

REGULAR MEETING – JULY 9, 2012

The Invocation was offered by Dr. Tibbetts; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Frakes.

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Regular Session on July 9, 2012, in the School District Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place, SE, Fort Walton Beach, 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 6:05 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 June 7 – 20, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 12-433)
2. Out-of-County Travel paid for the period of June 7 – 20, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan (Exhibit 12-434)
3. Okaloosa County School Health Services Manual 2011, Updated July 2012, presented by Lois Handzo (Exhibit 12-435)

Lois Handzo stated that the immunization requirements, as well as school entrance requirements, will be featured on the School Zone Cable TV show before the beginning of the school year. She stated that parents will also be informed of the revised Dispersion of Medication Form.

4. Results of Okaloosa County School District Climate Survey 2011-2012, presented by Steve McLaughlin (Exhibit 12-436)
5. Report on End-of-Course Exams, presented by Steve McLaughlin

Superintendent Tibbetts introduced Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor of the Florida Department of Education, Curriculum, Instruction and Student Services. As a representative for Commissioner Robinson, Ms. Tappen stated that the Department of Education and Commissioner Robinson support Okaloosa School District's steps forward with the implementation of end of course exams in all courses. She explained that State law requires local school districts by 2014-2015 to administer a student assessment that measures student mastery of the

REGULAR MEETING – JULY 9, 2012

content in the course description for each course offered. State law also requires districts to evaluate instructional personnel and school administrators on their performance evaluation based upon student performance on an assessment that is common for all students who take the same course throughout the district.

Ms. Tappen stated that during the transition of implementing the Common Core, students are being prepared for success on PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers), a national assessment aligned to national standards effective the 2014-2015 school year. She spoke of increased rigor in the various areas in preparation for PARCC. She answered questions from Ms. Thrush regarding the assessment of benchmarks and the tools available to assist teachers.

Guyla Hendricks, Chief Officer of Quality Assurance, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the District's second semester end of course (EOC) exams which were administered to seventh through twelfth grade students in core courses without State EOC exams. She provided a brief overview of the history of the District's EOC exams, which started in 2007, with the passing of State law in regard to measurement of student progress and learning gains, and the responsibility of the districts for that purpose. In that five-year period, EOC exams have been administered at the conclusion of every year as a summative evaluation instrument, and annual revision has been provided based on teacher input and recommendations.

Mrs. Hendricks commented on the two factors which led to the new level of assessment which were the increased expectation for rigor and complexity, and the new teacher evaluation system. One of the two components of that assessment is student performance. In order to insure equity for teachers, the District contracted with a third party vendor, Beacon Learning Center, to analyze the exams to determine how closely the exams were aligned to the State benchmarks and standards. She explained the District's direction to Beacon, and stated that Beacon revised those exams.

Rationale and clarification were provided as Mrs. Hendricks addressed the complaints and concerns that had been brought to the District's attention. She clarified that not all students received inappropriate EOC exams. She reminded everyone that the District's focus of PARCC, which will be in place in 2014-2015, is on high complexity questions, a significant scope of questions, readability level, length of passages and application to real life and unfamiliar situations. She explained the District's validation process, and clarified that it was not comparable to that of the State's. She noted that the foundation of validation is insuring that the questions on the exams matched the benchmarks.

Mrs. Hendricks informed the Board that staff is collecting an item analysis to identify questions with high percentage of incorrect answers, as well as obtaining teacher feedback. Teachers are meeting at this time to discuss any necessary revisions to questions, and will continue throughout the next year. Curriculum pacing guides are being developed or updated, and professional development will continue to be scheduled for teachers in regard to creating high complexity level multiple choice questions.

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Ryan Gore, Program Director of Information Systems, explained the process, the rationale, and the methods of the adjustment of the EOC exam scores. Grade distributions of Beacon EOC exams were compared between the 2011 and 2012 school years for the purpose of determining if there were significant changes between the two years. Based upon the review, it was determined that there were some courses with significant changes in grade distributions.

REGULAR MEETING – JULY 9, 2012

Mr. Gore explained that in an effort to hold students as harmless as possible, three models were discussed and applied to each Beacon EOC course, with the goal of arriving at a comparable grade distribution to the previous school year. District staff and school administrators reviewed the EOC distribution data and determined that some courses warranted an adjustment. Mr. Gore presented a breakdown of data which showed a high school second semester comparison for each EOC subject area for this year and the previous school year, as well as a middle school final grade comparison, and a final grade change summary.

Mr. Gore stated that the data does not support a wholesale removal of the exams. The recommendation of the District is that the EOC exams not be removed; however, students and parents be afforded the opportunity to appeal their exam grade if the student's grade dropped a letter grade in the course, and if there is a significant gap between student performance during the school year and their performance on the exam. He explained the appeal criteria and stated that each appeal would be considered individually. He gave scenario examples that may be presented to the appeals committee.

Mr. Gore explained the reasons for not recommending the wholesale removal of the exams, one of which was the potential negative impact to teachers in the evaluation system. He detailed how removal of the EOC exams would adversely affect the teacher evaluation, and stated that the teacher evaluation committee would discuss options and make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Walker clarified that the teacher evaluation committee could choose not to use the EOC exams for teacher evaluations, but could use scores from another assessment such as FCAT.

Discussion followed regarding the comparison of last year's exams to this year's exams, and the validity and reliability of the exams. Dr. Tibbetts stated that all the benchmarks were represented on the exams and that reliability occurs over a three to four year period.

Parents and teachers addressed the Board regarding the validity and reliability of the exams, their opposition to the District's recommendation of an appeals process, and their support to remove the EOC exam grades for any student whose grade was negatively impacted or to keep the EOC exam grades on those students' records that there was no negative impact. Those individuals addressing the Board were: Jim Simpson, Sue Sorenson, Cheryl Songster, Daniel Sorenson, John Fowler, Clark Barrow, Angela Shelikoff, J.B. Whitten, Shirley Young, Paul Lux, Christopher Reid, Laura Chamberlain, Sharon Thetford, Steve Chambers, Kathy Thompson, Elaine Crump, Jay Fisher, Cori Murphey, and Leslie Sheekley.

Representing OCEA, President Karen Peek spoke to the Board in opposition of the appeals process, and she explained reasons for the organization's objection to the District's recommendation. She stated that OCEA was in support of not penalizing students if their grades were lowered after the exams, and that credit be given if their grades were higher after the exam scores. She recommended that the teacher evaluation committee reconvene to determine how the student performance scores would be applied for the teachers, and that OCEA bring their recommendation to the Board.

District staff answered questions and addressed concerns raised by the Board members. Mrs. Frakes acknowledged that the result of the EOC exams is not right. She commented that this year has been the pilot and much has been learned. She stated that a hold harmless methodology is needed so that no student is harmed by the results of this year's EOC exams. She recommended holding all students harmless; students who performed better on the exam and

REGULAR MEETING – JULY 9, 2012

raised a letter grade would be given credit, and students who performed poorly on the exam and fell a letter grade would be held harmless. She emphasized that this would be a solution for this previous school year only. She suggested more thorough teacher training so teachers understand the high stakes testing, the pacing guides, the curriculum guides, and the standards.

Mrs. Thigpen asked how grades would be reflected on report cards since EOC exam grades do not affect all students. Mr. Gore stated that report cards could be reprinted without the exam grades. He stated that if students were held harmless, teachers would have to re-verify grades and the current grades would be deleted from the transcript and re-posted. Adjustments to those students' grades would have to be completed within the next 1½ weeks in order to roll student data to the new school year; however, teachers would not have to re-verify grades during that timeframe.

At Mrs. Thigpen's request, Mrs. Hendricks explained the 2 criteria of the appeals process, and responded to questions from the Board members. The Board members clarified the difference between the appeals process and Mrs. Frakes' suggestion.

Mr. Kelley commented that grades have historically fallen on cumulative exams; however, that does not minimize the issues with the exams this year, and there is a need for change as the District moves forward. He agreed with Mrs. Frakes' comment in regard to this being a pilot year, and added that the District's proposal is an attempt at fixing a mistake. He stated that it is not unreasonable to apply the curve to tests and the appeals process is justified.

Ms. Thrush stated that this year's EOC exams did not give students a fair chance of improving a semester grade. The exams did not assess students' knowledge of a subject or the teaching ability of instructors teaching the subjects. She commented that these exams were not validated or reliable.

Responding to Ms. Thrush's concern regarding the teachers' involvement in the exam development and review processes, Mr. McLaughlin provided a history of teacher participation, noting that opportunities have been afforded to every teacher. He explained the teacher participation of exam reviews that are currently ongoing. Mrs. Thigpen commented that exam review and development is a process throughout the year, and suggested that teachers be invited throughout the entire process. She stated that teacher involvement gives a broader perspective of the test and drives professional development.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frakes to hold all students harmless; if the end of course exam grade improved a student's final grade then the grade stands, and if the end of course exam grade negatively impacted a student's final grade then the end of course exam grade will be forgiven. The motion was seconded by Ms. Thrush and carried 4-1, Mr. Kelley dissenting (Exhibit 12-437).

Dr. Tibbetts acknowledged that the District makes mistakes and wants what is in the best interest of teachers, students and families when resolving them. She stated that the District will make things right for students that have been impacted. She noted that in an effort to resolve the outcome of the end of course exams, the District took the advice from the State and looked at other school districts. She stated that although funds are tight, the District will do a better job vetting the exams next year. Mr. Gore and Mrs. Hendricks were applauded for their efforts throughout this process. She stated that the District will continue to move forward in preparing students with high rigor and critical thinking skills in preparation for PARCC, by increasing the complexity and addressing all the standards.

REGULAR MEETING – JULY 9, 2012

The Chairman called a brief recess at 9:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

In regard to reinstatement of sick leave, Mrs. Frakes asked if employees are offered OSHA training. Mr. Foxworthy responded that the District does offer OSHA training to employees; however, additional training may be needed. He stated that he would look into how much training is offered and whether additional training is needed.

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

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 25, 2012, recommended by the Superintendent for approval.
2. Payment of Invoices dated July 9, 2012, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-438).
3. Acceptance of Donations, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-439).
4. TremCare Service Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. (WTI), a subsidiary of Tremco Incorporated, to provide roof warranty for Laurel Hill School, presented by Dr. Bill Smith and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-440).
5. Extension of the 2009-2012 Policies and Procedures for the Specially Designed Instruction and Related Services for Exceptional Students (SP&P) through the 2012-2013 school year, presented by Lois Handzo and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-441).
6. Common Core State Standards Summer Institutes Project Application 2012, presented by Christy McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-442).
7. Cleared certification requirements and issuance of contract for the 2012-2013 school year, presented by Christy McInnis and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-443).
8. Personnel Recommendations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval:
 - A. New Hire Report (No Report)
 - B. Leave Requests (No Report)
 - C. Transfer Report (No Report)
9. Employment Separations, presented by Mike Foxworthy and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-444).
10. 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 12-445):
 - A. Charles Benton, Maintenance, 51 hours
11. Memorandum of Understanding and Letter of Agreement between the School Board of Okaloosa County and the Dairy Council of Florida for participation in the Reimbursable Meal Vending Machine Grant Program 2012-2013, presented by

REGULAR MEETING – JULY 9, 2012

Ed Coleman and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-446).

12. Dairy Council of Florida Bucks for Breakfast Grant Applications submitted by Edwins Elementary School, Elliott Point Elementary School, and Laurel Hill School, presented by Ed Coleman and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-447).
13. 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) RFP 12-P08 Chemical Dilution Systems for the Okaloosa County School District, awarded to PR Chemical & Paper Supply, Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-448)
 - (2) RFB 12-B09 Physical and Occupational Therapy, District-wide, awarded to Career Staff Unlimited, Pediatric Therapy Center, Comprehensive Therapy Consultants, and Community Rehab Associates (Exhibit 12-449)
 - (3) RFB 12-B10 Audiological Services, District-wide, awarded to Emerald Coast Hearing Associates, Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-450)
 - (4) Renewal of Annual Agreement with the School District of Escambia County for Indefinite Quantity Environmental Contracting Services, awarded to NCM Demolition & Remediation, Inc., and Cross Construction Services (Exhibit 12-451)
 - (5) Renewal of RFB 09-B22 Fence Bid, awarded to All Florida Fence & Deck, Inc., Harris Fence Installation, Inc., and Shalimar Industries, LLC, Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-452)
 - (6) Renewal of RFB 09-B25 Orientation and Mobility Services, awarded to Lori Hagle, Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-453)
 - (7) Renewal of RFB 09-B29 Mop Services, awarded to Unifirst Corporation, Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-454)
 - (8) Renewal of RFB 10-B01 Roofing Repairs District-wide, awarded to Bel-Mac Roofing, Inc., and Porter Roofing Contractors, Inc., Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-455)
 - (9) Renewal of RFB 12-B01 Petroleum Products & Anti-Freeze, awarded to Davison Oil and The McPherson Companies, Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-456)
 - (10) Tag-on Bid RFP R127035JM with the School District of Lee County, Florida for Information Technology Hardware, Software and Equipment, multiple vendors, Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-457)
 - (11) Renewal of Tag-on Bid MCSD RFP 5001-0-2006/JK with School Board of Martin County for Food and Supply Distribution Service for P.O.W.E.R. Buying Group, Fixed Prices (Exhibit 12-458)
 - B. Rejection of Bids and Purchasing Requests: None

REGULAR MEETING – JULY 9, 2012

C. Service Agreements:

- (1) SA# 13-23 Keith Casey, Instruction to Choctawhatchee Color Guards, Winter Guards, and Marching Band - \$6000.00 (Internal Funds-Band Parents) (Exhibit 12-459)
- (2) SA# 13-24 Clare Colon, Choreography Instruction for Niceville High School Color Guard - \$9400.00 (Internal Funds-Band Boosters) (Exhibit 12-460)
- (3) SA# 13-31 The Emerald Coast Science Center, Monthly Science Program to all students, Longwood Elementary School - \$14,444.00 (General Funds) (Exhibit 12-461)
- (4) SA# 13-34 Jermaine Johnson, Choreography for Choctawhatchee High School Marching Band, Color Guards and Winter Guards - \$9960.00 (Internal Funds-Indianettes Dance Team) (Exhibit 12-462)
- (5) SA# 13-35 Pat Ell, Facilitate enrollment, assessment and placement of homeless children, assist with coordinating the Title X Tutoring Program and assist the Title X Liaison - \$7568.00 (Special Revenue, Title X, Homeless Children & Youth) (Exhibit 12-463)

DISCUSSION AGENDA: None

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE'S BUSINESS:

1. Motion to approve Program No. 4, Task Order No. 1, Change Order No. 2, Declaration of Shared Savings, total amount of \$979,080.11, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval, was made by Mrs. Thigpen, seconded by Mr. Kelley and carried unanimously (Exhibit 12-464).
2. On a motion by Mrs. Thigpen and seconded by Mr. Kelley, the Board unanimously approved Program No. 4, Task Order No. 6, Change Order No. 8, Declaration of Shared Savings, total amount of \$689,146.47, presented by Rita Scallan and recommended by the Superintendent for approval (Exhibit 12-465).

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 12-466)

Dr. Tibbetts announced that school grades will be released this week. Commissioner Robinson has sent a letter to districts and schools to post on their web sites in an effort to prepare everyone for lower school grades. Increased test rigor will create students to have lower test scores, which affects school grades.

BOARD MEMBERS' BUSINESS:

1. Motion to appoint Cindy Frakes and Gloria Frazier as the Board's representatives to the Value Adjustment Board was made by Mrs. Thigpen, seconded Mr. Kelley and carried unanimously (Exhibit 12-467).

REGULAR MEETING – JULY 9, 2012

Responding to Mrs. Thigpen's inquiry regarding the budget workshop, Mrs. Scallan stated that a workshop to review department budgets is in the process of being scheduled. Permission to advertise the fiscal year 2012-2013 preliminary and tentative budget will be requested at the July 23, 2012 Board meeting. A public hearing on the fiscal year 2012-2013 preliminary and tentative budget will be held July 30, 2012, at 5:15 p.m., at the Crestview Courthouse.

There being no further business, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder

ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD