

July 6, 2009
Date

Special
Kind of Meeting

Teachers' Center
Where Held

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman
Presiding Officer

Members Present:

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman
Mr. Chris Maddox, Vice-Chairman, District 6
Mr. Jimmy Addison, District 4
Dr. Hays McKay, District 5

Members Absent:

Mrs. Brenda Guilford, District 1
Mr. Franklin Jones, District 2
Ms. Gayla White, District 3

The Chairman, Dr. Steve Stokes, called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Dr. Hays McKay led in prayer.

The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Steve Stokes gave the School System News as follows:

1. Mrs. Vicki Davis, Principal, Highlands Elementary School, reports this was our first opportunity to participate in The Dothan City Schools Chess Tournament and won 2nd Place. Ten students won individual awards.
2. Mr. Larry Norris, Principal, Beverly Magnet School, reports Beverly Middle School is evolving into Beverly Magnet School. We are preparing for the 2009-2010 school year with many new opportunities for our students such as keyboard, band, and specialized computer programs in our computer labs and an award winning sports program. We offer challenging academic adventures in the classroom as well as outside the classroom with field trips to Sea World, Tallahassee Space Center, Alabama Shakespeare Theatre, Pioneer Village, and many other adventures.

Mr. Jimmy Addison made a motion seconded by Mr. Chris Maddox to approve the Agenda as presented as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Maddox, Stokes, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" - None.

Mr. Chris Maddox made a motion seconded by Dr. Hays McKay to adjourn into a Work Session as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Maddox, Stokes, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" - None.

1. Dr. Sam Nichols announced Dothan City Schools would be participating in the 2nd Annual Back to School Event on July 16th, the turnout last year was about 1,500 people, this is a great opportunity for parents and students to learn more about our school system, they will be getting additional information on our new dress code policy and any information they need from our individual schools.
2. Mrs. Allyson Morgan reviewed the following: the new high school reading list, it is a part of the pacing guide, a group of teachers in all areas met to develop the pacing guides and 9 week tests in every course in high school, it came from the English Department in both high schools, it is the Alabama Course of Study recommended list, it was used and correlated with the pacing guide, English is correlated with History courses so they are reading literature from the history era they are studying, those books not appropriate were deleted, Principals, Assistant Principals in charge of curriculum at the high schools and English teachers have submitted this list for your approval, some are summer readings, they do not read every book these are choices the teachers can pick from, and we are working to provide consistency between our two high schools and hopefully with the pacing guides they will be reading the same literature. Discussion was held regarding the number required to read and putting the pacing guides on the website.
3. Dr. Sam Nichols introduced Mr. Mike Manuel to review the School Related Organizations Policy stating it has gone before the Board Policy Committee and we are awaiting final approval. Mr. Mike Manuel reviewed the following: this is a new policy recommended by the State Department of Education that we adopt, this applies to any organization such as PTA, Booster Club, Student Organization, Athletics or Band that wish to operate in the school system especially if they want to account for their money outside the schools books, it would require: a written agreement between the system and the organization, they receive a 5013C status from the IRS, they receive their own employer identification number from the IRS, they have articles of incorporation, they provide financial information to the Principal or to the Board's auditors or other School Board Employees, they file financial reports on an agreed upon monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, yearly or whatever the timeline is agreed to by the Principal and Organization, they would provide proof of having a fidelity bond for the President and Treasurer of the Organization. Discussion was held regarding the various booster clubs reviewing the information and Dr. Morton requesting we have a policy. Mr. Manuel stated another rule is they would put in writing and sign they would not make any gift or payment to an employee or family member of an employee which would be in violation of the Alabama Ethics Law. Dr. Stokes encouraged Mr. Manuel to let them review it to see if they have a problem with anything before we pass it and find out there is problem, the only thing is filing 5013C some organizations are small and it would not be

worth it. Mr. Manuel stated they would need to keep their money in the school books. If they are going to keep it outside the schools books they would need to do this.

4. Dr. Sam Nichols introduced Mr. Mark Williams to review the Technology Usage Policy stating it has gone before the Board Policy Committee and we are awaiting final approval. Mr. Mark Williams stated the Technology Usage Policy is a replacement for the current Legal and Acceptable Use Policy of Electronic Media and the purpose was to update our current policy to include new wordage and technologies, the reformatting was to enable easy correlation to the Code of Conduct for infractions and corresponding disciplines. Some of the major changes are:
 - a. Introduction, 3rd paragraph, bullet 5 - Some of these policies pertain to technology equipment personally owned by school employees and students and brought into school facilities. All personal technologies used on any Dothan City School campus are subject to this policy and may be used only if such usage is in compliance with all school system policies, procedures, and guidelines as well as local, state, and federal laws.
 - b. Access:
 - i. Item C. ...All personnel should adhere to the purchasing and disposal guidelines set forth by the Dothan City Schools accounting department when purchasing or disposing of technology items.
 - ii. Item K. Personal technology related devices such as but not limited to laptops, PDAs, smartphones, iPods, etc. used on school grounds are subject to all items covered in this policy and should not access local area network or wide area network resources without the explicit permission of the technology staff. Public Internet access is available for visiting devices and is subject to the conditions outlined in this policy and all other school system policies and guidelines as well as local, state, and federal laws.
 - iii. Item M. No network device such as a switch, hub, router, access point or print server shall be allowed on the DCSNet unless provided or approved by the Technology Services staff.
 - c. Copyright:
 - i. Item C. Aspects involving the legal and ethical practices of appropriate use of technology resources will be taught to all students and employees in the system (i.e. as part of the Technology Education Curriculum, during lab orientation, network orientation, faculty meetings, etc). There can be no assurance as to the extent and effectiveness of such training. Again, all questions regarding legal and ethical practices of appropriate use should be directed to the DTS.

Mr. Williams stated this will be part of the teaching process for all teachers and students. We will also do this through PTA/PTO organizations and have the Media Specialists host a night for parents to come and learn about safe internet usage and copyright laws.
 - d. Email:
 - i. Item A. Dothan City Schools provides access to email for all employees; upon request, generic accounts for employee sponsored organizations and classes; and on a limited basis, with teacher or principal recommendation and written guardian permission, for secondary students.

Mr. Williams stated this will be controlled with a filtered email system.

 - ii. Item K. Users required to maintain email for an extended period, for public record, or email in excess of the user's email quota must print said emails. The technology staff, Dothan City Schools' administrative staff, or the Dothan City Board of Education does not support or advocate the use of email archives.

Mr. Williams stated if you feel like something is of importance you need to print and file it.
 - e. Internet Use:
 - i. Item I: Internet access for all users is filtered, through one central point, by URL (web address) and by IP address and may be filtered by keyword. All Internet sites that may be considered harmful to students will be filtered.
 - ii. Item L. Successful or unsuccessful attempts to bypass the Internet filter by using proxies or other resources are a violation of this policy.
 - f. Web Publishing:
 - i. Item I: A teacher's primary web page should be housed on the Dothan City School web site; however, the page may contain a link or links to teacher created web pages stored on a different commercial or private server. In this event, these pages should adhere to all Dothan City School policies as well as local, state, and federal laws.

Mr. Williams stated because we did not provide them with a webpage teachers in the past had their own website that was outside Dothan City Schools' control and they were telling students to go to those websites for information. We are encouraging them not to do that at all – keep their personal business as personal and school business as school business. The same applies to email address.
 - g. Web Publishing:
 - i. Item L: Links from pages housed on the Dothan City Schools website to personal blogs, social networking sites, advertisements unrelated to school system business, and/or personal web pages are prohibited.
 - h. Audiovisual:

- i. Item B: The use of a video in a school is considered public performance for which a license must be obtained. The use in direct instruction is the exception which provides "fair use" of videos in a school. If a school desires to use videos for these activities, public performance rights must be obtained. Video rental stores cannot grant this right.
- ii. Item I: Rental videos shall not be shown.
- iii. Item K: No audiovisual materials shall be shown without approval of the school principal. See the *Dothan City Schools Audiovisual Evaluation and Request Form* on the Dothan City School's web site.

Mr. Williams stated all responsibility for videos being shown in the school is back on the Principal now. We have a form for the Principals approval. The reason is in the previous policy we had a committee of five people that were to review every film and it was not happening so if the Principal feels good about the film and are aware of it and they want to sign off on it that is there prerogative to do so. It makes them aware that the videos are being shown and it also puts it back on them if there is anything wrong with the video if it was illegally copied.

- i. Examples of Inappropriate Use of Resources:
 - i. Item F: Harassing, insulting, embarrassing, or attacking others via technology resources.
 - ii. Item K: Sending, displaying, or downloading offensive messages or pictures.
 - iii. Item M: Using a digital camera, camera phone, or any other device capable of storing a still or video image to take inappropriate or embarrassing pictures without the subject's knowledge and/or consent.

Mr. Williams stated the forms attached to the Policy, with approval, will become a vital part of this implementation procedure. We have already correlated all the infractions in this policy to the Code of Conduct, the correlation page will be posted on the internet for teacher access, if they feel like somebody is in violation of something they will know how to write it up to match the Code of Conduct and see what the discipline action is to correspond to the infraction. Discussion was held regarding the Policy and Code of Conduct, we surveyed other systems, and concerns of sexting will be covered under this Policy.

5. Dr. Sam Nichols reviewed the proposed Agenda for the July 20th Board meeting. Mrs. Allyson Morgan addressed the Board regarding the High School Exemption Policy and Grading Policy Changes as follows: a committee of high school Assistant Principals in charge of curriculum, classroom teachers, and veteran teachers met and looked at our evaluation and grading procedures overall, the committee is recommending that we either and/or exempt two finals - one for perfect attendance and one for all A's, we did a lot of research on grading scales and we are recommending that we move from an 8 point scale to a 10 point scale, our goal is to move toward the High Schools That Work and Middle Schools That Work Models to no longer have or accept a D but to have 70 as our grade that is proficient or above and below no D, just incomplete or fail, the 10 point scale will move toward that this year and the next step would be to go to the A, B, C, F, the committee is meeting next week to look at consistencies in grading so that bonus points are given consistently across the system, and for example in Algebra the same final is given the same weight is given versus homework versus daily grade. Dr. Steve Stokes requested the number using perfect attendance to exempt a Math or Science final exam and expressed concern that they do not get an exemption when they go to college. Mrs. Morgan stated it is in the procedures manual and it part of the policy that the Counselor and the Principal have to sign off on that in your high school career you can exempt one Science, one Math, one History and one English so that you are rotating among those and one could be your Spanish, Bible Lit Class. They will still have the opportunity to take their semester exams in December which is a cumulative test for the 18 weeks and as the Board Policy stands now our Senior's do not take any final exams in May. Dr. Sam Nichols continued reviewing the proposed Agenda stating we would adjourn into a Work Session for the First Presentation for Public Hearing of 2009-2010 Budget.

Mr. Chris Maddox made a motion seconded by Mr. Jimmy Addison to reconvene into Regular Session as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Maddox, Stokes, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" - None.

Dr. Dell Goodwin presented the Personnel Agenda deleting Item 3.6.1. Discussion was held regarding Math, Science and Special Education positions. Dr. Goodwin stated Principals were ready to recommend about 12 positions today but since we cannot have an addendum we have got probably 4 Science and Math and 2 Special Ed positions. We will have those on the 20th and hopefully they will not have taken a job elsewhere before we can hire them.

Mr. Jimmy Addison made a motion seconded by Mr. Chris Maddox to approve the Personnel Agenda as presented deleting Item 3.6.1 and as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Maddox, Stokes, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" - None. (See Attachment "A")

Dr. Steve Stokes acknowledged the YES WE CAN! Dothan delegation.

Dr. Steve Stokes announced the Board would meet on Monday, July 20th at the Teachers' Center, 500 Dusy Street, and Monday, August 3rd at Highlands Elementary School on Brannon Stand Road.

Mr. Jimmy Addison made a motion seconded by Dr. Hays McKay to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. Voting was as follows: "YEA" – Maddox, Stokes, Addison, McKay. "NAY" – None. "ABSTAIN" - None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Approved: August 17, 2009

Dr. Steve Stokes, Chairman

Sam Nichols, Superintendent, Secretary