

MEETING MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY
September 12, 2013-6:30 PM

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The School Board of Santa Rosa County met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mrs. Diane Coleman, Chairman, Dr. Diane Scott, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Hugh Winkles, Mr. Scott Peden and Mrs. Jennifer Granse. Also present was Timothy S. Wyrosdick, Superintendent of Schools and Secretary and Paul R. Green, Board Attorney.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman called the meeting to order and Mr. Wyrosdick led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and in a moment of silence.

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes of School Board Meeting 8-22-13

Motion to Approve was moved by Jenny Granse , Seconded by Hugh Winkles. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

D. Oral Written Communications

None

E. Recognitions Resolutions Proclamations

None

F. Public Hearing

1. 2nd Public Hearing and Approve 2013-14 Millage and Budget

Mrs. Coleman asked if anyone in the audience would like to address the School Board regarding the 2013-14 Millage and Budget since this is the second public hearing for this item. Several community members spoke against raising the millage.

Hilda Klimach stated that she is a senior citizen living on a budget; she understands the schools need money; teachers and other employees need raises although she wishes that teachers would do a better job. Utilities are increasing for everyone. Ms. Klimach does not have children and doesn't understand why she is paying school property taxes. Ms. Klimach knows that it is too late for this year, but asked that the School Board consider two other ways of raising money. 1) You need to change the way homestead exemption is handled on houses - tax everybody on first \$25,000 (including mobile homes); 2) Have a special school tax on all utilities (electric, phone, water). If these two suggestions would not work, consider raising sales tax (from 6.5% to 7.0%). Everybody should pay their fair share.

Edward Craft is a veteran who has lived in Munson for 28 years. Mr. Craft stated that he is against raising the millage rate. He understands that everyone wants a pay raise but doesn't feel that this is the right time with so many other items going up - gas, groceries, utilities, and insurance. Mr. Craft fears that the federal government may "shut down" and he feels this meeting is at the wrong time; it should be in October.

Katherine Tedder is a local business owner who is also concerned with the millage rate going up. Ms. Tedder asked if the millage rate was increased last year (it was not) and wanted to know specifically what the purpose is for this millage rate increase. Superintendent Wyrosdick responded that it was raised three years ago and explained that the millage is set for us to approve and advertise by

Tallahassee if we want to participate in the Florida Educators Finance Plan which benefits us. In order to receive funding from the state we have to raise a specific amount locally. Ms. Tedder asked if having a public forum makes a difference ("Tallahassee mandated - pretty much set in stone"). She asked if the discussion should take place in Tallahassee.

Superintendent Wyrosdick expressed appreciation that Ms. Tedder came to share her viewpoint and concerns and stated that doing so is important and needs to be heard. Superintendent Wyrosdick shared that millages are set as the state tells us what is appropriate in order to raise a certain amount of local revenue. We are setting millage at the recommended rate. Our local effort is increasing each year; state effort is decreasing.

Ms. Tedder shared that she has been a business owner of over 25 years; they have had to tighten their belt. None of her employees have gotten a raise in several years; they also do not have insurance or retirement. Ms. Tedder is concerned about the people of Santa Rosa County; many people are losing their homes (due to property taxes); she has a homeless individual living with her. She asked a question about funding instructional software at \$350,000. Superintendent Wyrosdick explained that this is needed to assist teachers in instructing students K-12. It's become one of the essential things we use to be sure students are receiving appropriate education in a twenty-first century world.

Ms. Tedder stated that her neighbor (who has children at Central) told her that all students at Central received a new computer. (This is not the case.) Ms. Tedder became emotional and expressed frustration with the mentality that government will take care of citizens. Superintendent Wyrosdick answered her concerns by explaining that in Santa Rosa County we take every dime and maximize it. As a school district we have had to tighten our belts over the last few years and we are good stewards of tax payer dollars. Ms. Tedder began to talk about cuts that her brother's employer, UPS, has made in employee benefits. Superintendent Wyrosdick responded that we have been making employee benefit cuts over the last 4-5 years. He also stated how much he appreciates her being here and expressing her concerns.

Diane Scott stated that we have experienced the same thing - every one of our costs has gone up and yet we are funded at the same level as five years ago and have absorbed the costs. We have made painful decisions to try and contain costs and still provide a high quality of education. We are regularly funded at either 66 or 67 out of 67 school districts in the state.

Diane Coleman talked about what a great job our teachers are doing even at this funding level; money is well spent. The programs offered are those needed so that students can make learning gains every year and be competitive. She also reiterated that the required local effort is directed from Tallahassee; in order to receive funds from Tallahassee that millage rate is required. She also thanked Ms. Tedder for coming to the meeting and sharing her concerns.

Hugh Winkles explained that the only part of taxes we control (that the School Board can raise or lower) is the capital outlay portion (funds to build new schools, remodel). This has been at 1.4 since 1998. Mr. Winkles recalled that in 1998 the School Board asked the citizens of Santa Rosa County for a half-cent sales tax increase with the agreement that the School District would never raise that millage rate (for capital outlay). That is the only part the School Board controls.

Ms. Tedder asked if this is something that needs to be done in Tallahassee and Superintendent Wyrosdick said that school district taxation can only be changed in Tallahassee. School Board Chairman Diane Coleman and Superintendent Wyrosdick once again thanked Katherine Tedder for coming and sharing her concerns.

Edward Craft asked a question regarding how much money is sent to Tallahassee and how much the school district receives back. Superintendent Wyrosdick plans to follow up with Mr. Craft on this question.

Jurgen David came forward to speak to the School Board. Mr. David expressed his disappointment that this is controlled from Tallahassee. He also stated that he is not experiencing financial hardship at the present time but feels that he may be at some time in the future. He offered a suggestion that there could be some type of tax relief for low income citizens and went on to state that we are the most expensive education system in the world but the product stands far below these expenses - we are not in first place. What are we doing about that - it is our future.

Motion to Approve was moved by Diane Scott , Seconded by Jenny Granse. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

The board approved Resolution Number 10-03 determining Revenues and Millages levied as follows:

1. The board approved the Required Local Effort Millage at a total of 5.6000Mills (5.5920 Required Local Effort plus 0.0080 Prior Period Funding Adjustment Millage) and raising \$44,434,410.00.

Motion to Approve was moved by Scott Peden , Seconded by Hugh Winkles. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. The board approved the Discretionary Millage at .7480 Mills raising \$5,935,168.00.

Motion to Approve was moved by Diane Scott , Seconded by Jenny Granse. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

3. The board approved the Capital Outlay Millage at 1.4000 Mills raising \$11,108,603.00 (for a total millage of 7.7480 Mills).

Motion to Approve was moved by Hugh Winkles , Seconded by Diane Scott. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

The board approved Resolution Number 10-04 adopting the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14.

4. Total Operating Budget of \$190,428,340 and a total budget of all budget parts of \$262,797.098.

2. Public Hearing on SB Policy Updates

Motion to Approve was moved by Jenny Granse , Seconded by Scott Peden. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

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

None

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 Diane Scott , Seconded by Jenny Granse. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

The board approved all Administrative Agenda items H. 1,2,3 and 4 as submitted below:

1. Human Resource Items

a. Personnel Board Agenda

b. Leaves: Without Pay, Illness In Line Of Duty, Military Leave; Out-Of-State Temporary

Duty Requests

- c. Substitute Teacher and Ed Support Substitute List
- d. Fire and Life Safety Inspections 2013-2014
- 2. Curriculum/Instruction Items
 - a. Student Reassignment/Transfer Requests
 - b. Suspensions
 - c. School Volunteers
- 3. Financial Items
 - a. Budget Amendment #13/10, Monthly Financial Statement, and Bills/Payroll for June 2013
- 4. Administrative Operational Items
 - a. Field Trip Requests
 - b. Religious Venue Request

Action Agenda

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

1. DAG Architects Agenda Items

The board reviewed the status of the current DAG Construction Projects.

2. Pinder Martin Agenda Items

The board reviewed the status of the current Pinder-Martin construction projects.

3. Direct Purchasing Change Orders

Motion to Approve was moved by Scott Peden , Seconded by Jenny Granse. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

J. Human Resource Recommendation- Lewis Lynn Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

1. Human Resource Action Agenda

Motion to Approve was moved by Diane Scott , Seconded by Jenny Granse. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

The board approved the following job description: Board Certified Behavior Analyst as presented.

K. Curricular and Instructions Recommendation – Bill Emerson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

1. Alternative Placements

Motion to Approve was moved by Scott Peden , Seconded by Jenny Granse. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. Grant Synopsis for Carl D. Perkins Secondary

Motion to Approve was moved by Diane Scott , Seconded by Scott Peden. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

3. Grant Synopsis for Family Literacy, EL Civics, Adults w/Disabilities, Corrections

Motion to Approve was moved by Jenny Granse , Seconded by Diane Scott. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

4. Accelify Letter of Agreement 2013-2014

This item was tabled until the next school board meeting.

5. Walgreens COMMUNITY OFF-SITE CLINIC AGREEMENT

Motion to Approve was moved by Diane Scott , Seconded by Scott Peden. Motion Passed by a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Winkles abstained from voting on this item due to his employment with Walgreens.

6. OPPAGA Report

Motion to Approve was moved by Jenny Granse , Seconded by Scott Peden. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Wyrosdick shared with the board that during the Superintendents FADSS Fall Leadership meeting there was a discussion about this report becoming part of the paperwork reduction. The information contained in this report is available via other documents and/or reports.

7. Gifted Add-On Endorsement Plan/Updated Plan

Motion to Approve was moved by Scott Peden , Seconded by Jenny Granse. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

8. Early Release Request - JHS Homecoming 2013-2014

Motion to Approve was moved by Jenny Granse , Seconded by Diane Scott. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

9. High School Athletics - Fall Schedules 2013-2014

Motion to Approve was moved by Scott Peden , Seconded by Jenny Granse. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

L. Financial Recommendations – Susan McCole, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services

1. Annual Financial Report

Motion to Approve was moved by Diane Scott , Seconded by Scott Peden. Motion Passed by a vote of 5-0.

Mrs. McCole introduced Marilyn Brown and thanked her and Kathy Strickland for all the hard work that went into preparing the Annual Financial Report.

Ms. Brown began by stating that our fund balance decreased again this year. She shared with the board that we receive approximately 66% of our revenues from the State. The three largest areas they come from are Class Size Reduction funds, Work Force Development funds and FEFP. Local dollars provide 33% of our revenue and primarily come from Ad Valorem Taxes, Child Care fees and Direct Costs. Impact Aid and Medicaid funds contribute approximately 1% in Federal dollars.

Our three largest expenditures besides salaries were \$8.7 M to Durham Student Transportation, \$5.2 M to Southern Management and \$5.1 M for utilities.

Ms. Brown stated that the Annual Financial Report is a summary of a year's worth of work for 278

employees. She shared with the board that over 4,674 purchase orders were processed, Accounts Payable issued almost 6,000 checks to pay 18,660 invoices, Payroll issued over 9,000 payroll checks and processed 34,575 direct deposits. There were approximately 225,748 journal entries posted in the financial system and represented in the Annual Financial Report.

Mrs. Coleman said that it is amazing that we have so few mistakes with so many people writing checks, paying invoices and entering data and our audits keep getting better each year. She asked Ms. Brown to relay the board's appreciation for all they do.

Mr. Wyrosdick said that he gets to see on a day to day basis what is going on and it is amazing how accurate and accountable our process is.

M. Items from Board Members

Mr. Winkles expressed his concern about the question that Mr. Craft asked earlier in the meeting during the public hearing on the budget. Mr. Winkles believes he was asking how much we send to Tallahassee and how much we get back.

He wanted to make sure Mr. Craft understands that we benefit by participating because we receive much more funding back than we actually contribute. We must participate or our funding will be cut substantially.

Mr. Wyrosdick said he has Mr. Craft's contact information and will follow up with him to make sure he understands how our funding is structured.

N. Items from Board Attorney

None

O. Items from Superintendent

Mr. Wyrosdick called attention to the fact that we are projecting that our fund balance may fall below 3% shortly. He shared this information with the board members in accordance with Florida Statute 1011.051 which requires us to notify the state that our fund balance has fallen below 3%.

1. Request Board Member to serve on committee to look at Health Care Clinic

Mr. Wyrosdick asked for a board member to serve on a committee to look at the possibility of a Health Care Clinic. Mr. Winkles volunteered to serve on the committee.

2. Schedule Strategic Plan Workshop on October 24, 2013 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Wyrosdick asked the board if they could schedule a work session on October 24, 2013 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. followed by our regular board meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. The work session is to begin work on developing our Strategic Plan. David Johnson will be the facilitator. The workshop will be added to the schedule.

P. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

DONE AND ORDERED IN LEGAL SESSION by the School Board of Santa Rosa County this 12th day of September, 2013 A. D.

*School Board of
Santa Rosa County*

Chairman

ATTEST:

Superintendent and Secretary