

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 14, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 3:00 p.m., in Conference Room B, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building, 215 West Garden Street, 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 July 6, 2009 – Legal No. 1411306

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Workshop to order at 3:05 p.m.

II. DISCUSSION: 2009-2010 BUDGET

(NOTE: General discussion amongst Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff took place throughout the meeting.)

Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, reviewed information outlined in the following budget materials that had been provided to the Board:

- Book I – Departmental Budgets, *published June 5, 2009*
(Including replacement pages for Cost Center 4002 – School Board)
- Book II – Discretionary Local Projects, *published June 5, 2009*
(Including replacement page for Project 225 – Grass Cutting Services)
- Book III – Reserves, Categorical and Non-Discretionary Projects, *published July 8, 2009*
- Book IV – Salaries & Benefits, *published July 7, 2009*
- Book V – Food Service, *published July 7, 2009*
- Budget Reductions and Increases to Books I and II (made subsequent to June 5, 2009)
- Recap of proposed General Fund budget for 2009-2010
- Graphs of budget information
- Proposed Capital Outlay Budget
- Recap of Millage Fund Budget
- Memorandum from Commissioner of Education

Mrs. Hightower requested a list of estimated general and federal non-recurring funds that would be included in the 2009-2010 tentative budget.

Most of the discussion during this meeting focused on the proposed increase in the total millage rate for 2009-2010 (over that which was levied in 2008-2009) which was due to an increase (as determined by the State) in the minimum Required Local Effort portion of the millage formula. [It was noted that the proposed 2009-2010 budget did not include any tax increase; and although the proposed total millage rate

for 2009-2010 was slightly higher than what was levied in 2008-2009, the actual taxes generated for 2009-2010 would be less than what was generated in 2008-2009 due to a decline in the tax roll (as certified by the Property Appraiser).] Mr. Bergosh expressed opposition to raising the millage rate for Escambia County property owners during the current economic recession. He suggested instead, that the District find a way to hold the total millage rate for 2009-2010 at the same rate as that which was levied in 2008-2009.

Board Members were reminded that a Special Meeting would be held on July 23, 2009 for the purpose of approving the 2009-2010 tentative millage and tentative budget for advertisement; and another Special Meeting would be held on July 30, 2009 for the purpose of adopting the 2009-2010 tentative millage and tentative budget.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

The following speaker requested to address the Board during Public Forum: Kathy Breakall, representing the Escambia Education Association (EEA). Ms. Breakall shared her concerns with regard to various aspects of the proposed 2009-2010 budget.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair