

Minutes of
Okeechobee County School Board Workshop
October 22, 2013

The Okeechobee County School Board met in workshop session on the above date with the following members present: Chairman David Williams, Vice Chairman India Riedel, Joe Arnold, Gay Carlton, and Malissa Morgan. Also present were Ken Kenworthy, Superintendent of Schools, and Tom Conely, School Board Attorney.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order. Tom Conely, School Board Attorney, opened the meeting with prayer, and Chairman Williams led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

Superintendent Kenworthy reviewed an expanded agenda which was provided for the Board. He asked if there were any items that the Board would like to add or anything in particular that they would like to discuss during the workshop. Member Joe Arnold asked if the goals that were not met last year are included on this year's Strategic Plan with possibly higher standards that would set up the District for failure on goals this year. Superintendent Kenworthy responded that some goals were set higher and some were not, but that all would be reviewed during the workshop to determine if they are appropriate. He explained that District Administrators and Principals met over the course of several months and examined large amounts of data to develop this year's Strategic Plan. The overall objective in developing the plan was to increase student achievement through goals that are attainable.

Superintendent Kenworthy reviewed the Vision, Mission, and Core Values, and asked the Board to state the qualities or characteristics that they want for the District. The responses from the Board included:

- Students should see gains.
- Is more than a year's gain in a year's time expected?
- It is important that students read on grade level by grade 3. Long term goals will be much more easily met if students read on grade level, most importantly by grade 3.
- Would like to see the dropout rate reduced and students remain in school until they are career or college ready.
- Would like to see 100% graduation rate.
- It is important for teachers to be highly qualified. The District needs to provide resources for teachers to stay highly qualified.
- Students should be well-rounded, good citizens when they graduate.
- Parent and community involvement is very important as is teacher morale.

Superintendent Kenworthy asked the Board if the District's Vision, Mission, and Core Values accurately reflect their goals for the District.

Vision

Achieving Excellence!

Mission Statement

The School Board of Okeechobee County will prepare all students to be college and career ready and to possess the attitudes and values necessary to function as productive members of our society.

Core Values

*Excellence ♦ Educational Quality ♦ Equity
♦ Environment that is Safe and Secure ♦
♦ Empowerment of all Shareholders and Partners ♦*

After discussion, the consensus of the Board was to move forward with the Vision, Mission Statement, and Core Values.

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The Board worked through a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) activity. Superintendent Kenworthy asked the Board and administrators (who were present in the audience) to list what they view as the District's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Responses were:

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>	<u>Opportunities</u>	<u>Threats</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees • Little Debt • Community Interaction • Small Community • Parents who want to be involved • Good communications • OHS Ag Program • Scholarship Program and Community Support of Seniors • Community centered around children • Strong leadership • Nice facilities • Respectful students • Positive interaction between Board and District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHS classes should start later • Professional Development needs to be increased • Increase parental involvement • Need improved technology • Less resources than larger districts – Title I dollars used more effectively in larger districts • Students come unprepared to start school • Need more winning football and sports teams • Low student achievement • Students spread out across a large geographic area • Hiring and retaining good employees • Students who fall behind have a difficult time catching up (Ex. 18 y.o. in 9th grade) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to increase funding – opportunity is connected to funding • Must increase industry and tax base • When new curriculum is purchased, tie it to increased professional development • Strategic planning – opportunity to place focus • Do not outsource – excellent resources are available locally • Possible workshops for students/parents at remote communities (Ex. Ft. Drum, Basinger) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ever-changing rules from DOE and State agencies • Restraints on spending of funds • Legislative mandates and inability of education to keep up with constant legislative changes • Recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers • Method used for school grading - low school grades jeopardize the schools' relationship with the state and with people who drive the local economy • Declining enrollment • How much can good teachers continue to take on before they are burned out • Graduates cannot find jobs locally • FCAT should be released and transparent • One test is not a true measure of a child's ability

The Board reviewed the proposed goals of the 2013-14 Strategic Plan.

- Goal 1: To Prepare Students to be College and Career Ready
- Goal 2: To Maximize Efficient and Effective Use of Available Resources
- Goal 3: To Empower Stakeholders Through Opportunities for Meaningful Participation
- Goal 4: To Provide a Safe and Secure Education for ALL

Superintendent Kenworthy presented data from last year's Strategic Plan results which were used to develop a plan for 2013-14. The Board discussed objectives, action steps, and benchmarks associated with each goal and the data elements used to determine the District's success in reaching those goals.

Presentations were made by the following staff members on programs being used in the District:

- Tuuli Robinson, Coordinator of Instructional Technology – Performance Matters, Reflex Math, and Gizmos
- Sean Downing, Principal, Osceola Middle School – AVID and Professional Learning Communities
- Tracy Downing, Director of Student Services – Data Chat
- Renée Geeting, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services – Differentiated Accountability/ Curriculum Mapping.
- Pat McCoy, Principal, North Elementary School – Cambridge Effective Lesson Observation
- Joni Ard, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services – SREF/Workers' Compensation/ Security Checklist/SESIR

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The following displays were available for Board members to examine during a break:

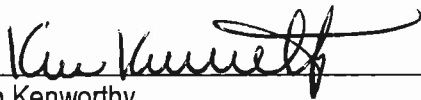
- Table 1: Reading Street – New K-2 Reading Curriculum
- Table 2: College and Career Ready Initiatives
- Table 3: Shared Services

The Board thanked the Superintendent for preparing and presenting the Strategic Planning Workshop. On a motion by Gay Carlton, seconded by Joe Arnold, the Board adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD



David H. Williams, Chairman



Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools