

MEETING MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY
July 8, 2021-9:00 AM

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The School Board of Santa Rosa County met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with the following members present: Mrs. Wei Ueberschaer, Chairperson; Mrs. Linda Sanborn, Vice-Chairperson; Mrs. Carol Boston, Mr. Charles Elliott, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hewey.

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman called the meeting to order and Brandi Bates, Public Information Officer, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and in a moment of silence.

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of School Board Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2021

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

D. Oral Written Communications

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

Superintendent Barber shared that third grade ELA scores were released a few weeks ago; based on those scores we are ranked fourth in the state. During the pandemic the performance of our students and dedication of our teachers (with one nine week-period of remote learning) is really an accomplishment. We have high expectations and will continue to work beyond being fourth in the state.

Dr. Barber also noted that we had four schools who increased their ranking from the 18-19 school year. Some schools experienced a single-digit decline and a few schools had a larger decline. We are working with those schools to find out how we can support them in helping students.

Dr. Barber continued that there is a short survey for parents and community members within the July issue of Leaps and Bounds. The survey is related to the elementary/secondary education relief (ESSR)

funds; the district would like stakeholder input on how the funds should be spent.

Superintendent Barber began discussion on the Guardian Program which was established after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy. Senate Bills 726 and 730 came after this and required specific safety actions by school districts. One requirement was that each school have a school safety officer on campus and present during any activity when students are present. This led to State Rule 1006.12 requiring that each Superintendent and School Board partner with local law enforcement or security agencies to assign one or more safe school officers at each facility within the school district including charter schools. Dr. Barber continued that we have an officer from our law enforcement agency at each school site; we are in compliance with the rule.

Not every school district is able to put a deputy at each school; the local law enforcement agency may not have the capacity. Dr. Barber reviewed the different options allowed under the rule including safe-school officers, contracted private security guards, and guardians. Santa Rosa School District has a safe-school officer at each school site. Dr. Barber also explained the difference between a school resource officer (has all the authority of a deputy) and a guardian (very limited authority).

Dr. Barber noted that former Superintendent Wyrosdick and the Board, along with the Sheriff's department, made sure we were one of the first districts to have a school resource officer at every school.

Dr. Barber spoke about amended Rule 6A-1.094124, F.A.C., and provided a power point to share that SRSD will be providing training to instructional staff to provide clarity. The training will be mandatory for instructional and administrative personnel and will be part of the ongoing training process.

(Dr. Barber read from Chancellor Oliva's memo):

"As provided in Section 1003.42(2), F.S., members of instructional staff in public schools must teach the required instruction topics efficiently and faithfully, using materials that meet the highest standards of professionalism and historical accuracy.

Efficient and faithful teaching of the required topics must be consistent with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards."

Dr. Barber noted that we require standards-based instruction in Santa Rosa County as listed in the Amendment to Rule from Chancellor Oliva.

"Instruction on the required topics must be factual and objective, and may not suppress or distort significant historical events, such as the Holocaust, slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the civil rights movement and the contributions of women, African American and Hispanic people to our country, as already provided in Section 1003.42(2), F.S. Examples of theories that distort historical events and are inconsistent with State Board approved standards include the denial or minimization of the Holocaust, and the teaching of Critical Race Theory, meaning the theory that racism is not merely the product of prejudice, but that racism is embedded in American society and its legal systems in order to uphold the supremacy of white persons. Instruction may not utilize material from the 1619 Project and may not define American history as something other than the creation of a new nation based largely on universal principles stated in the Declaration of Independence. Instruction must include the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments."

Dr. Barber noted that she recently had a question from a parent asking if any of this means that we will be favoring one race over another; "that is not what this means. We're making sure that we don't favor one race over another; that we teach in a factual manner."

Dr. Barber reviewed thoroughly the State Board of Education "Required Instruction Planning and Reporting 6A-1.094124, F.A.C."

E. Recognitions/Resolutions/Proclamations

None

F. Public Hearing

None

G. 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 comments to the Board have been condensed.

Angela Nandin was the first speaker. Mrs. Nandin stated that she has three boys with autism and is incredibly happy with Santa Rosa School District. The support they have received is "nothing short of a blessing." She specifically mentioned Debbie Anderson, Laura Brumfield, and Celeste Rivenbark for the support and foundation they have provided.

The second speaker was John Nandin. Mr. Nandin spoke of his three

sons attending a Navarre soccer camp and how much this boosted his sons' confidence. He expressed appreciation to Coach Simon, Darcy Suggs, and Christy Smith for coming out to support the kids.

Debbie Gunnoe came forward to talk about Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and critical race theory. Ms. Gunnoe stated that "it doesn't seem the Board cares about (SRSD schools) downward spiral into idiocracy." She continued the Board has not done their due diligence in recognizing critical race theory.

Sharon White came to the podium next to present her research on textbooks/curriculum. Ms. White stated that she and a group of citizens/parents met recently with Mr. Thorpe and Mrs. Boling to review curriculum. She feels that the current curriculum is not appropriate for public school and teachers may be receiving training to promote SEL and CRT.

Sharon Regan stated that the fall curriculum "indisputedly" includes critical race theory and SEL. She feels that the books were vetted for compliance to BEST standards but not for CRT and SEL. She feels the blame lies with CASEL and continued that teachers' unions and NEA are promoting "wokeness."

George Oedsma came forward and thanked Board members for returning his call. He also stated that he voted for every current Board member. He stated that he wants every Board member to look at (curriculum?) and decide to eject or keep. He also stated that the Chinese are trying to kill us from within.

Len Cross asked if the mask mandate is still in the Code of Student Conduct. Dr. Barber responded that it is not. A public hearing is scheduled to remove this section of the Code of Student Conduct. Mr. Cross stated that the mask mandate could turn into a vaccine mandate. Mr. Cross requested that the five-minute speaking time be reinstated.

Richard Staszak came forward to voice his concerns and frustration regarding quarantine. Mr. Staszak shared that his son has been quarantined twice this year; most recently the week of final exams. His son was allowed to take exams after hours when other students left school. Mr. Staszak took issue with the word "recommend" in the quarantine letter.

Terry Burt came to the podium and shared his background in the Navy and also in military training centers. He referenced Chancellor Oliva's memo "school districts are not to incorporate unsolicited strategies including SEL and culturally responsive teaching." Capt. Burt stated that the Board has the authority to adopt curriculum, possibly from a home

school program, that aligns with BEST standards. He wants the Board to take a closer look at this.

Angela Rudder requested the records from an investigation that took place approximately three years ago involving her son; a student at Gulf Breeze High.

Luci Bailly was the final speaker and came forward to express her concerns regarding CRT. Mrs. Bailly reviewed some of the instructional materials and is concerned specifically with the second grade teachers' handbook which she read from and felt the content was inappropriate particularly for second grade.

Chairperson Mrs. Ueberschaer asked if anyone else would like to address the Board; there was no response and the Public Comments section of the Board meeting was closed.

Administrative Agenda

H. 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 Linda Sanborn. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

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

- 1. Human Resource items**
 - a. Administrative Agenda**
 - b. Leave and Temporary Duty**
- 2. Curriculum/Instruction Items**
 - a. Suspensions**
 - b. Student Reassignments**
 - c. Level 1 Volunteers**
- 3. Administrative Operational Items**
 - a. Property Inventory Audit 070821**
 - b. Exceed the Limit 070821**
 - c. Field Trips**

Action Agenda

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

1. Surplus 070821

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

2. DAG Agenda Items

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved Change Order #5 for covered PE Building for East Bay K8 School - sixty day extension of time due to Covid related building permit procurement and site access road weather delays.

Motion to Approve was moved by Linda Sanborn, Seconded by Elizabeth Hewey. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved final construction payment to DAG Architects for \$33,236.03 for East Bay K8 School.

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved the request to award the contract for Wallace Lake K-8 school to Culpepper Construction as low bidder; also included recommendation to include alternate #1 for covered P.E. building to be included.

The Board reviewed current DAG Architects construction projects.

3. Berube Leonard Agenda Items

The Board reviewed current Berube Leonard construction projects.

4. McKim & Creed Agenda Items

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved Change Order #1 request for nine additional contract days related to weather-delayed workdays for the periods of March, April, and May.

Patrick Jehle pointed out (since it was not on the agenda) that a change order will be submitted at a future Board meeting to include additional costs for driveway tie-ins on Elkhart Drive.

5. Sam Marshall Architects Agenda Items

The Board reviewed current Sam Marshall Architects projects regarding Hobbs Middle School energy upgrades.

6. Florida DOE Annual Energy Report

Mr. Harrell began by noting that he received confirmation from Ms. McCole that all wire transfers have been completed for the recent Certificates of Participation transaction. He commended all who have been involved in the process.

Mr. Harrell pointed out that each year DOE provides an energy usage report with comparators to our neighbors and state wide.

In 2010-11 SRSD spent over \$6 million on electricity. At that time many energy companies were coming to the district guaranteeing to save us money with the agreement that they (the company) would receive a percentage of the savings. Mr. Harrell requested the Superintendent and Board give him one year to implement energy saving programs (saving the percentage these companies would have charged). Some of the programs included programmable thermostats and three-tier buses. Spending capital outlay dollars to enhance air and heating systems throughout the school district also created huge savings (using capital outlay dollars to save operating dollars). This saves funding to spend in other areas. The 19-20 school year showed \$4.7 million spent on energy; this decline in spending is mostly due to usage and more efficient equipment.

The next slide showed our electrical costs per square foot compared to the state average which we are currently very close to. Mr. Harrell pointed out that this is influenced by the type of power used (coal, nuclear).

The slide comparing our costs per square foot to Escambia show that we're very close; we also use the same service providers. The same is true for Okaloosa County; we're very close in electrical costs per square foot.

The last slide showed that if we had continued the trend we had in 2008 we would have spent \$73 million; we had a cost deference of over \$19 million. That is money that would have come out of the operating budget we would not have gotten back.

Superintendent Barber and the Board thanked Assistant Superintendent Joey Harrell and the Maintenance staff for being so proactive and innovative in saving us money.

Mr. Harrell specifically mentioned the following Maintenance employees as being critical to the energy savings: Richard Laing, Building Maintenance Supervisor; Rick Grimes; Rufus Phillips (now retired); and Joe Gillman, Energy Management Technician.

J. 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 5 - 0.

The Board approved the following administrative appointment:

- *Deputy Director of Exceptional Student Education, ESE Services, effective July 9, 2021*

Motion to Approve was moved by Linda Sanborn, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved the following job descriptions:

- *Teacher on Special Assignment for Flight Adventure Deck (revised) requested by Coordinator of Math and Science*
- *Teacher on Special Assignment - Section 504 Liaison (new) requested by Director of Student Services*

K. 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 Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved the alternative placement of Student A21-0332-066 for one calendar year with educational services provided at the Learning Academy.

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved the alternative placement of Student A21-0332-067 for one calendar year with educational services provided at Camelot Academy in accordance with the IEP.

Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Elizabeth Hewey. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved the alternative placement of Student A21-0231-069 for one calendar year with educational services provided at the Learning Academy.

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved the alternative placement of Student A21-0151-065 for no less than one calendar year with educational services provided at the Learning Academy of Santa Rosa.

2. Funds Request for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support

Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Elizabeth Hewey. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved the funds request as recommended.

Mrs. Hewey requested a description of the programs covered which Mrs. Anderson, Director of ESE, provided.

3. Gifted Budget and National Flight Academy Request

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

4. IDEA Grant Project Application 2021-22

Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

5. Career Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement 2021-2022

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

6. Sacred Heart Health System Affiliation Agreement with Gulf Breeze High

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

7. Sacred Heart Health System Affiliation Agreement with Locklin Technical College

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

8. Santa Rosa Medical Center Affiliation Agreement

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

9. West Florida Hospital Affiliation Agreement

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

10. Title III, Supplementary Instructional Support for English Language Learners

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

11. Renewal of FLVS Contract 2021-22

Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

12. Approval of K12 Stride Contract

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Elizabeth Hewey. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

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

None

M. Information Technology Services Recommendations – David Hicks, Assistant Superintendent for Information Technology Services

None

N. Items from Board Members

1. FSBA Advocacy Committee (Alternate)

Motion to Approve was moved by Linda Sanborn, Seconded by Elizabeth Hewey. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved Mrs. Sanborn's nomination of Mr. Elliott to serve as the Santa Rosa School District alternate representative for the FSBA Advocacy Committee.

O. Items from Board Attorney

School Board Attorney Terry Harmon provided some background information on the Civil Service Board and the history of the relationship between Civil Service Board and School Board.

The Civil Service Board serves a number of functions including addressing grievances and disciplinary actions of School Board employees. Technically school district employees could go through the Civil Service Board for grievance issues. The County approached the school district about proposing an amendment to legislation removing the school district from the Civil Service Board.

Mr. Harmon verified with the school district that no employee has used this for a number of years.

The Superintendent and School Board agreed that the school district should be removed from the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Board.

P. Items from Superintendent

1. FADSS Membership Dues 2021-2022

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved the FADSS Membership dues for 2021-2022.

2. Rutledge-Ecena Agreement for Consultant Services

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

The Board approved the Rutledge-Ecena agreement for consultant services effective July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

3. Executive Session

Superintendent Barber requested that the Board move to Executive Session. The regular Board meeting adjourned and Executive Session convened.

Q. Adjournment

Motion to Approve was moved by Linda Sanborn, Seconded by Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

DONE AND ORDERED IN LEGAL SESSION by the School Board of Santa Rosa County the 8th day of July, 2021.

SCHOOL BOARD OF
SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Chairman

ATTEST:

Superintendent and Secretary