

WORKSHOP MEETING – NOVEMBER 8, 2012

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on November 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
Melissa Thrush

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

ABSENT: Chuck Kelley

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.

The Chairman made the following changes to the Agenda: Consent item #24(C)(2), Amendment to SA# 13-47 Speech & Language Pathology of Florida, was deleted; added as item #25, Appropriation of District 2 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Elliott Point Elementary School in the amount of \$14,892.30; added as item #26, Appropriation of District 5 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Edge Elementary School in the amount of \$13,538.71. Added as Board Members' Business item #3, Appointment of School Board Member to the Educational Support Professional of the Year Selection Committee; added as item #4, Appointment of School Board Member to the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee

Jerry Sansom introduced Dr. Zant, a local physician who has offered to establish an ImPACT testing program for all middle school and high school student athletes in the District at no cost to the District, the schools, the student athletes or their families for both pre and post-testing relating to concussion safety in the District's athletic program. Mr. Sansom emphasized that this is an option for families of student athletes, and parents who choose to participate in the ImPACT program will be provided with the proper release forms. Mr. Sansom stated that the FHSAA has adopted a rule that requires athletes be immediately removed from the contest and not return to play until cleared by a healthcare professional.

Dr. Zant presented his proposal and explained the five-step ImPACT best practices. He clarified that the ImPACT is a neurocognitive test, not an IQ test, and that baseline studies are recommended as they show an athlete's pre-injury condition which would assist physicians in making return-to-play decisions. He stated that upon Board approval, he would train appropriate school athletic department staff or athletic trainers to assist in the supervision and administration of the baseline computerized testing program so that the testing could be performed at school sites.

Mr. McInnis clarified that the proposed agreement is not an exclusive agreement with Dr. Zant; however, he is the only medical provider who has come forward at this time to offer the baseline testing at no cost to the District, the schools, or families. The agreement stipulates that the parents make the choice as to where the student will be treated if there is a concussion injury. He explained that if the student's treating physician meets the standard for a qualifying physician under the FHSAA Rule, they would have to sign the required FHSAA Concussion & Heat Related Illnesses Information Release Form to return the student to play.

Mrs. Frakes left the meeting at 9:40 a.m. and returned at 9:50 a.m.

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Ms. Thrush stated that although she supports baseline testing for student athletes, her concern is that the District is entering into an agreement with one particular provider, and that a list of providers who provide this service should be made available to the families. In response to Ms. Thrush's inquiry regarding the records release process and the associated cost, Dr. Zant stated that the student's records are protected by HIPPA, and like other medical records, the student's records would be released upon a completion of a standard written records request. Mr. McInnis clarified that the agreement stipulates that it would be Dr. Zant's obligation to release those records, and he would amend the agreement to include a basic indemnity paragraph in regard to a standard record request fee.

Mark Simpson, President of the Doolittle Institute, provided a brief overview in follow up to the agreement between Doolittle Institute and the school district for a STEMM Academy initiative. He presented an update on development plans of the Innovative Dimensions Laboratory, and showed diagrams of the five instructional environments that will augment the STEMM Academy curriculum. Shawnea Tallman commented that the UAV lab has been introduced in the Engineers For America program and to all middle school teachers who may choose to use it as a resource.

Superintendent Tibbetts presented an overview of the District's Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment accomplishments over the past six years. She commented on the District's declining Base Student Allocation while maintaining high student performance. She reviewed school grades from 2002-2012, as well as the major accomplishments for 2006-2012 in math, science, Closing the Gap, instructional technology, testing, student services, Title I, Exceptional Student Education, and professional development. She explained progress achieved in the areas that are overseen by the Office of the Deputy Superintendent, as well as the Student Wellness Program.

Mr. Walker left the meeting at 10:05 a.m. and returned at 10:25 a.m.

With regard to the appropriation of District 1 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Kenwood Elementary School for the purchase of a COW, Mrs. Frakes clarified that the appropriation is the same amount provided to Pryor and Megis Middle Schools for a partial purchase, and that Kenwood will furnish the remaining funds to purchase a full COW.

Ms. Thrush raised concern in regard to items that the Board Members are purchasing from their capital discretionary funds. She suggested that the Board review the District's capital needs on a cost benefit basis and appropriately budget for the types of items that are purchased from Board Members' discretionary funds.

Responding to questions from Ms. Thrush, Dr. Bill Smith stated that under the contract with Clemons Rutherford & Associates, an Educational Plant Survey will be completed, which is required at least once every five years. He explained it is a district-wide assessment that includes projected costs, but no funding is attached.

Dr. Bill Smith explained that the Niceville Valparaiso American Little League and the City of Valparaiso have jointly requested that the District terminate the current Joint Use Agreement between the Little League and enter into a lease agreement with the City of Valparaiso in regard to the use of School Board property located adjacent to the STEMM Center campus. Dr. Smith stated that the City of Valparaiso anticipates entering into an agreement with the Little League as it is in the process of becoming more involved with the Little League program and are considering projects for that program.

Dr. Cheryl Seals informed the Board that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant application is a brief proposal that would implement the MENTOR intervention

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program in the District. If the District's proposal is selected, a full proposal will be presented to the Board prior to moving forward. The District will be notified November 12, 2012, if it has been invited to submit a full proposal.

Superintendent Tibbetts announced that November is Parent Involvement Month.

Superintendent Tibbetts announced that Ciara Ordner, a student at Niceville High School, has been named Okaloosa County School District Sunshine State Scholar. She has been invited to attend the 2013 Sunshine State Scholars program hosted by the Florida Education Foundation in Orlando. The program recognizes distinguished students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Dr. Tibbetts stated as a reminder that the next regular Board meeting would be held Tuesday, November 13th. Veteran's Day will be recognized on Monday, November 12th, honoring all retired and active duty military personnel at many local events.

Mrs. Frakes requested that a list of service agreements from the last year between \$4,000 and \$5,000 be provided to each Board member.

Mrs. Frakes inquired about the fiber optics program that Okaloosa County is executing, noting that County Commissioner Parisot had indicated an opportunity for a significant savings to the County. Dr. Tibbetts responded that there is a savings in phone systems, but for the school district there would be an expense at the front end. Eric Mitchell stated that he has met with the instructional technology director for Okaloosa County regarding the fiber optic program. He explained that it is a great opportunity, but at this time it would come at an additional expense to the school district of approximately \$3 million to \$4 million. Although there is a significant savings to the County, the school district's e-rate pays for the District's free and reduced lunch percentage and it would be difficult to match that amount in order to give the District a product that would save money.

Ms. Thrush congratulated the District swimmers who are participating in State competition this week.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder

ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY

RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD