

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 15, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Regular Workshop at 2:00 p.m., in the Board Room, 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

[General discussion took place among Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff throughout this meeting.]

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Regular Workshop to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the additions, deletions, amendments and/or corrections to the July 21, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Item III.A.1, July 21, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Chapter 3, School Operating Procedures, School District Rule 6Gx17-3.07(12) – Safety Regulations and Procedures

3.07 SAFETY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

SAFETY, SECURITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

(12) Student Accident Insurance

~~*Student group accidental insurance may be offered for student protection. Insurance for athletes shall be provided by the parents and/or the school.*~~

The School Board authorizes the Superintendent to purchase catastrophic student accident insurance that shall provide coverage for catastrophic injuries at school or school related events for all students who are seriously injured at school or at a school related event. The District will also make available student accident insurance for purchase by all parents or legal guardians. Students who participate in interscholastic athletics, including cheerleading, are required to purchase student accident insurance provided through the school district before they are allowed to participate.

a) Selection of Student Accident Insurance Providers:

The Risk Management Department will coordinate the Student Accident Insurance Program and select qualified student accident insurance providers on a periodic basis.

b) Voluntary Student Accident Insurance Program:

Principals shall distribute a brochure or application from the Board approved student accident insurance provider to all students during the first week of the school year. Principals shall maintain a supply of student accident brochures

or applications at their school and provide them to new students during the year and to any other parents or students upon request.

- c) *Athletic Activities Student Accident Insurance Program: Principals shall ensure that all students who participate in athletic activities, including cheerleading, have purchased student accident insurance prior to trying out for such athletic activity. Principals shall call the Risk Management Department immediately following any student injury that results in hospitalization.*

Item III.A.5, July 21, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to School District Rule 6Gx17-7.02 – Code of Conduct: Secondary Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, Revisions 2009-2010

It was determined that the following sentence was mistakenly deleted from the second paragraph under Section XIII, Appropriate Use of Technology – Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices: “Such devices must be turned off for the duration of the school day.” Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director-High School Education, was tasked with making the appropriate correction to the backup documentation.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Curriculum and Instruction
B. Finance

Approval of the expenditure of public funds for out-of-state travel, cellular phones, cellular phone service, personal digital assistants, or any other mobile communication device including text messaging
Item V.B.9, July 21, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, was asked to amend the Executive Summary sheet to reflect:

Action Required – Approval of the expenditure of public funds for ~~out-of-state travel~~, cellular phones, cellular phone service, personal digital assistants, or any other mobile communication device including text messaging in accordance with District Rules and Procedures [Chapter 6Gx17-5.04(6)(c)] and for out-of-state travel.

C. Human Resource Services

Accidental Student Athletic Insurance Policy

Item V.C.3.a, July 21, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Implementation Plan (as outlined in the backup documentation for this item):

It is recommended that the Board:

Approve the purchase of the Blanket Accidental Student Athletic Policy offered through United Healthcare Student Resources that provides for \$25,000 in accidental medical coverage for students injured while participating in extracurricular athletic activities. All students participating in athletics (including tryouts) are required to have a base medical insurance policy up to \$25,000 in coverage in order to participate in FHSAA sanctioned extracurricular athletics in both middle and high schools. This “blanket policy” satisfies this requirement regardless of the number of sports in which the student participates. This policy will provide proof of the minimum coverage required by the FHSAA for the entire year without a risk of a student athlete losing medical insurance coverage during the year. Fines or sanctions could be imposed by the FHSAA if a student participates in any sport during the year where coverage has not been certified by the member school principal. This blanket medical policy removes the requirement of multiple certifications for different sports and provides absolute assurance that the student is covered by a medical plan for the year. The total annual premium for the blanket policy for the 2009-2010 policy period from August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010 is \$55,820.

The Board may elect one of the following options:

- 1) Option 1 – elect to subsidize the cost of the annual premium in whole for the 2009-10 policy period.*
- 2) Option 2 – elect NOT to subsidize the cost of the annual premium for the 2009-10 policy period and elect an “athletic assessment” sufficient to reimburse the cost of the annual premium. If “Option 2” is elected, the Athletic Assessments for the 2009-10 school year will be as follows:*
 - Middle School (\$6 per student) per year*

- *High School (\$12 per student) per year*

Any athletic assessment paid by or on behalf of students will be collected at the school level through a Trust Account that will be set up in the schools Internal Funds. Collections will be remitted to the District on a monthly or quarterly basis as assessments are collected to offset the premium paid in advance by the District. Any excess or deficit in collections for the school year will be utilized to offset or adjust subsequent year premium assessments. A Schedule of Benefits, Premium Schedule, client list, and exclusions listed in the Student Resources United Healthcare plan are attached. It is recommend to purchase the "Low Option" plan listed in the 2009 Schedule of Benefits in order to provide a more economical policy for all students in order to participate in extracurricular athletics.

Approval of 2008-2009 Annual Equity Report

Item V.C.5.a, July 21, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Mr. Bergosh had significant concerns with the following verbiage included under Section VI – Employment Equity (Page 3, Paragraph 3):

“The District will implement a new procedure for the 2009-2010 academic year concerning annual contract non-renewal of un-represented classifications (minority) of instructional personnel. Principals will contact the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services and the EEOC Coordinator to review all request when minority instructional personnel are recommended for non-renewal. The review process is an effort to continue the District’s initiative to recruit and retain certified/highly qualified minority instructor.

To ensure that all classes of instructional personnel (minority, non-minority) were treated equally with regard to the non-renewal process, Mr. Bergosh suggested that the verbiage be revised to reflect that “all annual contract non-renewals will be reviewed” during the staffing process. The Superintendent agreed to Mr. Bergosh’s suggested revision and Mr. Horace Jones, Coordinator-EEOC, was tasked with providing an appropriate amendment to the backup documentation.

- D. Purchasing
- E. Operations
- F. Student Transfers
- G. Internal Auditing

George Stone Welding Program Review

Item V.G.2.a, July 21, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Mr. David Bryant, Director-Internal Auditing, advised that he would provide additional backup documentation for this item that had been inadvertently excluded from the agenda packet.

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 items submitted

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items submitted

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Selection of Florida School Board Association Master Board Training Modules and Dates

Board Members and the Superintendent agreed to schedule an on-site Master Board Training session for Saturday, August 22, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs, was tasked with contacting the FSBA to arrange this session. (*Location was to be determined once availability of the FSBA presenter(s) was confirmed.*)

Functions of General Counsel Office

Mrs. Hightower advised that she would be meeting with the Superintendent and Mrs. Waters to discuss the possibility of filling the vacant Legal Assistant/Paralegal/Agency Clerk position in the General Counsel’s Office.

2009-2010 Tentative Millage and Tentative Budget

Most of the discussion during this segment of the 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. It was noted that the Board would have until September to finalize the 2009-2010 budget.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

-None

X. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Hightower called for public hearing,

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair