

## **I. Call to Order**

Call to Order: Chairman Riedel

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

Zoom: District 2 – Malissa Morgan  
Ken Kenworthy, Superintendent of Schools  
Tom Conely, School Board Attorney

Invocation: Tom Conely  
Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Riedel

## **II. BoardDocs Executive Training**

Sylvia Raye, Implementation Specialist with BoardDocs, provided an overview of BoardDocs meeting software. The overview included a review of the program, Agenda, voting process, and search features.

## **III. Information Items**

### **A. SUPERINTENDENT**

- The Superintendent provided an update on the Strategic Plan. Some of the steps that have taken place so far: identified funding, hired a consultant, collected data, shared a survey, the consultant hosted meetings in Okeechobee, eighty representatives including OHS students, Economic Council members, teachers, classified staff and District Advisory Council members participated in Focus Groups, goals and goal leads were chosen, worked on benchmarks and outcome metrics, conducted peer reviews, almost forty members including goal leads and administration participated in a zoom meeting earlier today, next steps will be progress monitoring goals and a quarterly schedule to report to the Board. The Superintendent asked Board members to prepare a short message in the next few weeks to be included in the Strategic Plan manual.
- Zone Waivers have been released for the 2020-21 school year. Zone waivers are to be returned by May 20, according to School Board policy. The economy is unsure, the District is moving forward status quo. A Special Session will probably be held in the next couple of months, but it may be about how to spend stimulus dollars and not budget cuts. The budget cycle may not happen until after elections. Allocations have been based on a bare bones budget so there may not be much open space for zone waivers. The state sets forth the hierarchy for zone waivers. A Choice District looks at grade bands instead of each grade level. Zone waivers are time stamped, but set up as a lottery situation. In addition to capacity, zone waivers are also considered based on children in families that are active military, children in foster homes, and siblings placed with siblings. In a typical year, the District receives about 700 zone waivers.
- Grades and Retention – The Superintendent shared information about student participation in distance learning due to COVID 19. Some students are excelling, others are struggling and some are not participating or are not being successful. Some students may have more support than others. End of year testing will not take place to provide data for consideration in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention. The District will invite some students in to some schools for remediation next week. Due to social distancing requirements and CDC guidelines the numbers will be limited and buses cannot be used to transport students. The availability of personal protective equipment is also a concern moving forward. Credit retrieval will continue to be offered. The Superintendent discussed grading options for students that have and have not been successful during the fourth quarter. He shared what other districts are considering and asked the Board for guidance. Member Arnold suggested that students that have been successful in the first three quarters, may be considered for promotion even if they have not been successful in the fourth quarter. Member Holcomb shared that students that are doing all the work and doing it well should not be graded the same as those that are not trying. Ms. Holcomb stated that there are three groups of students for consideration. Those that are working hard, those that are struggling and those that are not working. Member Arnold stated that some parents are there but may not be able to assist their child. IT Director May also stated that children with different abilities work differently with distance learning. Some are performing well while others that are working hard are really struggling, by no fault of their own. Member Morgan stated that this has been a difficult time for students. The students that are working should have some grace. Superintendent Kenworthy stated that the fourth quarter decision will impact students the rest of their lives. Some middle school students are really struggling. Mr. Kenworthy stated that a special meeting may be called prior to the June 9, Board meeting.

Minutes of  
Okeechobee County School Board Zoom Workshop  
May 07, 2020  
2:00 p.m.

- Graduation – there are currently 429 possible graduates! Superintendent Kenworthy shared several graduation scenarios that the District has considered. Mr. Kenworthy discussed the results of the survey, students want a traditional graduation with their classmates even if families cannot attend. Phase 1 limits groups to 10, Phase 2 limits groups to 50, maybe if graduation is scheduled for July or August the allowed numbers will increase. The District and several other community representatives will meet next week to discuss graduation options. Right now, it looks like it will be virtual with provisions for individuals going into the military or college that need a diploma sooner.

B. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS - NONE

C. SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

- Mr. Conely asked Board members to return the Superintendent's Evaluation form by the June meeting.
- Mr. Conely stated that the proposed sale of the southwest property to the Okeechobee Utility Authority will be advertised and go to the Commission hearing in late May. The closing should take place shortly after the hearing.

D. PUBLIC - NONE

### Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on a motion by Joe Arnold, seconded by Melisa Jahner, the Board adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The next regular meeting of the School Board is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 700 S.W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Signature on File

Amanda Riedel  
Chairman

Signature on File

Ken Kenworthy  
Superintendent of Schools