

MEETING MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY
December 10, 2020-9:00 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 Brian Noack, Director of High Schools, 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 Reorganizational Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2020

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

2. Approval of School Board Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2020

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

D. Oral Written Communications

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

Deborah Ray, Deputy Director of Exceptional Student Education, came forward to share some good news about the ESE graduation rate which has surpassed the state average and is now at 92%. Mrs. Ray pointed out that this is not just a victory for the ESE department but for all departments; we all work collaboratively with our (ESE) families. She stated that in working with parents of ESE Pre-K students one of the first concerns they have is - will my son or daughter graduate? We think about

this for our students from the beginning until they "age out" at 22 years. Our teachers, administrators, and support staff have worked so hard this year. For our most unique population to reach this milestone is a celebration.

Dr. Barber added that our overall graduation rate is 88.9% and our students with IEPs have a graduation rate of 92%; which is incredible. That is a tribute to our families, students, paraprofessionals, special education teachers, administrators, and school board members. This is a significant increase in graduation rate and is the result of a lot of hard work.

Superintendent Barber began discussion about the updated CDC information that we received yesterday, December 9, 2020. She stated that the Department of Health is working closely with us to find a path for asymptomatic students to return to school earlier than 14 days with some structure and expectations.

Jenea Highfill with the Department of Health came forward to brief the Board on the latest developments from the Centers for Disease Control.

- The 14-day quarantine continues to be the "gold standard" recommendation for quarantine of close contacts.*
- There are some additional options for asymptomatic close contacts to end quarantine earlier than 14 days (with caveats).*
- An alternative quarantine option that asymptomatic close contacts may follow includes being tested by PCR on day 6 or later. If negative, they may return from quarantine after day 7.*
- If a student tests positive they become a case, even if asymptomatic, and will be required to isolate for a full 10 days beyond the test date.*
- Athletics and extracurriculars pose high challenges to protective measures and do not need to occur prior to completion of the 14-day quarantine period.*
- The 14-day quarantine remains the recommendation because incubation period of the Covid-19 virus has not changed.*
- Household contacts are at greater risk for contracting the Covid-19 virus from a household member. For this reason, early release guidance is not applicable to household contacts of positive cases. Students who have household members who are positive are required to complete the 14-day quarantine period prior to return to school.*

Ms. Highfill noted that risk still exists from day 8 through end of day 14; we still need focused intent on mitigation strategies including hygiene, social distancing, and especially mask use.

Dr. Barber asked Ms. Highfill to talk through the scenario of a parent who has a student being quarantined due to close contact who would like to return early under the new provision. Ms. Highfill outlined the following.

- A contact tracer will verify that your student has reported no symptoms*
- Take your student for testing on day 6*
- Parent shares results with DOH*
- Parent gets letter from DOH - letter will have two dates: date of return to school and date 14-day requirement (for athletics and extracurricular) ends; this is the letter parent takes to school so student may return to school*

Dr. Barber asked Ms. Highfill to provide more information on the "mandatory counseling" that is referenced in the DOH communication. Mr. Highfill noted that the information will include guidance on returning to school such as continuing to social distance, wear a mask, and avoid crowds as much as possible.

Dr. Barber emphasized that the mandatory counseling is not mental health counseling; it is special instruction to parents/guardians/students on what to do when returning to school.

Mrs. Ueberschaer asked what parents of students who are currently being quarantined should do if they feel their student might fall within the early return parameters. Ms. Highfill stated that they need to reach out to the DOH contact tracer for guidance.

Mrs. Sanborn asked if these guidelines are the same ones sent throughout the state; Ms. Highfill responded the guidance is the same. Implementation may vary from one district to another based on resources, etc. Mrs. Sanborn then asked School Board Attorney Terry Harmon if his letter to the School Board stated that we have no choice but to follow the guidelines from the CDC/DOH. Mr. Harmon responded that there are certain penalties if a school district does not follow the guidelines from the DOH. He continued that as a local governmental entity we could adopt different guidelines but we would be doing so against the advice of the DOH, the CDC, the Florida DOE, and public health advisories that have been issued by the state surgeon general. Mrs. Sanborn asked who the concerned parents should reach out to if they are not in favor of the quarantine; Mr. Harmon responded they should contact the Governor's office, the DOH, and DOE. He reminded Mrs. Sanborn of our Board (and DOE) approved Reopening Plan which states that we will follow DOH guidance. Dr. Barber also pointed out that our Reopening Plan had to be approved by DOE; DOE approved it because we agreed to follow DOH guidelines. Without DOE's approval we would not be held harmless regarding FTE (Full Time Equivalency) which means that our penalty

would be substantially greater.

Dr. Barber added that in her conversation with other superintendents some are following the 14-day quarantine without exception; others are moving to the alternate quarantine period right away, and still others are waiting until after the first of the year to make any changes.

Dr. Barber asked Ms. Highfill what our current positivity rate is; it's 18% community wide at this time.

Mr. Elliott requested clarification on timelines and also scenarios involving exposure. Ms. Highfill stated that the quarantine period does not start until after the last day of exposure.

Mrs. Ueberschaer stated that this is good news; it is a pathway for our students to return earlier than they could yesterday.

Daniel Hahn notified the Board that this information is posted on our website.

E. Recognitions/Resolutions/Proclamations

1. Art in the Capitol Award

Mike Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, came forward to introduce Cheyenne Davis, a seventh grade student at Sims Middle School, who is the District winner for the 2021 Art in the Capitol Award. Cheyenne's art work will be hanging in the Capitol during session. Representative Jayer Williamson's associate, Sydney Fowler, presented the award to Cheyenne.

2. NDIA ACCEerator Grants STEM Awards for 2020

Mike Ruff, with Northrop Grumman, came forward to talk about the NDIA (National Defense Industrial Association) ACCEerator Grants program. Mr. Ruff explained that NDIA is a non-partisan, non-profit educational association that has been designated by the IRS as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The NDIA is a national organization whose goal is to help shape the policy of our nation to support the Secretary of Defense's national security policy. The NDIA Gulf Coast chapter is comprised primarily of local defense contractors in the Eglin community.

Funding for the ACCEL Grant Program comes from the NDIA Gulf Coast Chapter Annual Air Armament Symposium. Local teachers and non-profit organizations compete to receive grants of up to \$1,000 for projects

and resources designed to stimulate interest in STEM. This year 67 grants were awarded. Over a 14-year period, the ACCEL grant program has awarded over \$600,000 to local educators to advance STEM in their schools.

F. Public Hearing

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

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 advertise for public hearing on School Board Policy updates to be held on February 4, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. at Canal Street.

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 presentations to the Board have been condensed.

Board Chairperson Wei Ueberschaer requested Adam Davidson to come forward and address the Board. Mr. Davidson addressed the Board regarding his concerns with the handling of a parent's complaints against the coaches of the Gulf Breeze High girls' varsity soccer team. Mr. Davidson feels that the school is not handling the situation appropriately and wants the district office to step in.

Steve Feltenberger approached the podium next to express his concerns that the girls' varsity soccer team at Gulf Breeze High changed clothes on the bus which has a video surveillance camera. Mr. Feltenberger had questions regarding access to the video which he stated he had asked several days ago but have not been answered.

Len Cross was the next speaker; Mr. Cross reiterated his displeasure with the mask policy.

John Clinton addressed the Board regarding sharing students' personal information with the Health Department. Dr. Barber responded to Mr. Clinton that we only share directory information; we have verified with our board attorney and we are in compliance with FERPA. When a parent opts out of directory information for their student documentation is required but we are still obligated to provide information to the DOH. Mr. Clinton questioned if a student should be quarantined from school when he feels that is the safest place a student can be.

Jo Ann Cave spoke of her feelings regarding quarantine and use of masks. She stated that her child has been quarantined and she didn't

receive notice from the DOH until eight days after exposure. Due to fall break her student only missed four days of school and she was able to oversee her student's classes but she feels that if a parent has more than one student in quarantine they would not be able to keep up. Ms. Cave spoke of a student in quarantine who emailed her and is failing due to being issued a poor laptop and inability to hear the teacher. Dr. Barber suggested that Ms. Cave talk with Brian Noack, Director of High Schools, in order to assist the student with these issues; Ms. Cave declined. Dr. Barber also stated that she has spoken with superintendents in both Escambia and Okaloosa county; both counties are requiring face covering though they are not referring to it as a mandate.

Angie Klug stated that she still has concerns about the quarantine and she would not be speaking again if our schools had been prepared to instruct quarantined students. Mrs. Klug feels that some of these concerns should be placed on the Board agenda for further discussion. She stated that she initially agreed with the mask mandate because she thought it would keep her students in school.

Mrs. Ueberschaer asked if anyone else would like to address the Board. There was no response and the public forum was closed.

Closed Executive Session to Discuss Pending Litigation

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

At 10:39 A.M. the Board adjourned the regular meeting to move to a conference room for a closed executive/shade session.

At approximately 11:39 A.M. the Board reconvened to continue the regular Board meeting.

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 Carol Boston. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.

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

- 1. Human Resource items**
 - a. Administrative Agenda**
 - b. 2020-2021 Annual Inspections**

2. **Curriculum/Instruction Items**
 - a. **Student Reassignment Requests**
 - b. **Suspensions**
 - c. **Level 2 Volunteers for Approval**
 - d. **School Volunteers Level 1**
3. **Financial Items**
 - a. **Budget Amendment #20/02, Bills/Payroll and Monthly Financial Statement for October 2020**
4. **Administrative Operational Items**
 - a. **Field Trip Requests**
 - b. **Religious Venue Requests**

Action Agenda

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

1. Property Inventory Audit 121020

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

2. Surplus 121020

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

3. RFP 20-14 Internal Funds Auditing Services 121020

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

The Board approved the recommendation by the selection committee of Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC as the top company to be awarded for Internal Funds Auditing Services.

4. Staff EZ Quarterly Report 121020

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

following presentation to the Board has been condensed.

Latonya Hilson, Account Director for Santa Rosa County, came forward to present the quarterly report for Staff EZ.

Ms. Hilson stated that this has been a rough year; a year like no other. We're averaging 200 absences per day. Staff EZ is utilizing several recruitment methods to increase the number of active substitutes; we currently have 335. The current fill rate is 69%.

Mrs. Hewey asked how the schools are dealing with the shortage of substitute teachers. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Michael Thorpe responded that the librarian may oversee more than one class in the media center; educational support employees may oversee a class when appropriate; administration may also cover a class; multiple classes may be moved to the cafeteria. We're trying everything possible.

Mrs. Sanborn stated that she appreciates everything Ms. Hilson is doing to provide coverage.

5. DAG Agenda Items

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

The Board approved Jay High School Baseball and Softball Fieldhouse Change Order #10 for a four-day extension of time due to adverse weather during October 2020.

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

The Board approved Wallace Lake K8 School Phase III review along with an opinion of costs.

The Board reviewed current DAG Architects construction projects.

6. Sam Marshall Architects 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 the bid tabulation for Hobbs Middle School energy upgrades with Larry Hall Construction being the low bidder.

The Board discussed current Sam Marshall Architects construction projects.

7. Lease Agreement with Capstone Adaptive Learning and Therapy Center

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

8. Whisper Creek Property

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

The Board approved the request to begin the process of deeming the Whisper Creek Property surplus.

In June 2020 the School Board received a thorough Phase III report concerning the proposed school site located within the Whisper Creek subdivision. Based upon several factors the property is not conducive to be used as a school site but may be used for homes.

9. Direct Purchasing Change Orders

Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Carol Boston. 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
\$79,883.04*
- *Jay High - Baseball/Softball Fieldhouse
A. E. New Jr.
\$27,002.76*

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

1. Action Agenda

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

The Board approved the following administrative appointment.

- *B. J. Price, Director of Human Resources, effective January 20, 2021*

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.

- *Kasie Windfelder, Principal, Navarre High, effective December 11, 2020*

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 administrative transfer.*

- *Lisa Dillashaw, Teacher, from Transportation to Santa Rosa Online, effective January 19, 2021*

2. HSA Contribution Request

*Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.
The Board approved the request for approval of a funds transfer from the self-funded insurance account to the district operating account to assist with costs associated with the Employer HSA Contribution.*

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 Elizabeth Hewey. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.
The Board approved alternative placement A21-0071-013 as recommended.*

*Motion to Approve was moved by Linda Sanborn, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.
The Board approved alternative placement A21-0142-010 as recommended.*

*Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.
The Board approved alternative placement A21-0332-011 as recommended.*

*Motion to Approve was moved by Linda Sanborn, Seconded by Elizabeth Hewey. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.
The Board approved alternative placement A21-0231-012 as recommended.*

*Motion to Approve was moved by Charles Elliott, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.
The Board approved alternative placement A21-0151-009 as recommended.*

*Motion to Approve was moved by Linda Sanborn, Seconded by Charles Elliott. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.
The Board approved alternative placement A21-0151-014 as recommended.*

*Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. Motion Passed by a Vote of 5 - 0.
The Board approved alternative placement A21-0151-015 as*

recommended.

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

The Board approved alternative placement A21-0151-016 as recommended.

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

The Board approved alternative placement A21-0151-017 as recommended.

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

The Board approved alternative placement A21-0151-018 as recommended.

2. Spring Semester Education Plan for FLDOE

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

The Board approved the Spring Semester Education Plan for Florida Department of Education as presented.

3. Coastal Connections Charter Application

The Board approved the Coastal Connections Charter Application as presented.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Michael Thorpe came forward to discuss this item. Mr. Thorpe informed the Board that there has been much discussion with Coastal Connections; they have met the required standards.

Dr. Donna Hutchinson, Vice-President with Pearson, stated that Pearson will provide support to Santa Rosa including reports.

Mr. Thorpe added that we hope to capture some of the current Florida Connections Academy students from Hillsborough County.

Mrs. Hewey asked who will be providing oversight; Santa Rosa will provide oversight. She also asked about enrollment and student/teacher ratios; this varies. Mrs. Hewey asked if SRSD will have any obligation to teachers at Coastal Connections Academy; Dr. Hutchinson responded that SRSD will have no obligation to them.

Mrs. Sanborn asked if Santa Rosa will receive the FTE for Coastal students. Mr. Thorpe responded that the Coastal Connections board will receive the FTE for Coastal students. Dr. Hutchinson stated that over a 5-year period Santa Rosa may receive over \$500,000.

4. Cares Act Bldg K-12 Infrastructure Grant Synopsis

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

The Board approved the CARES Act Building K-12 Infrastructure Grant as presented.

Charlin Knight, Director of Workforce Education, stated that this will allow expansion of the cyber security IT program (currently at Sims Middle) to Woodlawn Beach Middle and Navarre High School and will benefit our local workforce.

5. Santa Rosa Adult Tuition and Fee Letter 2020-21 REVISED

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

6. Central Homecoming Early Release Request

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

7. High School Athletic Schedules - Winter Sports 20-21

Motion to Approve was moved by Elizabeth Hewey, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. 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

David Hicks, Assistant Superintendent for Information Technology Services, came forward to share that we have 700 new I-pads and 1100 teacher laptops from the BOCC funding grant.

Mrs. Sanborn noted that in the public forum a parent stated that the laptop their student was issued was of such poor quality they had difficulty completing their school work on it. Mr. Hicks responded that may have been a laptop that was issued early in the pandemic; at that time we were using what we had. We are in the process of swapping older units out and issuing new ones. If it's a WiFi issue it may be something the parent has to resolve.

N. Items from Board Members

Mrs. Boston stated that she enjoyed the FSBA FADSS joint conference last week; it was not the same as "in person" but still a good conference. She also mentioned that FADSS is offering the required annual ethics training at no charge.

Mrs. Sanborn requested consideration to change the April 22 Board meeting to April 20 so that she may be able to attend School Board Finance 2.0 which is being held April 22-23. Dr. Barber will look into it and possibly bring it to the January Board meeting.

Mrs. Hewey has been busy visiting schools. She shared that Central has a new WiFi app for parent communication and that Jay High has a partnership with Southern Pine Inspection Bureau. SPIB has donated lumber to different schools throughout the district to use in shop programs.

O. Items from Board Attorney

1. Refresher on Florida's Public Records Act and Sunshine Laws

School Board Attorney Terry Harmon provided an update on Sunshine Law in the State of Florida, Chapter 286. He read from the law; it is a violation for Board members to discuss any item that may foreseeably come up for vote before the Board.

Mr. Harmon provided several examples. Individual meetings (with staff) cannot be more than information gathering. The Sunshine Law applies to phone conversations, emails, and text messages. All documents that are created or received by Board members are public record.

P. Items from Superintendent

1. Insurance Committee

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

Dr. Barber recommended Mrs. Boston to serve on the insurance committee since Mrs. Ueberschaer will be stepping down.

Dr. Barber spoke of the learning option change that we have been communicating to parents. At this time we have approximately 350 changes with 83% of those being a switch to brick and mortar. She continues to urge parents to contact their school with those changes.

Dr. Barber requested a delay of the start time of the financial workshop to 1:15 to allow time for a brief executive session.

Q. Adjournment

Motion to Approve was moved by Linda Sanborn, Seconded by Charles Elliott. 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 10th day of December, 2020.

SCHOOL BOARD OF
SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Chairman

ATTEST:

Superintendent and Secretary