

Minutes of  
Okeechobee County School Board Meeting  
January 21, 2014

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

Chairman Arnold called the meeting to order. Rev. Gwen Livatt, New St. Stephen AME Church, opened the meeting with prayer, and Chairman Arnold led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

The School Board and Superintendent Kenworthy recognized and congratulated the following students:

★ Eagle Scout Honoree

- *James Bell*, Grade 10, Okeechobee High School

★ Okeechobee High School – Band – 4-Year Seniors

- *Selena Bowman*
- *Joey Bunker*
- *Bryan Claypool*
- *Rafe Fisher*
- *Denise Holmes*
- *Lea Hunter*
- *Devin Jimenez*
- *Casey Lewis*
- *Tristan Mavroides*
- *Julianne Meives*
- *Queara Moore*
- *Luis Perdomo*
- *Sarah Piroli*
- *Ryan Reister*
- *Jaislyn Santiago*
- *Kyle Sarros*
- *Nicolas Suarez*
- *Cody Walker*
- *Kaitlyn Wilson*

*Clint LaFlam, Band Director*

The School Board and Superintendent Kenworthy recognized and congratulated Rachel Jones, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Central Elementary School, for receiving the District Golden Mouse Award given by the Instructional Technology Department.

The School Board and Superintendent Kenworthy recognized and congratulated the Food Service staff members at Central Elementary School for being recognized by the University of Florida in an article highlighting them for their excellent cafeteria program to assist students in making healthy food choices.

- *Jessina Clements*, Food Service Manager
- *Yvonne Aragon*, Food Service Assistant Manager
- *Lori Barlow*, Food Service Assistant
- *Charlene Farr*, Food Service Assistant
- *Marcela Pineda*, Food Service Assistant
- *Katrina Williams*, Food Service Assistant

*Michelle Perkins, Supervisor of Food Service*

The School Board and Superintendent Kenworthy recognized and congratulated the following employee for her retirement and service to the School District:

- *Alvina Robertson*, Secretary, Staff Development, 27 Years

Chairman Arnold recognized Ms. Niki Norton of the U.S. Green Building Council. Appearing on behalf of Ms. Norton was Kyle Abney and Teresa Chandler. Mr. Abney invited the District to participate in the Generation Green – 2014 Apple Awards program. He explained that the program recognizes school districts, teachers, students, and staff for programs and projects that promote the benefits of sustainability, energy efficient buildings and communities in Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, and Indian River Counties. The Generation Green Foundation of the Treasure Coast has many sponsors including the Waste Management Corporation and TD Bank. The call for entries is open through March 21, 2014, and awards will be presented on April 12, 2014, at Citrus Grove Elementary in Palm City.

The goals of School Improvement Plans were presented for the following schools:

- Okeechobee Achievement Academy – presented by Randy Weigum, Principal,
- Okeechobee Freshman Campus – presented by Carol Revels, Principal, and Bryan Van Camp, Assistant Principal
- Okeechobee High School – presented by Toni Wiersma, Principal

On a motion by India Riedel, seconded by Gay Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting held on December 10, 2013.

Chairman Arnold asked if there were any changes, additions, or deletions to the agenda. Superintendent Kenworthy asked that Item D., Agreement with North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC) for Virtual Instruction Program, be pulled from the agenda. On the recommendation of Superintendent Kenworthy and a motion by David Williams, seconded by Gay Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Items for Action section of the agenda, pulling Item D from consideration.

Superintendent Kenworthy recommended the expulsion of #14-02, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Okeechobee Achievement Academy, for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year and approval of the proposed final order based on the following act of misconduct and violation of the *Code of Student Conduct*:

C. Defiance of Authority

1. Disobeying or disregarding school personnel or school rules.

A motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation was made by Gay Carlton and seconded by India Riedel. Tracy Downing, Director of Student Services, reported that the student is planning to register for a home education program. Chairman Arnold asked if anyone was present to represent #14-02 and after seeing no one, called for a vote by the Board. The Board voted unanimously to expel #14-02, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Okeechobee Achievement Academy, for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year and to issue the final order based on the following act of misconduct and violation of the *Code of Student Conduct*: Section C(1).

On the recommendation of Superintendent Kenworthy and a motion by Malissa Morgan, seconded by India Riedel, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following proclamation recognizing January, 2014, as National Mentoring Month for the School District of Okeechobee County, Florida:

**PROCLAMATION**

**NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, every day Big Brothers Big Sisters works to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever; and

**WHEREAS**, mentoring is a proven, effective strategy that helps children by matching them with a caring, responsible adult who can provide guidance and direction, and build their confidence; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that mentoring has beneficial and long-term effects on youth by increasing their academic engagement and decreasing the likelihood of substance abuse and other risky behaviors, and

**WHEREAS**, dozens of Okeechobee County children are in need of a caring adult mentor in their lives, and closing this mentoring gap will take more investment, partnerships, and volunteers ready to make a difference in a child's life; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Okeechobee County recognizes that our success depends on helping every child reach their full potential in life, and realizes that young people need a solid foundation of support that will help them become well-educated, confident, and productive citizens,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the School Board of Okeechobee will proclaim January, 2014, as

**NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH**

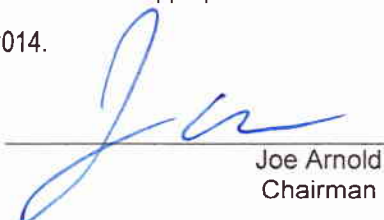
and call upon the people of Okeechobee to recognize the importance of mentoring, to look for opportunities to serve as mentors in their communities, and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

**Passed and adopted** this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2014.

ATTEST:

  
Ken Kenworthy

Superintendent of Schools

  
Joe Arnold  
Chairman



Minutes of  
Okeechobee County School Board Meeting  
January 21, 2014

The proclamation was accepted by Sharon Vinson, Facilitator of the Shared Services Network, and a Big Brothers/Big Sisters Board member. Mrs. Vinson stated that the program serves 1,200 children in a three-county area. She added that there are 434 children in the three-county area waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister and asked that the Board use this occasion to consider mentoring a child.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Kenworthy and a motion by Gay Carlton, seconded by Malissa Morgan, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Donna Garcia as Coordinator of Staff Development, District Office, effective February 3, 2014; and Jody Hays as Assistant Principal at Osceola Middle School effective February 3, 2014. Superintendent Kenworthy commented that Mrs. Garcia is replacing Barbara James who is leaving after 45 years of service to the District.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Kenworthy and a motion by Gay Carlton, seconded by David Williams, the Board voted unanimously to approve a Transitional Interdistrict Transportation Agreement with Indian River County School District to provide transportation services to students designated as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act/Transportation Criteria and in accordance with School Board Policy 5.27.

Chairman Arnold asked if any Board member or the Superintendent wished to pull any item from the Consent Agenda. Superintendent Kenworthy requested that the following items be pulled for replacement:

- Item A., *Employment of Personnel*
- Item B., *Employment of Temporary Personnel*
- Item H., *2013-14 DJJ Out-of-Field Teachers*

On the recommendation of Superintendent Kenworthy and a motion by David Williams, seconded by Gay Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the remaining Consent Agenda as follows:

Resignations for the following personnel were accepted:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School or Center</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Calzadilla, Anthony	Teacher, Social Science	Okeechobee High School	12-20-2013
Clark, Rell (Retirement)	Secretary	Freshman Campus	01-07-2014
Crockett, Lorna C. (Retirement)	ESE Bus Aide	Transportation	05-23-2014
Paulson, Randy (Retirement)	Elementary Principal	Central Elementary School	07-01-2014
Perdomo, Dario	Bus Driver	Transportation	11-14-2013
Svatora, Marc	Teacher, Social Science	Osceola Middle School	02-07-2014

- Toby Tiller, Math Teacher at Freshman Campus, was terminated as a probationary employee effective December 23, 2013, in accordance with Florida State Statute 1012.33 (1)b.

The following transfers of personnel were approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Transfer From</u>	<u>Transfer To</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Adams, Michael	Bus Driver/Custodian II Transportation/OHS	Custodian I Okeechobee High School	01-06-2014
Kinty, Aaron	Teacher, Gifted YMS/OMS	Teacher, Social Science Yearling Middle School	01-06-2014
Matthews, Karen	Data Processor Okeechobee High School	Administrative Assistant IT Department	12-04-2013
Torres, Dolores	Teacher, Elementary Seminole Elementary School	Teacher, Spanish Okeechobee High School	01-06-2014

The following leave of absence was approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School/Center</u>	<u>Leave Type</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Through</u>
Brown, Teresa N.	Transportation	Personal Leave Without Pay	12-09-2013	12-08-2014

The following personnel were added to the Substitute Teacher List for the 2013-14 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Ferrel, Rose	I
Pritchard, Taylor	III

Minutes of  
Okeechobee County School Board Meeting  
January 21, 2014

The following Out-of-Field teachers for the February 2014 FTE survey were approved:

<b>Everglades Elementary School</b>		
Quinlin, Kimberly	Kindergarten	1st Year of Assignment
<b>North Elementary School</b>		
Leach, Patricia	Guidance	1st Year of Assignment
Levins, Blanche	ESOL	Earned 240/300 Points
Luaces-Moreno, Wendy	Kindergarten	1st Year of Assignment
Thomas, Heather	ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
<b>Seminole Elementary School</b>		
Ellinger, Erin	Guidance	Earned 6 Semester Hours
Ellis, Jennifer	ESOL	Earned 60/300 Points
Irizarry, Patricia	ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Mowat, Linnea	ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Royal, Allison	ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Syples, Kim	ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Thornton, Amber	ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
<b>South Elementary School</b>		
Baker, Amanda	ESOL	Earned 120/300 Points
Stanley, Lara	ESOL	Earned 240/300 Points
Lundy, Marilyn	Kindergarten	1st Year of Assignment
Huff, Nellie	ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Wuchte, Dana	ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
<b>Osceola Middle School</b>		
Arnold, Madonna	Reading	Earned 6 Semester Hours
Arnold, Melissa	Reading/ ESOL	1st Year of Assignment/ Earned 60/300 Points
Bradley, Jessica	Reading	1st Year of Assignment
Burk, Dale	ESE	1st Year of Assignment
Ellis, Robert	ESOL	Earned 60/300 Points
Finch, Christine	ESE/ESOL	1st Year of Assignment/ Earned 60/300 Points
Justus, Steve	Reading/Math/Language Arts/ESOL	1st Year of Assignment/ Earned 60/300 Points
LaPointe, Michelle	ESOL	Earned 240/300 Points
Leonard, Amonta	ESOL	Earned 120/300 Points
Nichols, Heather	ESE/ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Perman, Justin	ESOL	Earned 240/300 Points
Poole, Mary	ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Shirley, Alyson	ESOL	Earned 120/300 Points
Thayer, Megan	ESOL	Earned 240/300 Points
Wise, Harold	ESOL	Earned 240/300 Points
<b>Yearling Middle School</b>		
Botello, Brandi	Gifted	1st Year of Assignment
Erwin, Rex Jr.	ESE/ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
King, Brian	Guidance	Earned 6 Semester Hours
Mangold, Jennifer	Reading/ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Olivarez, Charity	PE	1st Year of Assignment
<b>Okeechobee Freshman Campus</b>		
Gray-Lagos, Gena	Reading	1st Year of Assignment
Mims, Brad	Guidance	Earned 6 Semester Hours
Queen, Colleen	ESOL	Earned 180/300 Points
<b>Okeechobee High School</b>		
Gary, Bertheia	ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Harvey, Rebecca	ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Kuipers, Susan	ESOL	Earned 240/300 Points
Lawson, Kati	Guidance	1st Year of Assignment
Moore, Douglas	ESOL	Earned 240/300 Points
Nichols, Eileen	Reading	1st Year of Assignment
Sherlock, Jean	Reading	1st Year of Assignment
Torres, Dolores	Spanish	1st Year of Assignment
<b>Okeechobee Achievement Academy</b>		
Mercurio, Brian	Secondary Soc.Studies	1st Year of Assignment
Snowden, Tamecia	Language Arts/Reading/ESOL	1st Year of Assignment/ Earned 120/300 Points

Minutes of  
Okeechobee County School Board Meeting  
January 21, 2014

The Board approved the following payments to personnel:

<u>Name/Group</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>	<u>Time Period (Maximum)</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Sandra Altman Trisha Jennings Robin Laskey Carrie Thompson	Reading Endorsement Bonus	\$1,000.00 Each Less Deductions	NA	#1439 – Reading Endorsement
Ruth Stephens	Initial Bonus for Bus Driver Recruitment	\$350.00	NA	Transportation Budget
Maria Garcia	Immigrant Tutorial	\$20.00 Per Hour	2 Hours Per Week 1/14/14-5/29/14	#4403 – Title III

**Note:** All professional development shall comply with provisions in the negotiated personnel contracts.

The items listed on Property Disposal List #5 for the 2013-14 fiscal year were declared as surplus, no longer usable for educational purposes, and to be removed from property records; and the Superintendent was authorized to donate or sell such items in accordance with state statute.

**OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**Property Disposal**  
**2013-14 #5**

<b>Property Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>School/Cost Center</b>
21918	Touchscreen	\$1,738.50	Unrepairable	Food Service
21919	Touchscreen	1,738.50	Unrepairable	Food Service
21621	Touchscreen	1,738.50	Unrepairable	Food Service
2638F	Printer, Color Xerox	1,731.69	Unrepairable	OHS
2929F	Printer, Xerox	1,860.96	Unrepairable	OHS
12061	Drafting Cabinet	853.00	Obsolete	OHS
20434	Drafting Table	1,105.00	Obsolete	OHS
20435	Drafting Table	1,105.00	Obsolete	OHS
20436	Drafting Table	1,105.00	Obsolete	OHS
20437	Drafting Table	1,105.00	Obsolete	OHS
20438	Drafting Table	1,105.00	Obsolete	OHS
20439	Drafting Table	1,105.00	Obsolete	OHS
20440	Drafting Table	1,105.00	Obsolete	OHS
20441	Drafting Table	1,105.00	Obsolete	OHS
20442	Drafting Table	1,105.00	Obsolete	OHS
20443	Drafting Table	1,105.00	Obsolete	OHS
20444	Drafting Table	1,105.00	Obsolete	OHS
3417F	Computer, Laptop	1,275.00	Unrepairable	NES
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,091.15</b>		

The Monthly Financial Statement for November, 2013, was accepted and ordered filed as part of public record.

Budget Amendment #5 for November, 2013, was approved.

The Warrant Register for December, 2013, was approved as follows:

General Disbursement Account – Warrants #143630 thru #143948

Operating General Fund	\$1,061,767.57
Federal Programs Fund	80,902.05
Food Service Fund	118,348.15
Capital Improvement Fund	378,013.71
Total	\$1,639,031.48

Items Pulled From Consent Agenda for Correction and Separate Consideration:

Minutes of  
Okeechobee County School Board Meeting  
January 21, 2014

On the recommendation of Superintendent Kenworthy and a motion by India Riedel, seconded by Gay Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the employment of personnel as listed below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School or Center</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Castaneda, Maribel	Paraprofessional, ESOL	Everglades Elementary School	01-06-2014
Cox, James	Bus Driver	Transportation	01-07-2014
Erwin, Rex Jr. (Out of Field)	Teacher, ESE	Yearling Middle School	12-09-2013
Goolsby, Sheila	Bus Driver	Transportation	12-02-2013
Harris, Mya	Teacher, Elementary	Seminole Elementary School	01-06-2014
Irizarry, Patricia	Teacher, Basic	Seminole Elementary School	12-17-2013
Lipfert, Katrina	Paraprofessional, ESE	Okeechobee High School	01-06-2014
Porter, Rachel	Teacher, ESE	Okeechobee High School	12-19-2013
Sanchez, Kathleen	Bus Driver	Transportation	12-02-2013
Stephens, Katie	Paraprofessional, Schl Readiness Pre-K	South Elementary School	01-21-2014
Vaughan, Leighia	Data Processor	Okeechobee High School	12-04-2013

On the recommendation of Superintendent Kenworthy and a motion by India Riedel, seconded by Malissa Morgan, the Board voted unanimously to approve the temporary employment of personnel as listed below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Cox, James	Sub -- Bus Driver	12-16-2013
Kindall, Eric	Head Varsity Baseball Coach	01-07-2014

On the recommendation of Superintendent Kenworthy and a motion by India Riedel, seconded by Gay Carlton, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following DJJ Out-of-Field teachers for the February 2014 FTE survey:

<b>Tantie (9101)</b>		
Anderson, Thomas	Reading/ ESOL	Earned 6 Semester Hours/ Earned 120/300 Points
Neal, Shana	ESE/Science/ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Potts, Ralph	ESE/PE/Business /ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
Talavera, Jairo	ESE/ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
<b>OIHH (8017)</b>		
James, Steward	Math/Science/Business/ESOL	1st Year of Assignment
<b>Cypress (9106)</b>		
Williams-Boyett, Jacqueline	Math/Science	1st Year of Assignment

**Information Items**

A. Superintendent

- Superintendent Kenworthy commented that he is pleased to have the Instructional Personnel contract settled for this year and ready for a ratification vote.
- The County Science Fair winners were awarded last week. There was a large crowd present for the award ceremony. Students and their projects will now go on to the Heartland Science Fair on February 21, 2014.
- Superintendent Kenworthy congratulated Sharon Vinson, Shared Services Network Facilitator, for a job well done in organizing the Seventh Annual Okeechobee Family Health and Safety Expo which will be held this Saturday, January 25. The event is held at the Agri-Civic Center and attracts a large number of local families.
- The Okeechobee Education Foundation is sponsoring a mystery theater presentation on Saturday, February 1, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Freshman Campus Auditorium, featuring the Okeechobee High School Drama Club.
- The Employee Recognition Banquet will be held in the Osceola Middle School gymnasium on Saturday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. Donations for the banquet may be made to the Okeechobee Education Foundation.

Minutes of  
Okeechobee County School Board Meeting  
January 21, 2014

- Superintendent Kenworthy asked Board members to complete a survey that has been sent to them electronically. The survey will assist in the Chief Executive Officer Leadership Development Program (CEOLDP) training which Superintendent Kenworthy is beginning. The training is sponsored by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). Superintendent Kenworthy thanked the Board in advance for their participation and feedback on the survey.
- Superintendent Kenworthy reviewed projected enrollment for the 2014-15 school year. The total weighted enrollment is expected to drop by 148.6 from 2013-14. This translates into an estimated FTE funding loss of \$600,000.00. As expected, the trend of decreasing student enrollment will continue through the 2014-15 school year.
- An internal funds audit has just been completed, and a written report is expected very soon. There are no material weaknesses reported this year. Six schools had no findings at all, which is an indication of excellent work at the schools and within the Finance Department. The successful audit report meets one of the Strategic Plan goals that can now be marked as accomplished.
- Superintendent Kenworthy and the Board discussed the Board's request to visit schools. It was decided that the Board will visit Everglades Elementary School, Osceola Middle School, and Okeechobee High School on Friday, February 7, in the morning. A schedule will be provided for the Board prior to February 7.
- The Okeechobee High School Agriculture program is expanding their breeding program to include embryo transfer. This is a huge advancement in the breeding industry that Okeechobee students will now be able to witness and study. Not many high schools are doing this, and Superintendent Kenworthy offered congratulations to the Ag Department and Roger McWaters for bringing this program to Okeechobee students.

B. School Board Members

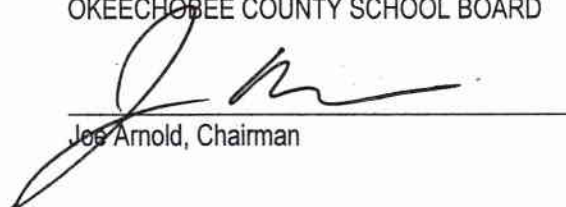
- David Williams – Mr. Williams announced that he will not seek re-election to the School Board this coming November. He commented that he has been on the Board for five terms and that he believes the schools, teachers, and students in Okeechobee are the best to be found.
- Joe Arnold – Mr. Arnold thanked Superintendent Kenworthy for arranging walk-throughs at three District schools. He also mentioned that judges are needed for the Heartland Regional Science Fair on February 21 at South Florida State College.

C. School Board Attorney - None


D. Public - None

There being no further business to discuss, on a motion by Gay Carlton, seconded by Malissa Morgan, the Board adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2014, at 700 S.W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD



Joe Arnold, Chairman



Ken Kenworthy  
Superintendent of Schools