

MEETING MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY
August 18, 2022-9:00 AM

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Wei Ueberschaer called the meeting to order and Kay Pape, Coordinator of Social Studies led us in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of School Board Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2022

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

Dr. Barber said the beginning of the school year has gone extremely smooth and of course adjustments have been made with the transportation plan. The district adopted a plan that has been implemented in Escambia and Okaloosa counties for many years which has resulted in some great delivery times in the mornings. As of today, there are 29,070 students receiving an excellent education in Santa Rosa County District Schools.

Dr. Barber asked Travis Fulton, Director of Purchasing & Contract Administration to give an update on bus transportation. Mr. Fulton stated the goal that the district had was getting the students to school on time and not missing any instructional time. The goal was to have 95% on time arrival which prior to Covid and up to last year it was at 75%, day one the arrival time was at 98%. The route changes have also helped with the driver shortage, now have nine bench drivers that can fill in when a driver

is out.

Dr. Barber and the Board wanted to thank Mr. Fulton, Virginia Sutler and all the staff with transportation for all the hard work and long hours to get the new routes in place.

E. Recognitions/Resolutions/Proclamations

1. Northwest Florida Construction Career Days Scholarship Recipients

Charlin Knight, Director of Workforce Education came forward to introduce Kelly Rice with Department of Transportation who presented the 2022 NWFL Construction Career Days \$1,500 Scholarship Recipients:

*Cole Dunsford, Jay High School
Emily Samford, Jay High School
Landon May, Pace High School
Ariadna Lungu, Pace High School*

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 has been condensed.

Joshua Bollinger came forward to address bus transportation concerns and the safety of the students. He states that there is a petition online that is against the bus stop changes and read some of the comments. He said they are still struggling with the change and feel the concerns are not being listened to.

Brandy Locke came forward to address bus transportation concerns. She is concerned with the safety of the students and she feels the elementary students should not be walking that far and concerned if the students are making it home safely.

Alyssa Similuk came forward with bus transportation concerns, she did not receive a postcard, so she was unaware of the bus stop change until open house. Her daughter who is in elementary school now has to walk 8 minutes with no sidewalk and she also has concerns that there is no safe place from the weather.

John Clinton came forward with bus transportation concerns for other parents, the change doesn't affect his children.

Mohamed Jaoui and his wife came forward with bus stop concerns. They are concerned that their child is being dropped off in another neighborhood.

The following are public comments via email:

- Santa Rosa County School Board just approved the following bus route. The district says kindergarten-5th graders could walk up to a half-mile with the new bus routes. Meanwhile, 6th-12th graders could walk up to one mile, and ESE w/IEP students could be door-to-door. With all of the trafficking going on today this is entirely too dangerous. I would not at all be comfortable having my young child walk that far to the bus. Also, what if the weather is bad. We propose another solution as children walking that far is too dangerous and risky. For us working parents or parents without a vehicle, riding the bus is my child's only choice. As you can see via the signatures, the parents are not happy with this change. The children's' best interest was not thought of in this decision. How about better pay and benefits for the bus drivers, so that people will actually want to apply. Put your priorities in the right place. Thanks, Ashley.*
- I am disappointed with the new rule change for the bus routes. Santa Rosa County is woefully underdeveloped to provide safe access for children in the streets. By making kids walk up to 1 mile to catch their bus unnecessarily puts them in a safety hazard. Kids will be walking on the side of busy highways to catch a bus in the dark. It would be another matter if the county had lighting and sidewalks throughout the county, but unfortunately, that is not the case. You are putting our kids at risk of injury or worse. I strongly encourage you to consider going back to the bus routes that were used prior. Peter Cavnar*
- Just an update, the petition now has over 1500 signatures opposing the new routes. This change must be rescinded. We will not stand for allowing our children to be in danger so you can save a couple bucks. Ashley*
- Hello, according to the new bus routes my two boys, ages 7 and 8 are expected to wait at Old Bagdad Hwy (when we live on Lynnwood Circle) along with at least 2 other elementary school kids for the bus. In past years our road has had a major problem with people speeding down it. Old Bagdad Highway is just as bad but with more traffic. I feel it will be unsafe to expect a group of elementary school kids wait in the spot you want them to (Plowman and Old Bagdad) and having to cross such a busy road. Not to mention there are 11 registered sex offenders living within a mile*

radius of us. Please consider moving our kids bus stop to help keep them safe. Corinna McGee

- Regarding bus stop for Woodlawn Beach, bus 701. This route has my child passing houses who have history of shootings, drug use, along with aggressive dogs, homeless, and a blind curve that has caused wrecks or individuals to be injured. This needs to be moved to a safer location. Connor Wood
- Ok, I live at 4862 Van Horn Rd, Milton, I have 3 kids, a daughter going to kindergarten at Bennett Russell Elementary, a son going to 6th grade at Hobbs Middle School and another son entering high school at Milton High. My husband wants to know what in the world were you people thinking making these routes. Our kindergartener is 2 streets over at Mill Pond and Anna Simpson. Why can't she be at home or by our nearest stop? We are going to be with her regardless, duh, of course she is in kindergarten, but that's too much for a young child and she was excited to ride an actual school bus. Ok, now my 2 sons again they are even further out on Carter and West Bushell (we have never heard of west Bushnell until we had to find out) again why can't they be at the nearest stop like last year? What if it rains especially in the afternoon? Both my sons are in band carrying instruments. My husband and I work full time. I'm at Nemours in Pensacola, he owns his business. So, you guys expect our kids with band instruments to walk all the way home in stormy weather alone. We live in the back side of Van Horn we don't know anyone and we are not going to ask a random kid parent if our children know anyone that can take our kids home from bus stop. This is downright crazy, hello danger!! You people need to change this crap where it is at least on our road like Van Horn and Anna Simpson or like last year the back of Van Horn and Shell. Eleina Foster
- I am very concerned about the safety of our children due to the elimination of so many stops in the morning and afternoons. The children while in school are in a building with exterior doors locked as well as interior doors locked, they need to use the buddy system to go to the bathroom while in this secure building while all employees have had a background check completed and a resource officer on site. But when you send them out of the school and drop them off they are on their own for the 10 + min walk home past registered criminals, sex offenders, yet to be caught offenders, loose dogs, and speeding vehicles. Glad you are so concerned with my child while they are attending school but as soon as they get off the bus your concern stops. Fix the routes, I know you wouldn't walk .5-1 mile in the rain to go to work, why make the students do more than you are willing to do. Steve Bruce
- This is just one child! This is absurd! You are the Santa Rosa County School Board and responsible for this! Saving money is all you care about! We aren't going to stop until you fix this! Ashley

- *My name is Ashleigh Cowles and I'm writing because my son's bus stop for his second home was removed completely. His father and I have 50/50 custody and while his stop at my house was unaffected by the changes his stop at his grandmother's where he goes literally every other week, has been removed. It is honestly asinine to expect 5-11 year olds to walk alone .75 mile. People FLY down Byrom regardless of the speed limit and during after school it's a very busy road. There is limited visibility on Byrom and Cedar which he would have to walk down to eventually get to Hickory Street. This is a 20-minute walk in extreme heat on a fairly well used road and while I love my child his sense of direction is not exactly the best. So, a few questions! Are you going to be hiring crossing guards from Rhodes all the way down to Byrom/Park St and down to Byrom/Magnolia since you expect small children to be walking this far? If my child, who has a heart condition collapses from heat exhaustion will the district be paying his medical bills? It is the hottest part of the day when they're released from school. If my son is snatched off the side of the road because he now has a 20-minute walk home who does my attorney contact to pay restitution and therapy bills and God forbid something awful happens, funeral costs? What about if he gets hit by a car? You may find this extreme, but we all are aware there have been multiple accidents involving children walking home from school being hit, even in Santa Rosa County. If I now have to pick him up from school to take him to his grandmothers, will I be receiving gas money and compensation for my time considering this has never been an issue in the nearly six years we've been at Rhodes? If your suggestion is to buy him a bike or scooter will the district be paying for that plus a bike lock? Gentle reminder that Rhodes is a Title I school and serves a large population of indigent students. May I also point out that in Florida Statutes Section 236.083 section (e) that elementary students who are subject to hazardous walking conditions as provided in 234.021 should be assigned a bus route. Here is a refresher on this. "It shall be considered a hazardous walking condition with respect to any road across which students walk in order to walk to and from school: If the traffic volume on such road exceeds the rate of 360 vehicles per hour, per direction (including all lanes), during the time students walk to and from school and if the crossing site is uncontrolled. For purposes of this subsection, an "uncontrolled crossing site" is defined as an intersection or other designated crossing site where no crossing guard, traffic enforcement officer, or stop sign or other traffic control signal is present during the times students walk to and from school." The students who have to walk down past the community center, past the BMX park and down to Cedar St fit this. There is no crossing guard, no sidewalk in this neighborhood, limited sight due to a hill and it is a busy road during school pickup. I look forward to a timely*

response and resolution.

- *My son's bus stop is showing at Salamanca Street and Avenida de Sol, we are at 8374 Verano Street. That is 1.2 miles! He is six years old and I do not drive! The other site when I type in our address on the transportation page says that we live 1.9 miles away from the school and so we do not get to ride the bus!! Again, I do not drive between work and rainy days I will just have to withdraw my first grader from Santa Rosa County School District altogether and home school him because there is absolutely no way possible he can walk that far to go to school and his father and I both work, my middle school and high school kids are the ones that have to get him on the bus most days and they cannot walk him 1.2 or 1.9 miles because they have to get ready and make it to school themselves, I really hope y'all can look into this for me. Mason Pratt*
- *My name is Krystal Sizemore, I have 2 daughters that attend Holley Navarre Primary. One daughter is entering 2nd grade, and my other daughter is entering Kindergarten. My address is 9855 Creet Circle. I have some concerns regarding the bus stop at Orion Lake Dr and Misty Meadows, instead. I had a neighbor contact Karen and Travis and nothing happened. The bus stop is regarding Kerra Lane, Orion Lake Drive, and Orion Parker Blvd. The bus stop is unreasonable. It is at the beginning of our neighborhood with a dangerous curve and people speed all the time, it's not safe for our children. People go through Orion Lake to surpass 98, especially when the highway is busy or backed up from an accident, I had a bus last school year stuck on Orion Lake Drive for over 30 minutes because of the traffic. There is nowhere for us parents to park when it rains. The road barely fits 2 cars at a time, let alone when people park on the side of the road. It will be blocking regular traffic and it will make it harder for the bus to pass. At least with Creet Circle and Orion Lake Drive parents could easily park on Creet Circle and will not be in the way for the school bus or for traffic. The bus stop is at a stop sign at the beginning of our neighborhood where kids could easily get kidnapped and be gone instantly because of how close 98 is. The bus stop is close to a forest where bears could be and I know for fact where foxes are, how is a 5 or 6 year old supposed to get away from dangerous animal? I was told the children will stand on the sidewalk behind the stop at Kerra Lane and Orion Lake Drive. So, the children will have to walk through grass to get on the bus because the sidewalk doesn't reach the road by the stop sign. So, our kids will have wet shoes and socks when it rains when they walk in the grass. Yes, we have sidewalks, but they can't be used all the time. When it rains people's driveways flood, and you can't walk in it. Some have their sprinkler system on at 6 am so the children would have to walk on the road so they wouldn't get wet. People park their cars and block the sidewalks so we would have to walk on the road. It's dark when these kids go to school so why risk their life by*

walking on the road in the dark? My neighbors on Creet Circle usually don't have cars parked on the sidewalks and if my neighbors have their sprinkler system on my kids could walk on the road because we live on a cul de sac and I don't have to worry about regular traffic flow. I don't want any children hurt from having possibly walk on the road. I have a kindergartner; I will have to be there for drop off and pick up. I have a baby that I would have to wake up at 6 am to take her sisters to the bus stop. I would have to wake her up from her nap to get her sisters from the bus stop. We sometimes only have 1 car and my boyfriend goes to work before they go to school. It's not safe for me to walk with 3 girls alone in the mornings. The bus is literally driving right past Creet Circle, why couldn't we add 1 more bus stop here? There would be at least 5 kids benefiting from it, maybe even more. Kids from Orion Lake Circle could have the option to walk to Creet Circle and wouldn't have to walk past Mary Ann Drive to get to Misty Meadows. I would rather have my kids get on the bus at 6 like before and have them walk at the end of our street than getting on the bus at 6:15 and having to walk at the end of our neighborhood. I would follow the bus to my house so why couldn't they just get picked up at Creet Circle and Orion Lake. Why would adding one more bus stop hurt? Also, to mention, my kindergartner is in Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. She will be getting tested in a few weeks for autism, she was in the ESE Program for 2 years. The only reason why she doesn't have an IEP anymore is because she tested out of it and I thought it would be beneficial for her. Also, she tested out of it and I agreed to it before she entered Occupational Therapy, she would not be able to walk that far to the bus stop and she has some sensory issues. I wouldn't be able to physically walk that far either, I was in a motorcycle accident a few years ago. I have metal in my legs and it's hard for me to walk far distances. My mother-in-law, who is 70 years old will possibly have to get them off the school bus, she physically can't walk that far. At least at Creet Circle she could walk there and get the girls off the bus. I have been talking to Gina and she told me she was working on changing 25 stops so why can't this stop be changed as well? Why is my kid's life's being at risk? Why risk my life and my baby's life for having to walk to the beginning of our neighborhood in the dark, just to get on the school bus. I don't understand why one bus stop couldn't be added or even changed. When others are being changed, it's not acceptable for kids to walk that far and on a busy curve road. No one is giving me an answer of why they can't add one more stop. How many kids are benefiting from the bus stop at Kerra Lane? Kids on Orion Circle could walk to Creet Circle and you can have more kids at Creet Circle to get on the bus. I am just asking to look and realize how dangerous this bus stop is and consider changing it or even adding one more stop. I would hate for any child to get hurt or kidnapped

because of these new bus stop regulations. I know I am not the only upset parent, I need to know how many other parents must complain to get this bus stop changed for Orion Lake. I know I am not the only one that has complained in this neighborhood. I get that all parents need to respect the Florida Bus Rule, but no one is respecting us working parents and stay at home parents when we know for fact a bus stop is unsafe for our children.

- I am requesting a sidewalk to be built in front of Berryhill Elementary for the safety of the children who walk to school from home. Currently there is no safe way for a child to walk to school due to a lack of sidewalks. Also, of course I request crosswalks be painted in the roads connecting this new sidewalk with the existing neighborhood sidewalks. I also request that marked parking spaces (at Avalon Middle and Bennett Russell Elementary) be increased and USED such that employees do not park in the street, which further exacerbates the safety issue of children walking to and from school. Driving safely in the neighborhood is difficult when visibility is impeded by the cars parked in front of the school and not in provided parking lots. Combined with the lack of sidewalks and crosswalks, this is a dangerous situation for our children and must be addressed. Nick Marcantonio*
- To whom it may concern, My 11 year old just started her first year of middle school at Woodlawn Beach. She was so excited to be going to her new school. When she got off the bus I was sad to hear that she spent her first lunch feeling alone because everyone was on their phones. I understand it's a different time and every parent has their ways, however allowing these young minds to sit on their phone at such a crucial socializing time of the day is diabolical. This next generation is already struggling having face to face interaction since everything is so technology based. Can we please do something about this? Maybe go back to the traditional rules when it comes to cell phones? Unless a teacher says you can use them they stay silent until school hours are over. Thank you, Ashley Carruthers*
- Good morning, I will be attending your meeting in public on August 18th. I would like to discuss the current bus routes and bus stop locations. Josh Calton*
- We shouldn't be putting children at risk, picking up and dropping off on highways, having them cross busy streets, having them stand far from their homes to catch a ride, placing them near child predator location's, asking them to be subject to the weather and elements while waiting on said bus to arrive, saying it is lawful or safe for a minor to walk up to 2 miles, putting children out on display for kidnapping to occur, assuming that parents who work have control over when they can come and go from their place of employment, raising stress levels to a max concerning our children's safety, not to mention some people do not have vehicles or friends to help get*

their children off the bus. This whole idea is flawed and you want us all to succumb. Put the children first. Pay the bus drivers more, they are all you got and the others have been allowed to walk away...you did nothing to change their minds or better the job for them. That's the problem that needs fixing. Amanda Waldorf

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. 1,2,3, and 4 as submitted.

- 1. Human Resource items**
 - a. Administrative Agenda**
 - b. Leave and Temporary Duty**
 - c. 2022-2023 Annual Inspections**
- 2. Curriculum/Instruction Items**
 - a. Student Reassignments**
 - b. Level 1 Volunteers**
 - c. Level 2 Volunteers**
- 3. Financial Items**
 - a. Budget Amendment #21/10, Bills/Payroll and Monthly Financial Statement for June 2022**
 - b. General Fund Function Analysis 4th Qtr Ending 06/30/2022**
- 4. Administrative Operational Items**
 - a. Field Trip Requests**
 - b. Property Control Inventory 081822**

- c. **Property Inventory Audit 081822**
- d. **Property Control Annual Deletions 081822**
- e. **Property Control Missing-Found Assets 081822**
- f. **Non-Competitive Contracts 081822**

Action Agenda

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

1. Surplus 081822

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

2. Custodial Quarterly Report -Informational Only 081822

This item submitted for review only.

3. DAG Architects Agenda

The Board reviewed current DAG Architects projects.

4. McKim & Creed Agenda Items

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

The Board approved 2022 Paving Rehabilitation Phase III

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

The Board approved Gulf Breeze High School Tennis Courts

5. Sam Marshall Architects Agenda

The Board reviewed current Sam Marshall projects.

6. Anton Lee Engineering 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 Energy Upgrades Phase I for Locklin Technical College Building 13

7. Caldwell Associates Agenda

The Board reviewed the status of Caldwell Associates projects.

8. Grant Tentative Approval of Agreement to Sell 24.22 Acre Parcel - Vacant real property off Whisper Creek Blvd in Milton (aka Whisper Creek Property)

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

The Board approved publication of the notice of the public meeting.

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

The Board approved a public meeting to be held on September 8, 2022 to grant final approval of the Agreement and Sale.

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

The Board approved the tentative Agreement for Sale and Purchase to sell vacant real property off Whisper Creek Blvd in Milton.

9. Direct Purchasing Change Orders

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

J. Human Resource Recommendation- Liz West, 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.

K. Curricular and Instructions Recommendation – Michael Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

1. Early Termination of Alternative Placement

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

2. 2022-2024 Health Services Plan

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

3. Updated CSTAG Procedures Manual 2022-2023

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

4. Updated Suicide Prevention Protocol 2022-2023

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

5. Athletic Schedules Fall 2022-2023

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

6. Targeted Math & STEM Grant

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

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

1. Internal Funds Bank Change for GBHS, GBE, OBE & WBMS

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

2. Internal Funds Bank Change for PHS, SS Dixon Pri & SS Dixon Int.

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

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

None

N. Items from Board Members

Mrs. Boston wanted to welcome David Collins as part of our school district family. She has been visiting schools and it is a great start to the school year.

Mr. Elliot is looking forward to another exciting year and working with everyone.

Mrs. Hewey asked Joey Harrell to go over how the naming of the new school is conducted.

Mrs. Sanborn serves on the School Board Advocacy Committee and asked the board members to submit any ideas for the platform, it is due September 16th.

O. Items from Board Attorney

Mr. Harmon wanted the Board members to know that the Florida Department of Education has been very active in new complicating and amended rules which will impact how the School Board operates on a day to day basis. There may be some policy changes in the future.

P. Items from Superintendent

Dr. Barber wanted to express again the smooth start of the school year. We are happy to have students, teachers and staff back. The morale in the classrooms and schools is extremely high and continue to celebrate the success of being one of 16 "A" school districts. She wanted to thank the transportation department for working through the inquiries from parents and providing the safest route possible.

1. Executive Session

Dr. Barber requested that the Board move to Executive Session to discuss negotiations with the three bargaining units to be able to settle early.

Q. Adjournment

*Motion to Approve was moved by Carol Boston, Seconded by Linda Sanborn. 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 18th day of August, 2022.

SCHOOL BOARD OF
SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Chairman

ATTEST:

Superintendent and Secretary