

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MARCH 13, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Workshop Meeting at 9:00 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

Chair: Mrs. Patricia Hightower Vice Chair: Mr. Gerald Boone

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh  
Mrs. Linda Moultrie  
Mr. Bill Slayton

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

*Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on February 26, 2009 – Legal No. 1387167 1T*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the additions, deletions, amendments and/or corrections to the March 17, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda. He then took the opportunity to thank Mrs. Holley DeWees, Administrative Recording Secretary, Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, and Mr. Bill Norman, Programmer Analyst I – Web Technologies, for their part in the development of a type of electronic agenda, whereby anyone with Internet-capability could access from the School District website, the School Board's meeting agendas and all associated backup documentation.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

No discussion was held.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Curriculum and Instruction  
2. Approval of Textbook Adoptions

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent clarified that this item was not a request to purchase textbooks; rather, it was simply a request to adopt the textbook titles as recommended by the Subject Area Textbook Committee for the following curriculum areas: Language Arts 6-12, ESOL, and Music K-5.

4. Connecting Response to Intervention (RTI) to Enhance the Academic, Social, and Emotional Skills (CREASES) of Gifted Students A Challenge Grant Collaborative Curriculum Project

Mrs. Sandra Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning, stated that an amendment to this item was forthcoming, as the project application sheet that was included in the backup documentation was found to be incomplete.

B. Finance

4. Legal Services:  
    General Fund
5. Legal Services:  
    Risk Management Fund

Mr. Bergosh thought it would be helpful if the specific case number/title associated with each invoice was provided in order to determine exactly how much each case was costing the School District. Mrs. Waters indicated that she would see to it that such information was included in the quarterly report from each contract attorney.

6. Disposal of Capitalized and Non-Capitalized Assets:
  - c) Declare surplus and demolish single family home structures

(NOTE: *The backup documentation for this item included a Notice of City Code Violations from the City of Pensacola regarding the property at 2219 West Wright Street.*) Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, confirmed that the School District's property at 2219 West Wright Street was no longer in violation of City Code.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional
  - g. Special Requests
    2. Approval for Pam Saxton, teacher to be the instructor for the Spring Reading Endorsement Program: Competency Six, Demonstration of Accomplishments beginning March 20, 2009 and ending May 9, 2009. Ms. Saxton will be instructing instructional employees for a total of eighty hours and will be paid at her regular hourly rate of pay from Title Two funds.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, confirmed that Pam Saxton was a School District employee; and that this item was simply a request to "hire" Ms. Saxton as the instructor for the Reading Endorsement Program: Competency Six, Demonstration of Accomplishments.

D. Purchasing

22. Bid Award: Sid Nelson Center and Ernest Ward Middle School Kitchen Hood Replacement

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, the Superintendent confirmed that the bid for kitchen hood replacement at the Sid Nelson Center would not be awarded at this time because before spending any additional money on renovations at the Sid Nelson facility, he would be looking at the viability of that facility remaining open. He noted that he was committed to the programs offered at the Sid Nelson Center, but not to the building itself.

34. Change Notice #2 to Purchase Order #299550 – Tate High School

[NOTE: *This item was a request to issue Change Notice #2 (Change Orders #2 & #3) to Purchasing Order #299550. Change Order # 3 was to increase the contract amount by \$55,272.20 to renovate asphalt paving in parking lot area at football field due to damaged and cracked asphalt creating safety issues (principals request); and to increase the contract time by five (5) calendar days for substantial completion.*]

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, explained that the overall General Renovation project had come in under budget so the savings incurred from that project was then able to be used for repairing the damaged asphalt, as requested by the principal.

E. Operations

No discussion was held.

F. Student Transfers

No discussion was held.

G. Internal Auditing

No discussion was held.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

-No items submitted

B. Items from the Superintendent

No discussion was held.

C. Items from the General Counsel

No discussion was held.

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Charter School Quarterly Report (*Time Certain – 9:30 a.m.*)

NOTE: Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, provided the Board with a quarterly report (March 2009) on charter schools prior to this meeting. Representatives from the following charter schools were in attendance for this meeting: Capstone Academy, Byrneville Elementary, Pensacola Beach Elementary, Escambia Charter, Ruby J. Gainer School for Reaching Your Dream, and Beulah Academy of Science. Representatives from Ruby J. Gainer School for Reaching Your Dream responded to various questions posed by some of the Board Members regarding information outlined in the quarterly report. The questions posed by the Board focused primarily on the school's financial issues.

Application for Appointment of Expulsion Hearing Officer  
(School Board Rule 6Gx17-7.19 – Hearing Officer Appointees)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Waters stated that she would be providing the hearing officer vacancy announcement to the Superintendent so that he could place an advertisement in the local bar association newsletter.

Escambia County Consolidation Study Commission

Mrs. Hightower referred to a Florida House bill filed by State Representative Greg Evers, which if approved, would lead to the formation of a commission to develop a consolidation plan or plan for the unification of services for the City of Pensacola, Town of Century, and Escambia County. She wanted Board Members to be aware that the School Board could appoint one member to serve on that commission.

Four Day Work-Week (during summer months only)

The Superintendent advised that he was exploring the possibility of implementing a four day work-week (10-hour days) for District employees during the summer months only.

Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS)

The Superintendent advised that he had requested that the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) conduct an Organization & Management Review of the School District, which would provide an objective appraisal of the School District operations. A team of experts assembled by FADSS staff would visit the School District for a week to: review the status of the District, observe the district at work, interview school and district employees, analyze management practices, and recommend state-of-the-art management practices.

School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee (SAZAC)

At the request of the Superintendent, the Board agreed to tentatively schedule a Special Meeting for March 30, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building. The purpose of the meeting would be to advertise a change of attendance zones resulting in the closure of a Westside elementary school.

Update on Superintendent's School Start Time Realignment Task Force

*Mission: Revisit school start and end time schedules and look for improvement opportunities.*

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, stated that a recommendation from the School Start Time Realignment Task Force would be available at the beginning of April.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Gail Husbands, representing the Escambia Education Association (EEA), addressed the Board regarding the following items: upcoming rallies for education funding; the "Penny per Pupil" campaign; and the "Letters to Legislators" campaign.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair