

The mission of the Washington County School District is to empower all students to become well educated, productive citizens by providing appropriate, high quality, and rigorous educational programs in a safe learning environment.

**WORKSHOP**  
of the  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
October 13, 2008 – 4:30 p.m.  
Board Room - Administration Building  
Chipley, Florida

**MINUTES**

The Washington County School Board met in a workshop session at the designated time and place. Mr. Vann Brock, Mr. Wayne Saunders, Mr. John Hawkins, Mr. Terry Ellis, Ms. Susan Roberts, Superintendent Stevenson and Mr. Gerald Holley, School Board Attorney were present.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Brock opened the workshop. The amended agenda was unanimously approved on a motion made by Wayne Saunders and seconded by Terry Ellis.

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| <b>ADD</b> | <b>ITEM II.B. Transportation Policies</b> |
| <b>ADD</b> | <b>ITEM II.C. Policies</b>                |
| <b>ADD</b> | <b>ITEM II.D. Math Coach</b>              |

**II. ITEMS TO DISCUSS:**

**A. Capital Outlay Projects – Mr. Joe Taylor, Director of Facilities, addressed the Board. The Department of Education has scheduled the week of March 16, 2009 for the FISH Validation and the week of July 27, 2009 for the District Survey Update.**

**Items discussed included:**

- Grade selection that is housed at KMS. Currently the survey and facility list reflects grades of PK-4. If 5<sup>th</sup> grade returned, the master plan and square footage would need to be updated; this would change the square footage as well as the associated ancillary spaces. DOE may approve a 1,000 student elementary, and the local community might have questions on the existing transportation issues with all the added traffic that would be required to go back to KMS.

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade returned to VES. Financial questions of funding a 320 student middle school would be an issue. Additional classroom space will have to be provided as VMS is currently over capacity.

- Current designation of Chipley High School/Roulhac Middle School as a combined 5-12 school, as reflected in the current Survey will play a part in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade moving back to KMS. If the designation to grade 6-12 is changed by the Board and DOE does not approve splitting the schools out, the 10 classroom wing that houses the 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be counted in the CHS capacity and create problems in funding for CHS expansion. Should CHS/RMS be split into two facilities and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade be moved to KMS the excess capacity created with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade wing could create issues in concurrency as the law allows one Concurrency Service Area (CSA) to use an adjacent CSA excess capacity numbers.

**B. Transportation Policies – Mr. Bill Lee, Transportation Director, discussed the following possible changes:**

- **2009-2010 School Year.**

- Change the current board policy (8.32-1-G) for the minimum distances between stops from 660 feet to 1000. Recommendation is to continue the current policy of 660 feet between stops for Pre-K and Kindergarten students. The current state rule on distances between stops and/or distances from home to bus stops is 1-1/2 (1.5) miles for all ages of students.

- Create community stops for students, in conjunction with the above item, in areas of the county where feasible, such as Chipley, Sunny Hills, Vernon, Wausau with stops being established up to 1000 feet apart with consideration given to factors such as major roads, intersections, traffic patterns, etc. in the establishment of these community stops. We would continue the current practice of pick-up and delivery to homes or nearest point of access on inclement weather days.

- Change current Board Policy ((8.32-2(a-e)) on consideration for spur routes from 2/10<sup>th</sup> (.2) of a mile to ½ mile (.5) for middle and high school students (grades 5-12), learning the current policy in place for Pre-K-4<sup>th</sup> grade students. The current state rule on distances from home to bus stops is 1-1/2 (1.5) miles for all ages of students.

- Change the pricing structure for extra-curricular activities from the current rate of \$1.10 per mile to \$1.50 per mile.

- **2008-2009 School Year**

- Assign drivers to routes that are located as close as possible to the route starting and ending point each day with consideration given to driver seniority where possible.

- Change the current board policy (8.32-1-G) for the minimum distances between stops from 660 feet to 1000. The recommendation is to continue the current policy of 660 feet between stops for Pre-K and Kindergarten students.

- Create community stops for students, in conjunction with the above item, in areas of the county where feasible, such as Chipley, Sunny Hills, Vernon, and Wausau.

- Change the current board policy ((8.32-2(a-e)) on consideration for spur routes from 2/10ths (.2) of a mile to ½ mile (.5) for middle and high school students (grades 5-12), leaving the current policy in place for Pre K-4<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Change the pricing structure for extra-curricular activities from the current rate of \$1.10 per mile to \$1.50 per mile. As of the latest data available from the Department of Education Transportation Office, cost per mile for Washington County was \$3.45 per mile.

**C. Policies – Jayne Peel, Deputy Superintendent, informed the board of the new procedures.** She explained that requesting permission to advertise will be requested during the regular meeting which will be following the workshop. After which the policies will be advertised then a public hearing will be held after 28 days (the next board meeting) where the board will vote on the policies. Because there were several other policies that had come up after the board members received the list of policies we are asking permission to add these policies onto the list provided for the regular meeting. The policies are as follows:

- Transportation policies that Bill Lee previously discussed.
- Code of Student Conduct (Out-of-School Suspension) relating to attendance. Clarification is needed—some misinterpretation is being made by some of the schools in relationship to excused and unexcused absence.
- Student Dress Code: the wearing of objects/jewelry and visible body piercing will be limited to ears only. There is interest in deleting that from the dress code policy.

Discussion was conducted between the Board Members.

A consensus of the Board was given to leave the dress code as it is written; do not advertise.

- School Advisory Council: It currently reads “a majority of members must be persons who are not employed at the school.” It will be changed to read: “a majority of members must be persons who are not employed by the district.”

**D. Math Coach: Ms. Gail Riley provided the following information.** KMS is beginning its’ year of restructuring with DOE who visited KMS today. It was a good visit; however, one of the requirements this year is that we hire a math coach. It needs to be accomplished soon. A math coach at Kate Smith would do exactly what a reading coach does; (i.e., help with analyzing data, help in modeling in the classroom, professional development for the weak areas of math, responsible for curriculum pacing guides).

The job description has been created; however, it was not ready for the board meeting this evening due to advertisement restrictions. This is something that is required for this year. If KMS were to make AYP this year they would still have to keep the math coach for one more year; a school must make AYP for two (2) years in a row.

**Mr. Stevenson:** Because of the short timeframe we are dealing with, at the November Board meeting he would like the Board to approve the job description and at the same time receive permission to advertise for the math coach position.

The position will be paid from Title I funds.

**III. ADJOURN:** With no further business to discuss the workshop was adjourned.

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**Vann Brock, Chairman**

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**Wayne Saunders, Vice-Chairman**

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**John Hawkins**

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**Terry Ellis**

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**Susan G. Roberts**

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**Superintendent/Secretary**