

WORKSHOP MEETING – JUNE 7, 2012

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on June 7, 2012, in the School District Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place, SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

PRESENT: Cathy Thigpen, Vice-Chairman
Cindy Frakes (arrived at 9:15 a.m.)
Chuck Kelley
Melissa Thrush

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

ABSENT: Rodney L. Walker, Chairman

The Vice-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 Vice-Chairman made the following changes to the Agenda: Added as Consent #31, Calendars for Summer Bridge Program for Middle School Students and Junior Lifeguard Program for High School Students

In response to Mr. Kelley's inquiry regarding the revenues of Food Service being higher than expenditures through the month of April, Mrs. Scallan stated that the balance shown on the April Financial Statement does not reflect the encumbrances for salaries for the remaining 60 days of the fiscal year, therefore the April figures will not necessarily be the same as those at the end of June when final payrolls are reflected.

Ms. Thrush asked if communities that have entered into Joint Use Agreements with the District are aware of the District's new tobacco policy. Rodney Nobles, Deputy Superintendent, responded that signs with the District's new tobacco policy will be posted on all school district properties, including the property known as Richbourg Field in Crestview.

Mr. Kelley asked about the attrition of district personnel, and the number of school district employees in the Food Services Dept. Larry Haile, Sodexo General Manager, stated that Sodexo has attrited approximately 30 district employees, mainly through retirement, and that currently there are approximately 119 school district personnel and approximately 87 Sodexo personnel in Food Services.

Ms. Thrush stated that school lunch and breakfast prices will increase slightly next year in an effort to reach the same level as the free and reduced reimbursement as required by the State. Mr. Haile stated that with a \$.10 increase for the next three years, the District will meet the State's requirement.

Mrs. Frakes arrived at 9:15 a.m.

Mrs. Frakes inquired about the amount of the L3 Stratis donation to the STEMM Center. Rodney Nobles clarified that L3 Stratis is donating the cost of labor in the amount of \$9,860, and that the District will pay for materials. Mrs. Frakes requested that the Acceptance of Donations information be corrected to reflect the L3 Stratis donation of labor in the amount of \$9,860.

With regard to the Adult Vocational Fee Schedule for 2012-2013, Ms. Thrush asked about the District's additional fee rates for non-residents. Al Gardner, Principal at CHOICE High School and Technical Center, responded that the additional fees are

WORKSHOP MEETING – JUNE 7, 2012

applied to discretionary items which are not required by the State; however, a small fee is applied to help offset the cost of required resources.

Vice-Chairman Thigpen asked about the number of parents in the past who have requested independent educational evaluation services under the Cooperative Service Agreement with Florida State University. Lois Handzo, Program Director of Student Services, responded that few parents take advantage of the services even though they are aware of this option. She explained that it would require families to travel to Tallahassee for the services; and although IDEA funds have been set aside to cover the cost of transportation and overnight stay, parents would prefer evaluations be performed by a provider closer to this area.

In response to questions regarding Course Adoptions, Shawnea Tallman, Curriculum Specialist, explained that the State continually reviews the curriculum education program, and courses which have been “dagged” means that the State will replace those courses with more rigorous courses within a few years. Discussion followed concerning whether there is enough student interest for the various proposed courses to be cost effective. Steve McLaughlin, Curriculum Specialist, stated that in some cases a certain level course may be incorporated into another level class at the same time, such as offering levels 3, 4, and 5 of a course into one class. Dr. Tibbetts noted that high school level courses that do not have 25 students cannot generate enough money, and principals and school SACs have had to make difficult scheduling decisions.

With regard to the Title III English Language Grant Application, Ms. Thrush inquired about programs for parents and families, and how resources will be shared. Kathy Baird, Title III Specialist, responded that family literacy nights were offered at Edwins and Wright Elementary Schools this past school year, and it is anticipated that the family literacy effort will expand to additional schools next year. Each school has been allocated funds for materials based on student population in the program.

Lisa West, Homeless Liaison, explained that the Title X Grant Application is a three-year grant with a focus on identifying and implementing a three-year system of services to benefit homeless students. She stated that increasing awareness so the District can identify students for the services in which they are eligible would be done through training the school and district staff.

The School Health Contract with PSA Healthcare offers the same health services as last year, according to Kaye McKinley, Deputy Superintendent. Lois Handzo stated that the contract covers the cost of an assigned health technician at each school and the supervising RNs for each of the areas. Each school has the option to fund the difference for an upgrade to an LPN or RN.

Mrs. Frakes inquired about the District’s use of FDLRS services. Lois Handzo stated that FDLRS provides a variety of services to the District at no cost. Examples of services include modules for teacher training which is done through distance learning, and providing resources to the District’s schools and to parents.

Vince Windham, Purchasing Director, informed the Board that it is the committee’s recommendation to reject the bids for lawn care services, to continue services within the existing lawn care contracts through June 2013, and re-bid the lawn care services for all schools at that time. He stated that schools were grouped in zoned areas in an effort to get better service and better pricing; however, bids did not come back favorable to the District. Mr. McInnis advised the Board to move this item to Consent #29B(1), Rejection of Bids and Purchasing.

In response to inquiry regarding the Educational Impact Online Academy contract, Christy McInnis, Program Director of Staff Development, stated that the District

WORKSHOP MEETING – JUNE 7, 2012

used three module pieces of the library funded through the Gates Foundation last year. She commented on the opportunities the full library offers in support of the new teacher and principal evaluation, and the various components of the program.

Mrs. Frakes asked the reason for extending the term of Service Agreement #12-87, and Kaye McKinley responded that there was a delay in receiving the Head Start grant application which was expected at the time the initial term of the agreement was to begin.

Rita Scallan, Chief Financial Officer, explained that advanced funding to the STEMM Academy will not increase the funding, but is for the purpose of launching purchase orders required to ensure that equipment and necessary materials are received and installed in time for the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. Mrs. Frakes requested that a monthly report be provided on the status of donations and the amount of funding allocated.

Mr. Kelley left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Thrush asked about the tracking data of students in the Bridge program. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the District follows those students for six years. Dr. Tibbetts stated that Cheryl Seals, Closing the Gap Specialist, will present a report on the current data.

Mrs. Frakes requested that Resolution No. 12-02 regarding high stakes testing be added to the Discussion Agenda and that the Board take action on it at the regular meeting Monday. She stated it would be provided for Board review prior to the meeting.

Ms. Thrush commented that the Board has previously discussed changing the venue and the time of the regular meetings in Crestview which would be more accessible to the community. She requested that the Board move forward to determine the costs associated with the change.

Ms. Thrush stated there is much concern regarding the end of course exams and asked that staff provide information on the validation process of the exams. Mrs. Thigpen commented that she has discussed with Steve McLaughlin, the possibility of a presentation to the Board in July that will give clarification of the EOC exams and address questions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder

ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY

CATHERINE S. THIGPEN
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD