

MEETING MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY
February 6, 2024-5:30 PM

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The School Board of Santa Rosa County met in regular session with the following members present: Mrs. Linda Sanborn, Chairperson, Mrs. Carol Boston, Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Charles Elliott, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hewey.

Also present were School Board Attorney, Terry Harmon, and Dr. Karen Barber, Superintendent of Schools and Secretary.

Mr. Scott Peden was out of town.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Linda Sanborn called the meeting to order and Meghan Hall, Coordinator for Math & Science led a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of School Board Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2024

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Elizabeth Hewey. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

D. Oral Written Communications

For a complete word for word transcript, please see the video. The following has been condensed.

Kay Pape, Coordinator of Social Studies shared events and activities that are happening at the schools in recognition of Black History month.

Dr. Barber shared a video from Oriole Beach Elementary.

Dr. Barber reviewed the charts that was shared at the Town Hall meeting on February 5, 2024 comparing the average instructional salaries based on Final Survey 3 data. This chart also is a comparison of average salary increases Instructional vs Administrative.

1. High Road School Presentation

For a complete word for word transcript, please see the video.

The following has been condensed.

Kevin Deal, Regional Vice President with Specialized Education Services introduced the staff at High Road School and each presented the following:

- School Health Assessment Results
- Enrollment & Utilization Data
- SCI Success
- Positive Behavior Intervention System
- LiveSchool PBIP Categories
- Academic Data
- Testing Data
- ESE Services
- Support Services
- Community Partners & Outreach
- Points of Pride

E. Recognitions/Resolutions/Proclamations

1. A- Team Recognition

The Math and Science Department is honored to recognize the following students for their accomplishments in competing in the Commissioner's Academic Challenge.

Since 1986, the Commissioner's Academic Challenge has been a showcase of Florida's high school academic excellence. Teams representing school districts throughout the state compete for scholarships, championship rings, trophies, medallions and of course-bragging rights.

The mission of the tournament is to provide a prestigious academic arena in which Florida's academically talented high school students are recognized.

This year's competition will be held April 11th – April 13th in Orlando, Florida. Our students will have to answer questions from the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the fine arts, world languages, physical education, health and technology.

Meghan Hall, Coordinator of Math and Science recognized this year's A-team:

- Caden Crow - Pace High School
- Will Koger - Pace High School
- Erin Lincoln - Milton High School
- Alex Lu - Gulf Breeze High School
- Andrew Nettles - Gulf Breeze High School

- *Mina Wilson - Milton High School*

This year we tried something new and asked teachers within our district if they would be willing to volunteer to help coach these students. We are very thankful for these teachers, and we would like to take a moment to recognize them as well.

- *Mr. Clark - Milton High School*
- *Mr. Early - King Middle School*
- *Mrs. Humphreys - East Milton Elementary School*
- *Ms. West - Pea Ridge Elementary*
- *Ms. Williamson - Wallace Lake K-8*

2. Sunshine State Scholar Recognition

Meghan Hall, Coordinator of Math and Science recognized the high school nominees for Sunshine State Scholar, as well as the District Scholars. The Sunshine State Scholars Program targets juniors interested in STEM related fields. These students hold a weighted GPA of 3.9 or higher and are on track according to current guidelines for Bright Futures Scholarships.

This year's nominees are:

- *Jacob Dailey - Central*
- *Emma Fulford - Gulf Breeze High School*
- *Levi Blackman - Jay High School*
- *Andrew Henry - Milton High School*
- *Mateo Soto - Navarre High School*
- *Caden Crow - Pace High School*

Special congratulations to Caden Crow from Pace High School and Emma Fulford from Gulf Breeze High School. These two students will represent the district as our 2023 – 2024 Sunshine State Scholars. We would also like to congratulate our alternate selected is Andrew Henry from Milton High School.

3. CTE Teacher of the Year

Charlin Knight, Director of Workforce Education and Jennifer Hines, Coordinator of Workforce Education recognized Katrina Dawson as CTE Teacher of the Year.

4. CTE Rookie Teacher of the Year

Charlin Knight, Director of Workforce Education and Jennifer Hines,

Coordinator of Workforce Education recognized Todd Arasmith as CTE Rookie Teacher of the Year.

5. Innovative Principal of the Year for the State of Florida

Kelly Short, Director of In-Service and Instructional Technology recognized Kasie Windfelder, Principal at Navarre High School as the Innovative Principal of the Year for the State of Florida.

6. National School Counseling Week

Dr. Barber read the Proclamation for National School Counseling Week of February 5-9, 2024.

Autumn Wright, Director of Student Services and Cindy Peaden, Coordinator of Student Services thanked the school counselors for all of the work they do for our students.

F. Public Hearing

1. Request to Advertise for Public Hearing on the 2024-2025 School Choice Plan

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

2. Request to Advertise for Public Hearing on SB Policy Updates

Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

Administrative Agenda

G. Approval of Agenda- Items may be pulled from the Administrative Agenda and placed under the respective Action Agenda category by request of the Board member/Superintendent

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

The Board approved all Administrative Agenda items G. 1, 2, and 3 as submitted.

1. Human Resource Items

a. Administrative Agenda

b. Leave and Temporary Duty

2. Curriculum/Instruction Items

- a. **Student Reassignments**
- b. **Suspensions**
- c. **Level 1 Volunteers**
- d. **Level 2 Volunteers**
- 3. **Administrative Operational Items**
 - a. **Facility Use Requests**
 - b. **Religious Venue Requests**
 - c. **Field Trip Requests**
 - d. **Non-Competitive Contracts 020624**

Action Agenda

H. Administrative/Operational Recommendations- Joey Harrell, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services

1. RFP 23-11-SP Security System Monitoring, Maintenance, and Repair 020624

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

2. Custodial Quarterly Report -Informational Only 020624

This item was submitted for review only.

3. DAG Architects Agenda Items

The Board reviewed the current status of projects for Soundside High School and Wallace Lake K-8.

4. 2023-2024 Five Year Work Plan

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

5. Direct Purchasing Change Orders

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

I. Human Resource Recommendation- Liz West, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

1. Action Agenda

Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

The Board approved the unpaid suspension beginning February 7, 2024 pending disposition of charges for Case #10012360, Paraprofessional, Pace High School.

Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

The Board approved the new Director of Information Technology Services requested by Superintendent of Schools.

This position will replace the position of Assistant Superintendent of Information Technology Services.

The Board approved the 2022-2023 Administrative Salary Schedule with the addition of the new position of Director of Information Technology Services.

Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

The Board approved the 2023-2024 Out of Field Report.

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

The Board approved the 2023-2024 ESOL Out of Field Report.

2. Self-Funded Medical Plan Update

For a complete word for word transcript, please see the video. The following has been condensed.

Mark Johnson with Fisher Brown Bottrell gave a review for the 2023 Self-Funded Medical Plan:

- *Monthly Contributions*
 - *At the end of the year the total contributions that the Board took in was \$27,664,777.00*
- *Plan Performance*
 - *Medical Claims - \$15,381,418*
 - *Pharmacy Claims - \$7,142,945*
 - *Stop Loss Reimbursement - \$1,107,806*
 - *2023 Pharmacy Rebates - \$2,076,921*
 - *Net Claims - \$19,339,635*
 - *ASO Fee - \$893,915*
 - *Stop Loss Premium - \$1,890,337*
 - *Capitation Fee - \$60,117*

- *Net Fees - \$2,844,369*
- *Total Expenses - \$22,184,005*
- *Total Contributions - \$27,664,777*
- *Reserve Surplus/(Deficit) - \$5,480,772*
- *Fund Balance total as of 12/31/2023 - \$17,794,221*
- *High Deductible Health Plan with a 74% loss ratio*
- *PPO Standard with a 70% loss ratio*
- *PPO Premier with a 126% loss ratio*
- *2023 88% loss ratio*

J. Curricular and Instructions Recommendation – Michael Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

1. Alternative Placements

*Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.
The Board approved the alternative placements as submitted.*

2. District Business Partner

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Elizabeth Hewey. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

3. Sports Schedules

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

4. Head Start Report for December 2023 - Review Only

This item was submitted for review only.

K. Financial Recommendations – Susan McCole, Assistant Superintendent for Finance

1. Resolution 2024-01 FTE Adjustment for Santa Rosa County District Schools

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

2. Resolution 2024-02 FTE Adjustment for Coastal Connections Academy

Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

L. Information Technology Services Recommendations

None

M. Public Forum- (Request to address the School Board regarding an item not on the agenda)

For a complete word for word transcript, please see the video. The following has been condensed.

Cassandra Hazelwood has concerns with the teacher negotiations.

Lorrie Newman spoke on the First Amendment.

Susan Creel spoke on woke.

Angie Straughn has concerns with the teacher raises.

Stephanie Rimes is a teacher and a parent; she spoke on the feelings and concerns with the teacher negotiations.

David Godwin spoke on the district's budget and the discretionary funds.

Jan Cook spoke on a report from the Pensacola News Journal regarding Mom's for Liberty.

Riley Wayne Perantoni has concerns with Fentanyl awareness in the schools.

Thomas Simpson has concerns with Fentanyl awareness in the schools.

Jennifer Tapley has concerns with a Milton High School Student punished for turning library book into authorities. This situation has been rectified.

Brenda Stephens announced her candidacy to run for Superintendent of Schools.

Mariah Calkins wanted to know if there was an update on the restoration of prayer.

Ilana Porzecanski has concerns with the book reconsideration process.

Dr. Sean Hollonbeck has concerns with the Code of Student Conduct regarding discipline and the appeals process.

Brian Pairdon has concerns with inappropriate books.

Debra Spears spoke on several concerns that she has and says everyone should have their own opinion and views.

The following statement was sent via e-mail.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Stephanie Martin. I have 3 children in SRCSD. One of which attends Milton High School and is in his junior year. I would like to address the comments from the public directed towards his principal, Mr. Short.

I am probably one of the biggest overprotective mama bears out here. It comes with the territory when you are raising a transgender, gay child in such a conservative area. So, of course I've spoken to Mr. Short several times over the past 3 years.

It bothers me that he has been accused of mocking a student's faith. I very seriously doubt he would behave in that way. I wholeheartedly believe that he genuinely cares about all of his students and staff. I also believe that he follows the rules and guidelines set forth by the district. Some of these people that have attacked his character believe the rules do not apply to them.

I also wanted to comment on the request for prayer to be held before a meeting or in school. As I'm sure you know, not everyone in Santa Rosa County holds the same faith. You are beholden to the public and if you want to open the door for one religion, you must include every religion. If not, you are excluding other people that belong to this public school system. Which I'm sure is the point of this group of people that are requesting you to do so.

We have been excluded enough. My family is part of this community. Whether groups like Moms for Liberty like it or not. I volunteer my time to the school; I lead a Girl Scout troop that does several community service projects every year. My husband is a veteran of this country. We are raising 4 children that also are contributing to our community with community service projects. They all do very well in school and have never been in any trouble.

At the last meeting a woman that speaks out against the ridiculous book banning, was threatened and told "we should have never stopped at the Salem witch trials". It is becoming dangerous for families like mine. It terrifies me that ignorant people, so full of hate are becoming so emboldened to make threats at a school board meeting.

Lastly, I just want to say that I am proud of the work you do. My children are happy at school. I can only speak from experience of Milton High School and Berryhill Elementary, but they are both excellent schools with

phenomenal staff.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Martin
Starhill Dr, Milton FL*

N. Items from Board Members

None

O. Items from Board Attorney

None

P. Items from Superintendent

*For a complete word for word transcript, please see the video.
The following has been condensed.*

Dr. Barber wanted to address some comments that were mentioned in the public forum:

- There is specific Fentanyl education in the Santa Rosa County schools. Suite 360 lessons address that education and students are required to take those courses. Hope curriculum is in the science classes. Overdose to Action Program is in collaboration with the Department of Health, this program is in awareness to Fentanyl.*
- Susan McCole and Jim Hamilton shared that there was a 9.4 million increase from last year's budget to this year's budget and there was 13 million increase cost in expenses from last year to this year. This puts the district in the hole by 3.6 million dollars.*
- The districts graduation rate is 90.4%, highest graduation rate in Santa Rosa County School District history.*
- Florida Policy Council evaluate all school districts in the State of Florida, Santa Rosa County was ranked 5th out of 67 counties. This year Santa Rosa County has moved to number 2 in the State out of 67 counties. There are four different ways that we are measured: education, economic well-being, health and family community, and graduation.*

Q. Adjournment

Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 4 - 0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

DONE AND ORDERED IN LEGAL SESSION by the Board of Santa

Rosa County the 6th of February 2024.

*SCHOOL BOARD OF
SANTA ROSA COUNTY*

Chairperson

ATTEST:

Superintendent and Secretary