

I. Call to Order

Call to Order: Chairman Riedel

Present: District 1 – Joe Arnold
District 2 – Malissa Morgan
District 3 – Melisa Jahner, Vice Chairman
District 4 – Amanda Riedel, Chairman
District 5 – Jill Holcomb

Ken Kenworthy, Superintendent of Schools
Tom Conely, School Board Attorney

Invocation: Rev. Jim Dawson, Youth/Assistant to the Pastor, First United Methodist Church
Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Riedel

Superintendent Kenworthy requested that Proclamations be moved ahead of Recognitions. The Chairman approved the request.

II. Resolutions/Proclamations

A. PROCLAMATION – RODEO DAY

Superintendent's Recommendation: That the Board adopt a Proclamation recognizing Friday, March 13, 2020, as Rodeo Day for the School District of Okeechobee County, Florida.



PROCLAMATION

RODEO DAY

School District of Okeechobee County, Florida

Whereas, rodeo informally dates back to 1869 and became a formal sport in 1920 with the creation of the Rodeo Association of America; and

Whereas, rodeo is ranked seventh in overall attendance for major sporting events, and more than 31 million people identify themselves as fans of Pro Rodeo in America; and

Whereas, local rodeo committees organize PRCA sanctioned rodeos held across the continent run by dedicated groups of volunteers; and

Whereas, the Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Association has been producing rodeos in the County for more than seventy (70) years. Rodeo in Okeechobee has become a tradition, often thought of in conjunction with the Speckled Perch Festival and Labor Day celebrations; and

Whereas, Okeechobee rodeos are steeped in the culture and history of Okeechobee and is part of our American agricultural heritage.

Now therefore, the School Board of Okeechobee County, Florida, in accordance with preserving the historical and cultural values of Okeechobee's heritage, does hereby proclaim March 13, 2020, as

RODEO DAY

for the Okeechobee County School System and encourages the inclusion of rodeo in classroom discussion on March 13, 2020.

Passed and adopted this 11th day of February, 2020.

Signature on File

Amanda Riedel
Chairman

ATTEST: Signature on File

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools



Motion:	Malissa Morgan
Second:	Joe Arnold
Vote:	5-0 In Favor

Superintendent Kenworthy read the Proclamation into record. Present to accept the Proclamation Jim Colgan, Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Association President. Mr. Colgan thanked the Board for recognizing rodeo.

B. PROCLAMATION – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Superintendent's Recommendation: That the Board adopt a Proclamation designating February 1-29, 2020, as *Black History Month* for the School District of Okeechobee County.

PROCLAMATION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, the Okeechobee County School Board recognizes that important African-Americans and events have shaped American culture; and

WHEREAS, the Florida theme for the 2020 Black History Month is "*Celebrating Untold Stories and Contributions of African Americans in Florida*" and

WHEREAS, Black History Month recognizes and pays tribute to African-American leaders who play prominent roles in public service throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS, African-American heroes and innovators have had an incredible impact on Florida, the United States, and our world; and

WHEREAS, we can teach our children that America's story has been written by men and women of every race, creed, and ethnic background; and we can ensure that our laws, our actions, and our words honor the rights and dignity of every human being.

NOW THEREFORE, the School Board of Okeechobee County, Florida, does hereby proclaim the month of February, 2020, as

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Passed and adopted this 11th day of February, 2020.

Signature on File

Amanda Riedel
Chairman

ATTEST: Signature on File

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools



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Motion:	Joe Arnold
Second:	Melisa Jahner
Vote:	5-0 In Favor

Superintendent Kenworthy read the Proclamation into record. Linda Baker along with parents, staff, and students from the Douglas Brown Achievement Tutorial Program were present to accept the Proclamation. Ms. Baker stated that the tutorial is a labor of love to help students in the community. She thanked parents for their involvement and the District and Board for their support.

Added to the Agenda:

C. PROCLAMATION – FLORIDA HEALTHY TEEN RELATIONSHIP MONTH

Superintendent’s Recommendation: That the Board adopt a Proclamation designating February 2020, as *Florida Healthy Teen Relationship Month* for the School District of Okeechobee County.



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA HEALTHY TEEN RELATIONSHIP MONTH

WHEREAS, public safety is paramount; and

WHEREAS, Florida's youth and families deserve to reach their full potential while feeling safe and healthy in their communities; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2019 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report, 8.9 percent of students experienced physical dating violence and 11.1 percent of students reported being threatened, controlled or made to feel unsafe by someone they were dating; and

WHEREAS, many teens do not report dating violence because they worry they will be doubted and that the abuse may get worse; as a result, victims are more likely to experience the symptoms of anxiety and depression and engage in unhealthy behaviors, such as drinking and smoking; and

WHEREAS, section 1003.42 (2) (n) Florida Statutes requires instruction on comprehensive health education that addresses the concepts of community health, including resources on how to prevent dating violence; and

WHEREAS, school districts are required to adopt and implement a policy prohibiting dating violence and abuse according to section 1006.148, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, as the Chair of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet, and through her "Hope for Healing Florida" program, First Lady Casey DeSantis is working alongside state agencies to improve the health, safety, economic stability, and quality of life for our children and teens; and

WHEREAS, partnerships between state agencies, non-profit and private organizations, law enforcement, health care, and faith-based communities and educational institutions can help to provide safety and resources to teens; and

WHEREAS, Florida Healthy Teen Relationship Month is an opportunity to increase awareness, and support of healthy dating relationships while encouraging Floridians to work together to prevent teen dating violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing February 2020, as *Florida Healthy Teen Relationship Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 5th day of February, in the year two thousand twenty.

Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399 • (850) 717-9249 www.FLGov.com

Motion:	Joe Arnold
Second:	Melisa Jahner
Vote:	5-0 In Favor

Superintendent Kenworthy read the Proclamation into record. Jonathan Bean, Martha’s House, was present to accept the Proclamation. Mr. Bean thanked the District for partnering with Martha’s House and educating children about healthy relationships.

III. Opening Items

Staff Recognition

- ★ Retirements
 - Margaret Lipfert, Bus Driver and Food Service Worker

Student Recognition

- ★ Shooting for the Stars – Employee Recognition Banquet

Community Recognition

- ★ Shooting for the Stars – Employee Recognition Banquet

Staff Recognition

- ★ Shooting for the Stars – Employee Recognition Banquet

Board Recognition

- ★ Master Board Certification

Scheduled Recess

IV. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of Meeting on January 21, 2020

Motion:	Joe Arnold
Second:	Melisa Jahner
Vote:	5-0 In Favor

V. Items for Action

Chairman Riedel asked if there were any changes, additions, or deletions to the Items for Action. There were no requests.

Motion to Approve the Items for Action:	Joe Arnold
Second:	Malissa Morgan
Vote:	5-0 In Favor

A. INTERNAL FUNDS FINANCIAL STATEMENT/AUDIT REPORT

Superintendent’s Recommendation: That the Internal Funds Financial Statement/Audit Report for all schools for the period ending June 30, 2019, be accepted and filed as part of public record.

Motion:	Joe Arnold
Second:	Melisa Jahner
Discussion/Additional Information	Superintendent Kenworthy discussed comments on page 9, including a material weakness with the timeliness of deposits at NES. Mr. Kenworthy stated that the material weakness will go on the Auditor’s Report but feels confident that with the plan in place, the results will not be the same next year.
Vote:	5-0 In Favor

B. EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL RECOGNITION FUNDS FOR NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Superintendent’s Recommendation: That the Board approve a one-time stipend to current and former staff members of North Elementary School as listed below, totaling \$62,531. Funding was awarded through the School Recognition Program.

\$51,331.25	50 Instructional Staff, Long-term Substitutes and Administration – (45) full share @ \$1,075; (2) ¾ share @ \$806.25; (2) ½ share @ \$537.50; (1) ¼ share @ \$268.75
\$5,710	22 Staff that includes Paraprofessionals, Migrant Advocate, Office Staff, Educational Interpreter, Custodians and Food Service - (16) full share @ \$310; (6) @ \$125
511.36	17 Bus Drivers/Bus Aides @ \$30.08
\$4,978.39	Taxes

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\$62,531.00	Total
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**Reminder: Social Security and taxes must be taken out of bonuses.*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The School Recognition Program recognizes schools that have received an "A" or improved at least one letter grade. The program allows for nonrecurring bonuses for faculty and staff, nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment and materials, or temporary personnel to assist in maintaining and improving student performance. School staff and the School Advisory Council are required to make the decision together regarding expenditure of the funds. The total award of \$62,531 will be expended as follows:

\$57,552.61	Staff Bonuses
\$4,978.39	Taxes
\$62,531.00	Total

Motion:	Malissa Morgan
Second:	Melisa Jahner
Discussion/Additional Information	Superintendent Kenworthy stated that he is very proud of the performance at NES. NES is now a "B" school.
Vote:	5-0 In Favor

C. **BENCOR – 403(B) RESTATEMENT FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

Superintendent's Recommendation: That the Board approve a Restatement Package for the district's 403(b) Special Pay Plan.

Motion:	Joe Arnold
Second:	Jill Holcomb
Discussion/Additional Information	Superintendent Kenworthy stated that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued a favorable advisory letter to Bencor. Due to this approval, the District's plan may continue in its current format if adopted by March 31, 2020.
Vote:	5-0 In Favor

VI. Consent Agenda

Chairman Riedel asked if there were any changes, additions, or deletions to the *Consent Agenda*. There were no requests.

Motion To Approve the Consent Agenda:	Joe Arnold
Second:	Malissa Morgan
Vote:	5-0 In Favor

A. **EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School or Center</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Avalos, Tiffany	Paraprofessional, ESE-Ages 6-21	Seminole Elementary School	01/13/2020
Catron, Savannah	Teacher, Fifth Grade	North Elementary School	01/28/2020
Cyr, Nichole	Paraprofessional, Title I	Seminole Elementary School	01/13/2020
Ford, Sara	Paraprofessional, General-TAPP	Okeechobee High School	01/27/2020
Garcia, Ilina	Office Aide	Okeechobee High School	01/27/2020
Garcia, Leslie	Teacher VE (Inclusion)	Yearling Middle School	01/29/2020
Greseth, Brian OOF-Guidance Counselor	Guidance Counselor	South Elementary School	01/30/2020
Hubbard, Jennifer	Food Service, 6 HRS	Okeechobee Achievement Academy	01/21/2020
Levins, Adilene	Paraprofessional, ESOL/ELL	Seminole Elementary School	01/16/2020
Zulberti, Debra	Bus Driver, 6 HR	Transportation	01/14/2020

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B. EMPLOYMENT OF TEMPORARY PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Throop, Lauren	Volleyball Head Coach – Osceola Middle School	08/12/2019

C. RESIGNATION, TERMINATION, AND SUSPENSION OF EMPLOYMENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School or Center</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Burford, Dawn	Paraprofessional, ESE-Ages 6-21	Okeechobee Achievement Academy	01/08/2020
Garcia, Martin Retirement	Custodian I	Okeechobee Freshman Campus	02/28/2020
Lundy, Leslie Retirement	Director of Grants & Special Programs	Instructional Services	06/30/2020
Swant, Eric	Teacher, Business Education	Okeechobee High School	06/01/2020

That the resignation of Shayne Lopez, Paraprofessional, Elementary, North Elementary School, be accepted with prejudice effective January 14, 2020, due to lack of sufficient notice.

That the resignation of Felica Mokalled, Bus Driver, 6 HR, Transportation, be accepted with prejudice effective January 31, 2020, due to lack of sufficient notice.

That the resignation of Kathleen Rebele, Teacher, VE (Full Time), Yearling Middle School, be accepted as a probationary employee effective January 23, 2020, in accordance with Florida Statute 1012.331(b).

D. TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Transfer From</u>	<u>Transfer To</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Hotmire, Darren	Teacher, VE (Inclusion) Yearling Middle School	Teacher, Science-Senior High Okeechobee Youth Treatment Center	01/10/2020
Villegas, Iris	Food Service, 6 HR Osceola Middle School	Educational Interpreter Exceptional Child Education	01/27/2020

To correct recommendation for the following originally approved January 21, 2020:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Transfer From</u>	<u>Transfer To</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Adler, Judith	Guidance Counselor South Elementary School	Teacher VE (Inclusion) Yearling Middle School	01/06/2020

E. LEAVE REQUESTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Leave Type</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Through</u>
Gilliland, Raylan	Okeechobee High School	Short Term	02/27/2020 – 05/29/2020	
Robertson, Ashley	Everglades Elementary School	Short Term	01/07/2020 – 01/13/2020	

F. ADDITIONS TO SUBSTITUTE TEACHER LIST FOR 2019-20

That the following personnel be added to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2019-20 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Burnham, Denise	I
Hegarty, Brianna	I
Ryan, Erica	I
Steller, Jessica	III

Rank I – Less than 60 college credit hours

Rank II – 60 or more college credit hours

Rank III – Bachelor's degree or higher

G. PAYMENTS TO PERSONNEL

<u>Name/Group</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>	<u>Time Period (Maximum)</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Brewer, Drema	Student Success Skills Teacher	\$23.00 Per Hour	Tuesday-Thursday 2:15-3:30 01/09/20-04/23/20	OHS Budget

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Greeson, Lynn	Science Olympiad Tutorial	\$23.00 Per Hour	Up to 2 Hrs. Per Day, 2 Days Per Week 2019-20 School Year	Title IV Funds
Hicks, Morgan	Science Tutorial	\$23.00 Per Hour	Up to 2 Hrs. Per Day, 2 Days Per Week 2019-20 School Year	Title IV Funds

Note: All professional development shall comply with provisions in the negotiated personnel contracts.
Appropriate Certification Required.

H. TAPS SAFETY AND SECURITY OF BUILDINGS GRANT

The Board approved the TAPS Project Award Notification for Safety and Security of School Buildings in the amount of \$112,033.00.

I. TITLE III, PART A, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION GRANT

The Board approved the Title III, Part A, English Language Acquisition Grant award/application in the amount of \$112,254.00 for the 2019-20 project year. This is an overall decrease of \$12,146.06.

J. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR DECEMBER, 2019

The Board approved the Monthly Financial Statement for December, 2019, and accepted and filed as public record.

K. BUDGET AMENDMENT #6 FOR DECEMBER, 2019

The Board approved Budget Amendment #6 for December, 2019.

L. WARRANT REGISTER FOR JANUARY, 2020

The Board approved the Warrant Register for January, 2020, as follows:
General Disbursement Account – Warrants #174938 thru #175493 and ACH #192000745 thru #192000801 and Wire Transfers #201900522 thru #201900641

Operating General Fund	\$2,031,324.03
Federal Programs Fund	59,505.54
Food Service Fund	153,078.81
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>584,248.86</u>

Total \$ 2,828,157.24

*Also included are December 2019 wires totaling \$1,635,691.97 from Operating General Fund.

VII. Information Items

A. SUPERINTENDENT

- Thanked Board members for supporting the Employee Recognition Banquet.
- Thanked members for supporting the local Science Fair. The Regional Science Fair judging will take place tomorrow, with awards on Friday at the South Florida State College.
- Asked the pleasure of the Board in rescheduling the School Site Workshop for Central Elementary.

Motion:	Joe Arnold made a motion to hold the workshop on Monday, March 9, 12:30, at Central Elementary School.
Second:	Melisa Jahner
Vote:	5-0 In Favor

- Asked Members to mark their calendars for March 31, for the special facilities walk-thru at Okeechobee High School and the Freshman Campus. The itinerary and public notice will be developed and distributed.
- The contract for sale of the southwest property has been signed. Mr. Conely is working on vacating the plat with one owner, OCSB, before the transaction can be completed.
- Invited members to the Okeechobee Educational Foundation's theatre and dessert event on February 14, 7:00 p.m.

B. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS - NONE

C. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

- Mr. Conely stated that he has a rough draft of a new contract for the Superintendent as discussed at the January meeting, which he will e-mail to members. A final copy will be on the March Agenda.

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D. PUBLIC

- Dr. McCoy stated that Progress Reports will go home with students tomorrow. The Battlefield Friends will sponsor a 4th grade student day at the Battlefield Reenactment on February 21. She invited members to the OHS Extravaganza on February 27. A BBQ dinner to benefit the Week-end Backpack Program will be also available at the Extravaganza.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on a motion by Joe Arnold, seconded by Jill Holcomb, the Board adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next regular meeting of the School Board is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Signature on File _____

Amanda Riedel
Chairman

Signature on File _____

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools