

WORKSHOP MEETING – JANUARY 5, 2012

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on January 5, 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

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 9:00 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 Consent #9D, Suspension of Employee #xxx-xx-7490; Added as Consent #14, Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Shoal River Middle School in the amount of \$15,000.

Mr. McInnis explained that Resolution 12-01 would quit claim and convey any interest that the Board may have in a metal building located on State property to DJJ. The Board approved the building as a self-help project in 2001 and the project was paid for by State grants. He stated that DJJ has requested and agreed to accept the title to the building which will resolve any question of the Board's responsibility for future maintenance of the building. It has been confirmed that the building has been on DJJ's property inventory and they have maintained insurance on the structure. The building is not listed on the District's inventory report.

At the request of Ms. Thrush, Mr. Steve McLaughlin explained the textbook adoption procedure. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the textbook adoption schedule is set by the State so that district's keep current with the textbooks and material that match the state standards. He commented that it is a county-wide adoption; however since the District is site-based, some schools in the past have chosen not to make the purchase, primarily for budgetary reasons. Fifty percent of schools' flexibility funds are allocated for State adopted materials.

Mr. McInnis informed the Board of a notice and de minimis settlement offer received from the Marine Shale Processors Site PRP Group in Louisiana that is involved in a claim that has been filed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Protection, concerning a landfill site that was used for disposal of hazardous waste which has been deemed in need of cleanup. The District has confirmed through a review of records that the Bills of Lading invoices, which indicate that the school district did dispose of a small amount of hazardous waste in the 1989 and 1990 timeframe, are valid. A cash-out settlement opportunity has been offered to the District to avoid further involvement in the investigation and clean-up process and would release the District from any sub-claims by the Marine Shale Processors Site PRP Group. Mr. McInnis stated that he will bring an Offer of Settlement and General Release from Marine Shale Processors Site PRP Group to the regular meeting Monday evening for consideration to authorize a payment in the amount of \$8,000 as a settlement so that the Board will not have any continued responsibilities or involvement with the Marine Shale Processors Site PRP Group in this matter.

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Karen Peek, President of OCEA, addressed the Board regarding some schools that do not purchase textbooks regularly due to lack of funds. She noted that site-based management in this situation allows some schools to appropriate funds in a manner to purchase updated textbooks, while teachers at the schools that do not have the means to purchase new textbooks are at a disadvantage. She requested that the Board consider some type of policy or a means to provide new and accurate textbooks in every school.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder

ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD