed in the schools.

In response to Mrs. Frakes' question regarding training opportunities for teachers to complete their ESOL endorsements, Dr. Tibbetts stated that many classes will be offered this summer and she would provide that information to Mrs. Frakes.

At the request of Mrs. Thigpen, Kaye McKinley, Deputy Superintendent, stated that if the District is awarded the \$2.5 million Okaloosa S.C.I.E.NC.E. grant, she will give a PowerPoint presentation showing how this incredible opportunity will impact the District. She explained that the District would partner with Harvard University and the Smithsonian Institute to implement the program that supports STEM activities to 25 Okaloosa County schools with more than 15% military student enrollment. She noted that the five schools that are participating in the DoDEA science lab grant that was awarded last year cannot participate in this program. Mrs. McKinley commented that Okaloosa County is the first public school system that Harvard University and the Smithsonian have worked with at this magnitude.

Responding to Mrs. Frakes' question regarding the Tag-on-Bid for the Technology Refresh Program, Vince Windham explained that this is put in place for direct Dell purchases, and the District is given a discount if a direct purchase is made.

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

1. Minutes of Workshop Meeting of April 5, 2012 and Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 9, 2012, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Revised report of compliance with the requirements of Section 120.74, F.S., regarding review of agency rules, presented by Jeff McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-229).
3. Budget Amendment #6 for 2011-2012, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-230).
4. Monthly Financial Report for February 2012, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-231).
5. Acceptance of Donations, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-232).
6. Payment of Invoices dated April 23, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-233).
7. Payroll Calendars for fiscal year 2012-2013, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-234).
8. Employee cell phone allowance for data access only at a rate of \$15.00 per month, presented by Rodney Nobles and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-235).
9. 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 12-236).
10. Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facilities Planning between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the Town of Cinco Bayou, presented by Dr. Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-237).
11. Volunteer Lists, compiled by Kaye McKinley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-238).
12. Statewide Provider Agreement for VPK between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the Early Learning Coalition of Okaloosa/Walton Counties, presented by Debra Haan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-239).

13. Cleared certification requirements and issuance of contract for the 2011-2012 school year, presented by Christy McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-240).
14. Revision to AMIKids Emerald Coast School Year Calendar 2011-2012, presented by Jerry Sansom and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-241).
15. Continued approval of the Add-on Certification Program for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Endorsement, presented by Kathy Baird and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-242).
16. Grant Application for Okaloosa S.C.I.E.N.C.E. (Science \*Community-Involvement \*Engagement \*Networking \*Capacity-Enhancement), presented by Kaye McKinley and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-243).
17. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
  - A. New Hire Report (Exhibit 12-244)
  - B. Leave Requests (Exhibit 12-245)
  - C. Transfer Report (Exhibit 12-244)
18. Employment Separations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval Exhibit 12-246).
19. 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 12-247):
  - A. Patricia David, Transportation, 13.25 hours
  - B. Wayne Jones, Maintenance, 75 hours
  - C. Tamara Kachline, Custodial Services, 7.5 hours
20. Zoning Waivers, presented by Rodney Nobles and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-248; see Zoning Waiver file).
21. 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) Tag-On 11/12-09 with Valencia College for Technology Refresh Program (TRP), Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-249)
    - (2) Amendment to Telecommunications Services Contract for RFB 11-B04 with Cox Communications, for the STEMM Center (Exhibit 12-250)
  - B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None
  - C. Service Agreements:
    - (1) Amendment to SA# 12-72 Abrakadoodle, addition of two (2) days to contract, no change in contract amount, Plew Elementary School (Exhibit 12-251)
22. Moved to Discussion Agenda #1 - Recommendation of the Selection Committee for RFP 12-P05 Management Services for Dropout Prevention School, presented by Vince Windham and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

23. Moved to Discussion Agenda #2 - Recommendation of the Selection Committee for RFP 12-P06 Energy Conservation & Management Program, presented by Vince Windham and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
24. Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Bob Sikes Elementary School for room renovation and flooring in the amount of \$10,000.00, presented by Cathy Thigpen and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-252).

**DISCUSSION AGENDA:**

1. Recommendation of the Selection Committee for RFP 12-P05 Management Services for Dropout Prevention School, presented by Vince Windham and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

Ms. Thrush asked which students would be targeted for the proposed dropout prevention school, and its affect on existing programs. Mr. Nobles stated that the proposal offers dropout prevention services in the south end of the district for 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade at-risk students who do not fit the profile for the Academy. He explained the differences of the existing programs, and stated that this program would be similar to ECCI North, for those students residing in the south end of the district that meet certain criteria.

Mr. Nobles clarified that the request to the Board at this time is for approval to move forward with contract negotiations with the provider that the selection committee has ranked as its first choice. If a contract is not developed with the committee's highest ranked proposer, then the committee would enter into negotiations with its next highest ranked proposer. Once a contract is developed, it will be presented to the Board for approval. Mr. McInnis clarified that the terms in the provider's proposal presented to the Board at this time would be the parameters in which the contract would be negotiated. Mr. Nobles answered questions in regard to the various required supplemental services and education components included in the proposal.

In response to Ms. Thrush's question regarding the cost of the District replicating the program in the north county area, and if a cost analysis was provided, Mr. Nobles responded that there is a cost differential, and a comparison was made to determine if the District could provide services for a program with its employees at a lower cost. He stated that the revenue stream to provide certain supplemental services does not pay for the cost. The cost analysis showed the two proposals to be similar to the current program at the north end of the district, based on the number of students and the services currently provided at that facility. The newer wing at Ocean City Elementary would be the facility for the proposed program, and transportation would be provided.

In response to Ms. Thrush's questions regarding the referral procedure, Mr. Nobles explained the referral process and noted that the process would not begin unless a contract is developed with a provider and approved by the Board.

Motion was made by Mrs. Thigpen, seconded by Mr. Kelley and carried unanimously to approve the Recommendation of the Selection Committee for RFP 12-P05 Management Services for Dropout Prevention School, presented by Vince Windham and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-253).

2. Recommendation of the Selection Committee for RFP 12-P06 Energy Conservation & Management Program, presented by Vince Windham and recommended by the Superintendent for approval.

Ms. Thrush expressed her concerns with moving forward and approving a contract with a company to provide an energy management program. She noted one of her concerns with the proposals is the number of employees the company would hire to implement the project. She stated that the District has attempted energy conservation in the past, as far as behavior modification, and she believes more could be done internally to reduce the Districts' utility costs.

Dr. Bill Smith, Director of Facilities, explained that at this time approval is requested of the selection committee's first choice of providers. If approved, the committee will enter into contract negotiations, and then a contract proposal will be presented to the Board for consideration. He stated that the committee's first choice of providers submitted the best savings to the District, and the company had the most experience in the field and the best background.

Dr. Smith commented that the District attempted behavior modification in the past; however, there was not enough manpower to maintain it and the savings was short-lived. In discussions with other districts in the state, several districts have programs similar to the one proposed and are pleased with the results, and some districts have continued with the program for approximately 20 years. He stated that it is very important that whoever is selected for the program to continue with it in order to generate savings, and that it is over a \$10-20 million cost avoidance program if the projections are met. He noted that changing behavior will generate savings, not necessarily changing equipment.

Dr. Smith explained that the District would be reimbursed for the three employees from the savings. He explained the District's out of pocket cost as presented in the proposal. Mr. Walker commented that he would support moving forward with contract negotiations; however, he is concerned about the difficulty in the accounting of this type of business, such as hiring approximately three employees to implement and maintain the program, and the District's savings not being enough to pay those employees. Board members requested additional detailed information, and Dr. Smith stated it would be provided with the proposed contract.

Motion to approve the Recommendation of the Selection Committee for RFP 12-P06 Energy Conservation & Management Program, presented by Vince Windham and recommended by the Superintendent for approval was made by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 12-254).

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

1. Motion authorizing Faithful+Gould to provide cost verification services for Program No. 4, Task Order No. 24, Niceville High School and Lewis School Re-roofing Projects, amount not to exceed \$4,384.00, presented by Dr. Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, was made by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mrs. Thigpen and carried unanimously (Exhibit 12-255).

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SEAT MANAGEMENT CONTRACT:**

Mr. Eric Mitchell clarified that the Amendment to the Telecommunication Services Contract for RFB 11-B04 for the STEMM Center is not a requirement, but rather an option to participate. Before the District can move forward, the opportunity to participate must be offered to the City of Valparaiso. If they decline, the District can move forward; and if they accept, their proposal will be presented at the next Board meeting.

**BIDS AND PURCHASING:** None

**ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS:** None

**SUPERINTENDENT’S BUSINESS:**

1. Out-of-State Student Field Trips (Exhibit 12-256)

Dr. Tibbetts thanked the students and teachers who worked hard during FCAT week. She informed the Board that a PowerPoint presentation would be given at the next Board meeting regarding the changes in the FCAT cut scores and the impact on district school grades.

**BOARD MEMBERS’ BUSINESS:**

In response to public comment about the STEMM funding and how it “smacks of elitism”, and that it should be spread among all middle schools, Mrs. Frakes pointed out that the funding is a legislative appropriation for a specific purpose; and although the District can decline the funding, it does not have the authority to use it for another purpose. She also emphasized that Okaloosa County has a reputation for a rigorous curriculum that is offered to all its students, and that students are encouraged to reach their full potential. She takes exception to the contention that it “smacks of elitism”.

Mrs. Frakes announced that the District’s Art Show is May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at the Fairgrounds, with the presentation of awards on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The Take Stock awards presentation is Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Choctawhatchee High School will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September, and a bar-b-q fundraiser for the event will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Kelley stated that the Anne T. Mitchell Academic Senior Honors Assembly is Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, beginning with a reception at 5:00 p.m. and the program at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Thrush announced that Niceville High School student, Brooke Durden, has advanced to the Class 3A State Championship Tennis Final. Several area weightlifting students medaled in the Boy’s Weightlifting Class 2A State Finals.

Plew Elementary School is holding their Evening of the Arts Program fundraiser Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Thrush reminded parents to continue registering their students before next school year.

The Board and Superintendent extended their condolences to the family of Walt Ruckel. Dr. Tibbetts stated that Mr. Ruckel was a strong supporter of public education involvement in the community. She thanked the many people like Mr. Ruckel, who was a dynamic force in the Niceville community.

Karen Peek, President of OCEA, addressed the Board regarding the arbitration hearing that occurred April 6, 2012. She expressed her disappointment in the delays of the process and the money it is costing the District. She asked that the District move forward with the process to a final resolution.

There being no further business, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 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