

MEETING MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY
September 24, 2020-6:30 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: Mr. Buddy Hinote, Chairman; Mrs. Wei Ueberschaer, Vice-Chairperson; Mrs. Linda Sanborn, Mrs. Carol Boston, and Mrs. Jennifer Granse. Timothy S. Wyrosdick, Superintendent of Schools, was also in attendance. Paul R. Green, Board Attorney, was available by phone, if needed, and watched the live stream.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman called the meeting to order and Superintendent Wyrosdick 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 September 10, 2020

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

D. Oral Written Communications

1. COVID Response

Superintendent Wyrosdick provided information on Hurricane Sally. We are still in the recovery phase; he praised administrative and custodial services for their work during and post-hurricane. We missed five school days; we can ask for forgiveness but that will be a late October decision. We will see what happens with the remainder of hurricane season before petitioning for forgiveness. If we don't receive forgiveness we will adjust our calendar.

He continued that over the last four to five years we have participated in a number of remedial projects around our schools. A lot of that work has paid off; we fully expected to have three schools full of water. Again, we appreciate administrative services and their hard work during this time.

For a complete word for word transcript, please see the video. The following presentations to the Board have been condensed.

Superintendent Wyrosdick reminded the Board that at the last meeting they asked for a committee to be convened to review our Covid quarantine policy. The committee included district staff, parents, and members of the Health Department.

Daniel Hahn, Director of Safety, came forward to present the committee's findings as follows.

The SRCDS COVID-19 Information Disclaimer should be on every page. The disclaimer is an acknowledgement that material can change on a daily basis and the district will not be responsible for changes between the information on the page and experiences in a classroom or school.

Mr. Hahn pointed out that Okaloosa and Escambia receive the same guidance that we receive; we can't control how other districts respond to the guidance.

Florida Statute 252.36 Emergency Management Powers of the Governor states that the Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers presented to this state and its people by emergencies. It further states that the Governor may issue executive orders and such executive orders shall have the force and effect of law.

Executive Order 20-52 (filed on September 4 and effective for 60 days) designates the State Health Officer and Surgeon General as Deputy State Coordinating Officer and State Incident Commander. The State Incident Commander is the person responsible for an emergency response. The Florida State Surgeon General (and Incident Commander) is Dr. Scott A. Rivkees, who also happens to be a pediatrician.

Mr. Hahn talked about the mortality rates in children given at the last Board meeting and mitigation. Even though the numbers may be small we still try to mitigate them. For example, to mitigate childhood mortality in car crashes we have air bags, speed limits, car seats and safety belts.

The State of Florida Biological Incident Annex, F.S. 252, Emergency Management Act states that the Governor shall declare a state of emergency by Executive Order if she or he finds an emergency has occurred or the threat thereof is imminent. "Public health emergency" means any occurrence which results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the public health from infectious disease.

Section 381.0011, F.S. lists the duties and powers of the Department of Health including to "investigate and control the spread of disease." Section 381.0012, F.S. states that the department may commence and maintain all proper and necessary actions and proceedings to enforce the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter and may defend all actions and proceedings involving the department's powers and duties.

Section 381.00315, F.S., states that the State Health Officer is responsible for declaring health emergencies, issuing public health advisories, and ordering isolation or quarantines.

The biological annex was written for naturally-occurring disease outbreaks; emerging caused by newly identified species or strains of disease for which there may be no human immunity - this kind of disease (Covid).

Mr. Hahn emphasized the five mitigation strategies listed below from DOE.

- Consistent and correct use of masks*
- Social distancing to the largest extent possible*
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette*
- Cleaning and disinfection*
- Contact tracing in collaboration with local health department*

We do our best on all of the above and continue to work with the Department of Health as they are the experts. We were told to start schools - subject to the advice and orders of the Florida Department of Health, local departments of health, Executive Order 20-149 and subsequent executive orders. We have worked closely with the Department of Health since March and will continue to do so.

This week we have excluded many students who participated in slumber or hurricane parties. We have students five days a week for about six hours a day; we don't know what they're doing the rest of the time. It requires the cooperation of the entire community.

Mr. Hahn concluded that this affects us all personally; many school district employees have children in the school system. He promised that we will continue to make mistakes but will try to learn from those mistakes; we will improve processes/protocols where we can - but we will not make everyone happy.

Superintendent Wyrosdick stated that contact tracing is especially difficult. We want kids in school but we also want to keep them safe.

Mrs. Sanborn shared that the committee included four parents who

spoke, three members of the Health Department, senior staff, and she represented the School Board. Mrs. Sanborn stated that she had the following "take aways" from the meeting.

The Department of Health has the authority to make recommendations to the School Board and we are following those recommendations to the letter. Mrs. Sanborn stated that she is not a pediatrician; she feels that it is incumbent for us to follow the advice of those who are not involved emotionally but advise from a scientific, medical perspective.

She is extremely concerned about the quarantine requirement and how much school time our students are missing - but we are following the recommendation from the Department of Health.

Mrs. Sanborn feels our students are not as connected as they need to be to continue their education when they are unable to be in school. She stated that Superintendent-Elect Dr. Barber suggested that at the Principals Meeting next week the Principals collaborate to find a way to help students stay better connected to their education. Mrs. Sanborn stated that we don't have control over the mandate or the quarantine but we can control how well students stay connected to their education.

Mrs. Sanborn recalled the meeting in which the mandate was first introduced and discussed. There were medical professionals (as well as parents) who spoke and made good points; there have also been parents opposing the mandate/quarantine who have made good points. Mrs. Sanborn stated that she voted based solely on the recommendation of the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Mrs. Ueberschaer expressed appreciation to the Department of Health for attending this evening to be available for questions.

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)

The Chairman opened the floor for the Public Forum and asked if anyone would like to address the Board. The following citizens addressed the Board.

For a complete word for word transcript, please see the video. The following presentations to the Board have been condensed.

Dawn Henderson came forward to speak on behalf of her daughter and other students. Ms. Henderson's daughter is now entering her second quarantine and hasn't shown symptoms; she wears her mask and follows the rules. Her daughter is very upset at having to miss school; she is a straight A student who is missing classwork and extracurricular activities.

Nick Stiles, sophomore at Pace High, stated that he is a football player as well as an honors student. He was notified yesterday that he is to quarantine since he sits close to a student who tested positive (though she was asymptomatic). Nick has worn the mask and avoided crowds. He feels that he is being robbed of his education and the quarantine should be ended.

Chris Revier came forward to speak about the importance of science in ensuring our children and community are safe. Mr. Revier feels that if the mandates are eased more people will be sick, more people will die, and the schools could close. He continued that we have to teach our kids resilience and grit; that is what it will take to get through this.

Megan Lewis was the next speaker to come and she stated that she is here to advocate for her daughter, a seventh grader at Jay High who has complained of being lightheaded since she began wearing the mask. Ms. Lewis provided statistics questioning the effectiveness of masks. Ms. Lewis stated that she emailed her source information to all Board members and requested the mask mandate be put to a vote.

Erin Wainwright came to the podium to read a letter from Rachael Lawson, a parent at Woodlawn Beach Middle School. The letter outlined Ms. Lawson's experience and frustration with having a student quarantined; trying to get information about the exposure and homework assignments.

Erin Wainwright spoke of her own child who has a 98 average in her classes. Ms. Wainwright shared that her daughter had six makeup tests the day she came back to school. Ms. Wainwright is not concerned about the mask mandate but feels that healthy kids should be in school. She said that remote students are getting a better education than brick and mortar students since brick and mortar students are missing out on work (if they are quarantined).

Leonard Cross spoke next to voice his concern over the mask mandate. He feels that the mask mandate is a form of bullying. Mr. Cross stated that his face is his liberty. He compared the mask mandate to countries that require veils.

JoAnn Cave stated that statistics have changed since the last time she spoke (two weeks ago). Ms. Cave questioned why we require masks when Okaloosa and Escambia do not. She feels that we can change the mandate.

Candace Camley stated that she comes to the Board tonight as a concerned parent of two sophomore students at Pace High School who are very involved in sports. They lost the baseball season in the spring (due to Covid); they are both in advanced classes. She is concerned that her kids won't be eligible to receive scholarships because they won't be prepared for college placement tests. Ms. Camley suggested that the school district does not have to follow the DOH recommendations; "stop sending healthy children home."

Angie Klug stated that there has been a meeting but nothing has changed; "time is of the essence." Ms. Klug shared that she does not support the quarantine but is more concerned that we were not prepared for the start of school; she feels that surrounding counties had a plan in place. Ms. Klug referenced articles that she sent to the Superintendent that she feels support her opposition to quarantines. She concluded that she has spoken with teachers who tell her the schools are not being cleaned properly.

C.J. Klug, honors/A.P. student at Gulf Breeze High, came forward to voice his concerns regarding the quarantine policy. He shared that one of his teachers has a plan in place for quarantined students which is to upload classroom lectures on You Tube. He noted that having classes on Microsoft Teams does not work very well and offered other suggestions which he has found to be helpful. C.J. stated that he wears the mask every day; he was told when he started school that if he wears the mask and social distances as much as possible he should be okay (not have to quarantine). During his speaking time C.J. expressed concern with his chemistry grade; Mr. Hinote suggested that he would be glad to help with that since he taught chemistry for 22 years.

Mrs. Sanborn offered to tutor Spanish which she taught for 35 years.

Valerie Revier came forward to express her concerns with the instructional technology in our district. She stated that many of our teachers are not prepared with the right tools and technology; they need more support.

Kristina and Craig Morin came to the podium. Kristina Morin spoke of her concerns with children wearing masks; she feels that is unsafe. Craig Morin spoke next and talked about potential lawsuits against the school system. Mr. Morin stated that "it's not the government's job to protect me

and my children."

There were no further requests to address the Board regarding an item not on the agenda so Board Chairman Mr. Hinote closed the public forum.

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 Carol Boston, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. Motion Accepted 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. Human Resource Administrative Agenda**
 - b. 2020-2021 Annual Inspections**
- 2. Curriculum/Instruction Items**
 - a. Student Reassignment Requests**
 - b. Suspensions**
 - c. Level 1 School Volunteers**
 - d. Level 2 Volunteers for Approval**
- 3. Administrative Operational Items**
 - a. Religious Venue Requests**

Action Agenda

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

1. RFB 20-12 HEPA Air Purifiers

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

The Board approved Medify Air as the top company to be awarded for RFB 20-12 HEPA Air Purifiers.

2. Food Service Quarterly Report Sept 2020

Leslie Bell, Child Nutrition Director, came forward to provide Food Service highlights from the last quarter.

During the summer feeding program, 40-45,000 meals are typically served. Sodexo served over 1,061,992 meals to our community during COVID emergency feeding. Ms. Bell expressed appreciation to Mrs. Boston and Mrs. Sanborn for helping serve meals and spoke of the teamwork that allowed this to happen. Food Service and Transportation worked together to feed our community!

One of the goals was to stay connected. Food Service tried to make the feeding program as celebratory as possible including spring holidays.

Approximately 30 food service employees participated in the Leadership Academy for current and future managers. Employees receive training in compassion, flexibility, student, staff, and food safety.

The Operations Team had to incorporate new safety and security measures, new methods of cleaning, new procedures for entering, exiting, and working. Adjustments had to be made in kitchens and serving lines.

Ms. Bell talked about the new USDA guideline that allows all children to be served at no charge at every location (not based on site eligibility). This will benefit remote and virtual learners as well as brick and mortar; food service can go curbside.

Mrs. Boston expressed appreciation to Ms. Bell for answering her questions when the program began.

3. DAG Agenda Items

The Board reviewed current DAG construction projects including East Bay K8 School, Jay High School baseball and softball fieldhouse, and P.E. building at East Bay K8 School.

4. McKim & Creed Agenda Items

The Board reviewed current McKim & Creed construction projects including Wallace Lake conditional use application.

5. Conduct a Public Hearing & Approve 35 Acre Purchase @ Wallace Lake Rd/Chumuckla Hwy.

Board Chair Mr. Buddy Hinote announced the public hearing for the 35-

acre property purchase and asked Elijah Bell to come forward since Mr. Bell completed a form to address the Board.

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

Mr. Bell shared his concern regarding the purchase price of this piece of property. He also feels that the current Superintendent and Board need to postpone this decision to allow the next Superintendent and new Board to handle.

Mrs. Ueberschaer stated that the Board has done their due diligence to find suitable property for a Pace K8 school which is needed now. They have gone many years without purchasing property in the Pace area; to ask the Board to stop work for months would be irresponsible. Previously two pieces of property were found to be unsuitable for different reasons and progress was halted.

Mrs. Boston concurred that the Board needs to move forward with this purchase. If a past Board had purchased land in this area we would not be in the position we are in today. She would like to not leave a future Board in the situation of needing a school but not having land to build on. Many properties have been lost to builders who can pay more.

Mrs. Sanborn asked Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Joey Harrell to speak to this issue. Mr. Harrell explained that we've had a real estate agent working diligently on property in this area that would be suitable for a school. Over the past year we looked at two different properties in the Pace area prior to this one. Both were found to be unsuitable; one due to egress issues and the other because of the soil (which was not discovered until the geotechnical study was done). We have done a lot of preparation work on this piece of property; to say that it's not going to be used for years is incorrect.

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

The Board approved the following recommendations as presented.

- Grant approval of the Public Hearing and Agreement as submitted
- Authorize a public meeting on September 24, 2020 to consider final approval of the Agreement
- Ratify publication of notice of the public meeting

6. Direct Purchasing Change Orders

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

The Board approved change orders decreasing the projects payable below to the appropriate contractor by the amounts shown. These

decreases are to reflect recent payments made to suppliers and the associated tax savings acquired through direct purchasing.

- *East Bay K-8 School
Culpepper Construction
\$1,093,280.45*
- *Jay High - Baseball/Softball Fieldhouse
A. E. New Jr.
\$28,589.89*

J. Human Resource Recommendation- Conni Carnley, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

1. Human Resource Action Agenda

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

The Board approved the following job description as submitted.

- *Coordinator of Math & Science (revised) requested by Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction*

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

1. Alternative Placements

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

The Chairman asked if anyone wanted to address the Board regarding any of the alternative placements; no one came forward.

2. FLDOE Computer Science Certification Grant

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

3. High School Athletic Schedule

Motion to Approve was moved by Wei Ueberschaer, Seconded by Jenny Granse. 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

Mrs. Boston expressed appreciation to everyone (particularly Administrative Services) for their protection, response, and immediate mitigation to help us get through Hurricane Sally.

Mrs. Sanborn stated that she is extremely moved by the number of parents who came by this evening to express their concerns regarding masks and quarantines. She asked at what point we can lift the face mask mandate and not quarantine students.

Daniel Hahn responded that the executive order will remain in place until early November; we can only go by what the State Board of Education directs us to do.

Mrs. Sanborn continued that we want parents to know that we are concerned about the education of our students; we must also be concerned about their safety.

Mrs. Granse shared that she is also concerned about students' academics; we have never been through a pandemic before and were not prepared.

Mrs. Ueberschaer requested to continue discussion about the School Board attorney hiring process. There are two choices in continuing; either have a committee to screen applicants and provide information to the Board to discuss in a public meeting or the Board can interview and screen all applicants.

Superintendent Wyrosdick suggested that a committee be put together including an individual who is serving as a School Board attorney in another district. The committee can't make a recommendation but they can bring noted comments. We have advertised in three locations - our website, the FSBA website and the Florida School Boards Attorneys Association website.

Mrs. Ueberschaer stated that either process should begin immediately. She would like for us to fulfill our contract with Mr. Green which goes through December 31 of this year (if he is willing); other Board members concurred.

Mrs. Boston stated that she is an advocate of the committee process.

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

Superintendent Wyrosdick recommended the following committee members to screen and provide information to the Board:

- *David Delany, Current School Board Attorney*
- *Pam Smith, Risk Manager*
- *Wei Ueberschaer, School Board Vice-Chair*
- *Debbie Anderson, Instructional Services/Exceptional Student Education*
- *Liz West, Human Resource Manager*

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

The Board approved the recommendation that the new School Board Attorney contract begin effective January 1, 2021.

O. Items from Board Attorney

None

P. Items from Superintendent

Superintendent Wyrosdick requested a brief executive session after the Board meeting.

Superintendent Wyrosdick notified the Board that he will bring a recommendation to the next Board meeting regarding the \$3 million that was set aside for the three-period day.

Q. Adjournment

Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Wei Ueberschaer. 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 this 24th day of September, 2020.

**SCHOOL BOARD OF
SANTA ROSA COUNTY**

Chairman

ATTEST:

Superintendent and Secretary