

**AGENDA**  
**SCHOOL BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY**  
**WORKSHOP**  
**November 7, 2019-12:00 PM**

Items for Review and Discussion

A. Discussion Items - Virtual Instruction, Camelot, and Seven-Period Day

*For a complete word for word transcript, please see the video @ <http://santarosacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/11072019-746>*

*The following Board members were present: Mrs. Carol Boston, Chairman, Mr. Buddy Hinote, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Jennifer Granse, Mrs. Linda Sanborn, and Mrs. Wei Ueberschaer. Also present was Timothy S. Wyrosdick, Superintendent of Schools and Secretary.*

*The Chairman called the workshop to order and Superintendent Wyrosdick led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.*

*The new Food Service bus provided lunch today and the Superintendent spoke very positively about the bus as well as the food; it was very engaging and we look forward to students enjoying this experience in years to come.*

*Superintendent Wyrosdick continued that over the past three-four months the Board has had much discussion about vision and planning for the future. Presentations today include options/opportunities for curriculum and instruction as well as a program for students with behavioral challenges/disabilities.*

*Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Bill Emerson came forward and began the discussion about the Connections Academy offered by Pearson. We currently have a contract with them as one of our three virtual school providers under Santa Rosa Online. The presentation today is related to the possibility of contracting with them as a separate online provider (separate from Santa Rosa Online). They currently have a charter school in Florida that is at full capacity; opening another under Santa Rosa School District would create additional funding for our district. (They would enroll students across the state.) Mr. Emerson explained that this would not take students away from Santa Rosa Online; if a student/parent residing in Santa Rosa County calls Connections Academy they will be referred to Santa Rosa Online.*

*Mr. Emerson introduced Angela Bryant, Director of Sales for Pearson. Ms. Bryant and team members from Pearson provided a Power Point presentation and information on the following discussion areas.*

*There are many reasons why students/parents might opt for online education;*

*students learn in different ways.*

*Connections Academy responsibilities include (providing) K-12 curriculum; state-certified teachers; instructional materials; EMS access; recruitment/hiring/supervision/evaluation of all staff; investigation of all complaints; school counseling and consultative services; services to students with special needs including indemnification; enrollment and academic placement processing; repository of school records; student records support; license for duration of term to use name personalized learning plan protocol; testing and assessments statewide; insurance; public website; 24/7 tech support; student engagement opportunities (field trips, clubs); peer networking and PD opportunities; and computer technology for students per state policy.*

*District responsibilities include oversight/delegation of responsibility and rescission procedure; abide by established protocols, policies, and procedures; state reporting; assist with standardized testing administration with in-district students; student data transfer/access request; and providing a district coordinator (work with Lead School Administrator).*

*Connections provides a challenging K-12 curriculum with personalized pacing; support from trained counselors, principals, and administrative staff; NCAA approved courses and classes for gifted and talented; support for students with 504 plans and special needs, as well as English Language Learners.*

*The program is web-based so that students can access it wherever they are. Teachers are required to have weekly office hours and to provide live lessons (as well as recorded lessons).*

*Stats provided (including ACT and SAT scores) reflect Connections Academy students perform comparably with brick and mortar schools and other virtual schools. The mobility rate of Connections Academy students is much higher. Connections students are also receiving scholarship awards and acceptance into main stream colleges and universities.*

*There are opportunities for students to socialize and connect through field trips, clubs, and activities.*

*Based on projected enrollment and fees, the estimated revenue to the district may be nearly half a million dollars within the next five years.*

*Questions from Board Members/Superintendent:*

*Mrs. Ueberschaer wanted to know if there would be an administrative office in our area or an office for teachers. Ms. Bryant responded that there would be an administrative building for office staff in the area; teachers would come in only at certain times of the year. Mrs. Ueberschaer also wanted to know if most of the teachers are hired from the area surrounding the school; (for example) in*

*Hillsborough County 95% of the virtual teachers are not hired in the district location of the school.*

*Mrs. Sanborn asked if the teachers are full time at Connections Academy or if they teach at a brick and mortar school during the day and Connections Academy at night. Ms. Bryant responded that CA teachers are full time with few exceptions. They may have a small number of part time or adjunct teachers needed for a particular elective. Ms. Bryant continued that the home district loses very few teachers to the Connections Academy; typically these may be teachers who are strong in content but not as strong in classroom management.*

*Mrs. Sanborn asked how the instructional pay compares to that of a teacher in a brick and mortar school. Ms. Bryant responded that Connections Academy does not have the revenue that a school district has so they will pay less than a typical school district but added that the benefits are usually comparable.*

*Mrs. Sanborn asked about student entrance; do students make application and are students sometimes turned down? Ms. Bryant stated that there is a comprehensive application process; if a student is credit deficient they will be routed back to their home school.*

*Mrs. Granse asked if they had trouble finding enough teachers in Hillsborough County. They haven't had problems hiring and retaining teachers.*

*This may benefit teachers in a neighboring county that recently experienced devastation from Hurricane Michael; those teachers may be able to gain employment at Connections Academy and remain in the area they love.*

*Mrs. Sanborn wanted to know why we would have more than one Connections Academy per state. Ms. Bryant stated that there are caps in enrollment. Connections Academy prefers to have no more than 5,000 students per school. Efficacy is important to them and they want to keep the numbers manageable. Also, people are more drawn to a school that is close to their area; Connections Academy is receiving many calls of interest from this region.*

*Mr. Hinote had questions regarding the financial responsibility of providing a district coordinator. Mr. Emerson responded that he sees this as a liaison type position and he would likely assume this since the program resides in his office - no additional salary.*

*Mr. Hicks asked about technical support requirements; Ms. Bryant responded that Connections Academy will need access to our system but we will be responsible for uploading state testing data. Superintendent Wyrosdick had questions about student data; are these students reported under Santa Rosa School District? They are reported under Santa Rosa School District. Superintendent Wyrosdick asked about a student who might be nine weeks into*

*the year and is not successful; are they sent back to Santa Rosa School District or does Connections Academy provide intervention. Ms. Bryant stated that they have intervention programs to help the student become successful. A student may decide that they need to withdraw from Connections Academy; they would then go back to their resident district.*

*Superintendent Wyrosdick asked how many out of field teachers are hired by Connections Academy. Ms. Bryant responded that in order to apply an instructional applicant must be fully certified in the state with required endorsements.*

*Mrs. Ueberschaer wanted to know if Connections Academy would have to go through the charter school application process. Mr. Emerson responded that this is a contract school - not a charter school. Mrs. Ueberschaer asked about the formula/process to get from the enrollment number to the authorizer fee; Ms. Bryant responded that is part of contract negotiations (as are many of the items discussed today).*

*Mrs. Sanborn had questions regarding the student:teacher ratio. Ms. Bryant stated that Connections Academy will follow state guidelines based on grade level. Connections Academy responded that they try to stay within the state guideline but since their teachers don't have recess, etc. they may have a few more than a brick and mortar teacher would have. For a core class with a state mandated ratio of 1:25 the CA teacher may have six classes of 1:25 (150).*

*Mrs. Sanborn asked if a Connections Academy student would be allowed to participated in a program (such as band) in our school district. Ms. Bryant said that there would be opportunities for students within Connections Academy but band may not be one of them; the student may be referred to Santa Rosa Online where they could participate in our band program.*

*(After a short break the next part of the workshop began.)*

*Bill Emerson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, introduced the Camelot Education presentation.*

*Camelot is a national company that offers a therapeutic type model for students with behavior issues. Mr. Emerson noted that this is an opportunity to provide good, solid services to our students and possibly help our staff. It may reduce our ESE staff numbers.*

*Mr. Emerson talked about the difficulty of finding ESE teachers and paraprofessionals to fill these positions. We have many Workers Compensation issues associated with this group; once we have trained them they don't necessarily stay. The number of behavioral students is expanding at a higher rate than we can provide services. We currently have 188 behavior students throughout the district which makes it challenging to provide support.*

*Kevin Deal, Deputy Superintendent with Camelot, came forward to talk about Camelot and KAPS (K5 Alternative Pupil Services). Some of the discussion items included:*

- *Camelot overview*
- *Partnership with Escambia County*
- *KAPS Program outcomes and strategies*
- *Budget proposal*
- *Building survey results*

*Students in Escambia's transitional Camelot program have a 97% restoration rate to home school without re-offense. Numbers showed that Escambia experienced a reduction in behavioral referrals after joining Camelot and the attendance rate improved for these students.*

*Desired outcomes include reducing violations of the student code of conduct; reducing and eliminating behaviors that have a negative impact; teaching behaviors, social skills and coping mechanisms that positively impact ability to learn; ensuring parent participation in the educational and therapeutic process; increasing school attendance; and securing community behavioral health resources for students and families.*

*Mr. Deal introduced the Escambia "Campus Resource Team" including Andrew Maxwell II, Executive Director of Camelot Academy in Escambia. Mr. Deal emphasized that "culture is king." The Escambia team believes "it takes a village (to raise a child)" and talked about how they build relationships with student parents by reaching out on a regular basis with opportunities to participate.*

*Positive behavioral supports include force field incentives, field trips, school store, fun Fridays, perfect attendance prize, monthly reward days, and compliment parties.*

*Camelot provided three separate budget proposals based on program capacity.*

*Superintendent Wyrosdick opened the floor for questions.*

*Mrs. Sanborn asked if student recommendations would come from the ESE department. The students may come by recommendation from the IEP team.*

*Mrs. Boston asked about transportation; this would be provided by the school district.*

*Mrs. Sanborn asked if our current behavioral students (188) would be served at Camelot. Mr. Emerson responded that the IEP team would make the determination; they would not all likely be served at Camelot. It may depend*

*on the type of exceptionalities they have; functioning level; and if the services offered by Camelot are a good fit.*

*Mrs. Sanborn asked about long-term placement at Camelot; would it be a result of ongoing discipline issues or severe needs. Mr. Emerson responded that the goal is to teach them strategies to get back to a regular classroom. Mr. Deal shared that the average KAPS placement period is 1.5 years - this can vary based on the supports available at the home school.*

*Mrs. Sanborn spoke of the (approximate) \$20,000 per student cost at Camelot and how this may reduce our financial responsibility and if the ESE employees would be absorbed back in to the system. Mr. Emerson stated that we would still have ESE needs so would likely still need the ESE employees.*

*Superintendent Wyrosdick pointed out that we need to do a cost benefit analysis before making any recommendation to the Board. He added that even though our funding covers ESE students they are seldom funded to the full extent of their needs.*

*Mrs. Sanborn asked if the Board could come out and visit the program in Escambia; Mr. Deal responded that they are welcome to visit.*

*Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education in Escambia School District, came forward and praised the Camelot team and how much they care for this group of students.*

*(After a short break the Board reconvened to discuss the seven-period schedule.)*

*Superintendent Wyrosdick noted that the information (contained in the presentation) has not changed but numbers have been updated. The Board requested to look at the "bottom line cost" first.*

*Mr. Hinote asked if it is possible to do this (implement a seven-period schedule) - based on our current funding level. Mr. Hinote added if the numbers have changed, we should consider it; but if they haven't changed...*

*Mrs. Granse noted that we need the opinion of all stakeholders; not just one or two areas of the district. She said that she has talked with Pace High about the seven-period schedule and they do not want a seven-period day. Mrs. Granse feels that we need input from all teachers on this issue.*

*Mrs. Ueberschaer shared that in her community students and teachers want a seven-period day. She added that many of our newer teachers have never taught a seven-period day and won't be able to accurately compare it with their current schedule.*

*Mrs. Sanborn recalled the time when we changed from a seven-period day due to the economic downturn; she feels that we are in a better place financially and asked Assistant Superintendent Susan McCole about our financial condition. Mrs. Sanborn referenced \$11 million additional dollars from last year to this year. Superintendent Wyrosdick pointed out that these dollars are categorical dollars; we are required to spend them only in specific areas. The Superintendent continued that while the economy is better the Base Student Allocation has not increased. Funding has increased but it is categorized in a way that it cannot be used to hire teachers. Mrs. Granse noted that we also have increased expense for security officers in our schools.*

*Mr. Hinote stated that he doesn't see how we can fund a seven-period day given the numbers we currently have.*

*Mrs. Ueberschaer would like to see us begin adding to the \$3 million committed fund to begin working toward a seven-period day even if they are not recurring dollars. Superintendent Wyrosdick pointed out that if the Board wishes to begin putting dollars aside we will do that; it will mean a reduction in services.*

*Ms. McCole explained our current Financial Condition Ratio and how it would be affected by implementing a seven-period day. Given our current FCR of 5.23% and a projected cost of \$4.5 million (less one time use of committed funds - \$3 million); our FCR would decrease to 3.23% for the first year. During the second year with the same cost of \$7.5 million our FCR would go down to - 3.33%. These numbers do not include potential raises for instructional, blue collar, or administrative employees. Ms. McCole shared multiple cost increases we've experienced this year.*

*Mr. Emerson added that this is a different world than 2010; we need to get feedback to find out if this is a district-wide desire or not.*

*Superintendent Wyrosdick concluded that we will keep the dialogue going; he would like to get through this fiscal year since he feels that it will be a tight year.*

*The Chairman opened the floor for the Public Forum and asked if anyone would like to address the Board about an item not on the agenda. There was no response and the forum was closed.*

*There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.*

SCHOOL BOARD OF  
SANTA ROSA COUNTY

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*Chairman*

*ATTEST:*

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*Superintendent and Secretary*