

WORKSHOP MEETING – APRIL 5, 2012

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on April 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

Alexis Tibbetts, Superintendent
C. Jeffrey McInnis, Esq., Attorney to the Board

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 Visitors #1, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University-Worldwide Presentation; Consent item #13 was deleted; Consent item #18D was deleted.

On behalf of Embry Riddle-Worldwide, Mr. Ken Fiedler, Director of the District's Aviation Institute, gave an update on the CHOICE Aviation Institute at Choctawhatchee and Crestview High Schools through a PowerPoint presentation. Enrollment in the program during the 2011-2012 school year is approximately 200 9th and 10th grade students, and approximately 63 college credit students. Embry Riddle representatives have given Aviation career presentations to students at elementary and middle schools in an effort to engage younger students in the aviation industry, and aviation teacher professional development opportunities have been offered to elementary and middle school teachers. Mr. Fiedler explained the projected 2012-2013 curriculum and the new courses that will be included at Choctawhatchee and Crestview High Schools. Dr. Tibbetts informed the Board that a proposed contract with Embry Riddle-Worldwide is anticipated for Board consideration at the first Board meeting in May, 2012.

Mr. Alan Jowers with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, reviewed the audit process and presented an overview of the results of the School Internal Funds Financial Statements and Supplemental Information for Year Ended June 30, 2011. He explained the minor audit findings at two elementary schools which were of no significant deficiency, He stated that principals have been made aware of those findings, have already made corrections, and a process is in place.

Mr. Jowers stated that the total receipts and disbursements followed the trend of the overall economy. Mrs. Frakes asked about the discrepancy in cash receipts and disbursements among schools. Mr. Jowers responded that the discrepancies are probably due to the school demographics, and review for a trend from year-to-year is made to determine if a school's expenditures are consistently more than its revenue.

Steve McLaughlin, Curriculum Specialist, presented an update on the AP/IB/AICE Initiative. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the District's goal is to increase enrollment in the advanced programs, as the primary factor in student success in college is the rigor of the courses taken in high school. Student enrollment and qualifying exams have increased in the Advanced Placement (AP) program since 2006, which means college credits and a savings in dollars for students. The International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Choctawhatchee High School is considered worldwide to be the strongest of all programs. Eighty percent of seniors earned an IB diploma in 2011. The AICE program has had significant growth in the number of students and the

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number of exams administered since 2007. Mr. McLaughlin showed the average savings in college tuition at a state university in Florida per AP/IB/AICE qualifying grade. Dr. Tibbetts stated that performance in the advanced programs is a large factor in the new grading system from the State.

Mr. Larry Haile, Sodexo General Manager, and Sonia Siegel, Sodexo Regional Dietician, provided a PowerPoint overview and explanation of the nutrition requirement changes in the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act which is a federal program. Ms. Siegel explained the changes that were implemented last year in the food services program in an effort to combat obesity. She explained various community involvement, such as the Farms to School Initiative, in which local vendors will be sought to provide fresh fruit and vegetables, and a partnership with the local Extension office as a means to offer nutrition education in the different schools.

Ms. Thrush inquired about the District's participation in the Florida Agriculture Department's Program titled Extreme Cuisine Cooking School. Ms. Siegel stated she was not familiar with the program; however, she would research for information. Ms. Thrush asked if the new nutrition guidelines affect the ala carte' items offered by Sodexo. Mr. Haile and Ms. Siegel responded that at this time the new guidelines do not affect Sodexo's ala carte' items; that the ala carte' items offered are in compliance with the Healthier U.S. Standards for ala carte' guidelines.

Dr. Bill Smith, Director of Facilities, explained that as a requirement of the RFP, it is requested that the Board approve the selection committee for RFQU 12-Q02, Construction Cost Engineering Consulting Services. The current multi-year contract with Faithful+Gould is due for renewal. Ms. Thrush asked if the selection committee meetings are open to the public. Mr. Jeff McInnis responded that the meetings are advertised and are open to the public; however, the vendors may present without other vendors observing.

In response to Ms. Thrush's question regarding any costs involved in the Clinical and Educational Services Analysis by Futures Education, LLC, Mrs. McKinley stated that because this is a pilot program there are no costs involved.

Ms. Thrush inquired about the requirement of anti-virus software should a student choose to bring a personal electronic device to their school for use in a program requiring individual computer use, as explained in the iPad/Laptop Election and Responsibility Forms. Mr. Eric Mitchell stated that the District will allow students to download their own anti-virus software as long as it is a legitimate anti-virus program.

Mr. Eric Mitchell, IT SEAT Management Specialist, gave a presentation outlining an iPad Proof of Concept for Laurel Hill School. iPad devices with the available iPad math and science textbooks will be issued to the high school students at the school as part of a one-year pilot program. Mr. Mitchell explained the numerous testing areas of the iPad's capability in a high school environment. He commented on the high success rate of similar test programs with iPads that were conducted earlier this school year in the elementary and middle schools. There is opportunity at the present time to acquire the iPad2 devices at a reduced price; however, it is a time sensitive purchase as quantities of the iPad2 are limited.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that Mrs. Lowrey-Sexton, Laurel Hill School Principal, will meet with parents of the high school students in May, and that parents and students will have training opportunities before the pilot program begins. Mr. Mitchell commented that the principal has arranged to work with the Laurel Hill community on technology projects in accordance with this program during the summer in an effort to give the community more technology support. Mrs. Susan Lowery-Sexton stated that the teachers are excited about the program as it will be a powerful motivator for the students and will offer them opportunities. With the strong information technology program at Laurel Hill

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School, this program will afford all students at the school access to technology. She thanked the Board for this opportunity that will make a remarkable difference on school campus.

In regard to the addition of STEM students to the Special Eligibility Circumstances in the District's Middle School Athletic Conference Policy Handbook, Mr. Jerry Sansom, Coordinator of Safe Schools, Health, and Athletics, explained that the addition will allow STEM students to return to their zoned school to participate in extracurricular activities, or would fall under District policy regarding zoning waivers where they could participate in athletic or extracurricular activities at a school that might be closer to the STEM Academy, assuming all eligibility criteria are met.

Mr. Kelley stated that in regard to the employee suspension, a one-day suspension without pay is not commensurate to this offense, and he requested that policy be reviewed in this regard. Mr. Foxworthy stated that penalties are set through the Transportation Safety Committee; however, if the Board were to determine that in certain circumstances a more serious punishment is expected, notice would need to be provided to the employee in advance. Mr. Jay McInnis, Program Director of Transportation, stated he would ask the Transportation Safety Committee to meet and develop an alternative policy that would address this situation, and then pass it along to Human Resources and the Union.

Dr. Bill Smith clarified that Task Order #24 Roofing Projects at Niceville High School and Lewis School is for replacement of foam on the roof of a restroom complex that was built between the Niceville High School gymnasium and the main building, and for the completion of the replacement of foam on the roof of Lewis School.

Ms. Thrush announced that Eglin Elementary 3rd and 4th grade Odyssey of the Mind team placed first in regional competition and will attend state competition. Lewis School is having their first golf tournament at Eagle Course on Eglin Golf Course in Niceville, on Saturday, May 12, and persons interested in sponsoring or participating may contact Jimmy Harrison at Lewis School.

Mrs. Thigpen thanked everyone for attending the plaque dedication ceremonies at Riverside Elementary School and Shoal River Middle School. She commented on the IB Art Show at Choctawhatchee High School and encouraged everyone to visit the display this week.

Dr. Tibbetts announced that there will be a dedication of one of the new science labs at Eglin Elementary School tomorrow afternoon. She commended Dolores Noechel and Kaye McKinley for their efforts in applying for the DODEA grant of over one million dollars that was awarded for the computer lab projects.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder

ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD