

WORKSHOP MEETING – MARCH 8, 2012

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on March 8, 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 9:10 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.

In response to Mrs. Frakes' questions regarding the disposal of surplus property, Mr. Bolton stated that there have been ample opportunities for the purchase of the school buses that are on the surplus list, as they have been included in several surplus sales. He also noted that one of the school buses is not operational. He stated that items on the list that do not have inventory numbers were below the threshold amount when purchased.

In regard to the Education Partnership Agreement with the Department of the Air Force, Dr. Tibbetts expressed her appreciation to the School Board attorney and the attorneys with the military for their efforts in drafting the agreement which allows personnel from the Air Armament Center and Air Force Research Lab to come into the schools and work with the students and teachers.

Mrs. Frakes asked about the metric that will be used to determine the effectiveness in encouraging students to pursue studies in STEM as outlined in the Specific Obligations section of the agreement. Dr. Tibbetts responded that 10th grade students may declare a career choice on the PSAT, and 11th and 12th grade students may declare a career on the SAT and ACT.

In regard to the server room located in the Central Administration Complex, Mr. Nobles explained the additional scope modifications and revisions to the electrical design that will require additional funding. Technology growth and State mandates have necessitated the District to add larger servers, and the air conditioning system in place is inadequate to cool the equipment in the server room. Mr. Nobles stated that currently the power is at its maximum level in the server room, and there have been several occasions that the entire server system has been close to shutting down. Less critical parts of the server system have been shut down repeatedly for cooling. The proposed additional modifications are essential for current and future growth.

Ms. Thrush expressed concern regarding the additional cost for the renovations with the District's capital budget becoming tighter. Mr. Walker stated that the construction committee understands the Board's concerns with regard to capital funds and noted that this project could cost less than proposed since it is a time and materials task order. He stated that this project is critical to run the District's computer system and will service the District for many years in the future. Ms. Thrush asked for cost estimates and Dr. Smith stated he would provide her with the supporting documentation.

Ms. Thrush asked if a plan has been made for Phase 2 of the roofing and renovation project at Fort Walton Beach High School. Dr. Bill Smith stated that a master

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plan has been developed for the entire facility; however Phase 2 is not developed at the same level as Phase 1 which is ready to commence.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that the Okaloosa Public School Foundation has received an AT&T STEM work project grant. She thanked Mrs. McKinley and all of the teachers who are using the DODEA science labs funded by the Department of Education through Mrs. McKinley's efforts.

Mrs. Frakes noted the low participation rate on the custodial services customer satisfaction survey which could skew the results. She stated that the Board needs better information to determine if the custodial services are satisfactory. She requested that the next survey be provided for completion during a faculty meeting.

Mrs. Frakes commented on the Senate Bill Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement of Senate Bill 1366, which is an education bill that directs funding toward education in technical fields. She noted some of the forthcoming changes in the career themed courses in middle schools as outlined in the bill, as well as Florida's projected requirements in STEM related jobs requiring postsecondary education and training in high technology employment. She stated that it is incumbent upon the Board to look forward and plan for the need of Florida's anticipated job growth in the STEM careers.

Ms. Thrush stated that a Senate Bill recently passed that could affect advanced placement students. Mr. McLaughlin, Curriculum Specialist, explained that it is a higher education bill that affects high schools with Advanced Placement and AICE curriculum. Through discussion with admissions directors at FSU and the University of Florida, the bill would give them statutory authority to disallow certain high school dual enrollment math and science credits.

Ms. Thrush commented that kindergarten registration begins next week. The parent climate survey is available online through the end of March. Plew Elementary School's academic team placed first in the state and fifth in the nation.

Ms. Thrush asked for a status on the maintenance of the football field at Niceville High School. Mr. Steve Bolton stated that there had been drainage issues as well as irrigation issues over the past few years. Old sod has been removed and some of the storm drainage has been repaired. The current plan is on schedule, and the final phase will begin with laying grass seed and extensive water and fertilization in April. He stated that the field will be completed in time for graduation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder

ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD