

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
 ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 23, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Meeting at 3:00 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 (*was not present*)

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/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mrs. Moultrie, to adopt the agenda, carried unanimously.

II. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED 2009-2010 TENTATIVE MILLAGE AND TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES

(NOTE: *General discussion amongst Board Members and staff took place throughout the meeting. Issues regarding the 2009-2010 budget were previously discussed at the July 14, 2009 Special Workshop and July 15, 2009 Regular Workshop.*)

Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, reviewed various budget materials (Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit “A”) that outlined the proposed 2009-2010 tentative millage and tentative budget.

The following information regarding proposed millage rates was provided in the backup materials:

PROPOSED DISTRICT MILLAGE LEVIES	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>Proposed Change</u>
<i>Required Local Effort</i>	5.286	5.612	0.326
<i>Discretionary-Operating (1)</i>	0.748	0.748	0.000
<i>Discretionary-Critical Operating Needs</i>	<u>0.000</u>	<u>0.250</u>	<u>0.250</u>
<i>Total</i>	6.034	6.610	0.576
<i>Discretionary Local Capital Improvement</i>	<u>1.686</u>	<u>1.250</u>	<u>(0.436)</u>
<i>Grand Total</i>	7.720	7.860	0.140
	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>Change</u>
<i>Certified Tax Roll</i>	\$16,527,091,842	\$15,933,387,476*	(\$593,704,366)

*2009-2010 Tax Roll as certified by Property Appraiser
 (1) Effective for FY 2009-2010 the Discretionary Basic and Discretionary Supplemental Millages were combined.

Mrs. Shaud noted that the proposed 2009-2010 budget did not include any tax increase. She clarified that 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 his opposition to increasing the total millage rate for 2009-2010 over that which was levied in 2008-2009. He believed that keeping the millage rate stable at the 2008-2009 level of 7.720 mills was the “fiscally-prudent thing to do for struggling local taxpayers” during the current economic recession. He noted that the monetary difference between levying 7.786 mills (as proposed) and 7.720 mills (2008-2009 rate) was approximately \$2.2 million, which he believed the District could make-up for by utilizing one of the following three options:

Option 1: Use the \$2 million in State compression funding (not yet budgeted) received from the 0.250 mills levied for Discretionary – Critical Operating Needs and \$200,000 from Molino School sale proceeds, to get to \$2.2 million; or

Option 2: Do an expedited reallocation of the 2003-2007 Half-Cent Sales Tax Fund carryover (projected to be more than \$23 million), to identify qualifying projects that will alleviate a minimum of \$2.2 million from the Capital Budget; or

Option 3: Pull \$2.2 million from the approximate \$4.6 million in proceeds from the sale of three excess school properties: Wedgewood Middle, Brownsville Middle, and the Molino School.

Mr. Bergosh noted that the Board would have until September 15, 2009 to finalize the 2009-2010 budget. In the meantime, he asked his fellow Board Members to carefully consider the options he had presented and any other viable alternatives to raising the millage rates for 2009-2010.

III. PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE 2009-2010 TENTATIVE MILLAGE AND TENTATIVE BUDGET

Motion by Mr. Bergosh, seconded by Mrs. Moultrie, to advertise the 2009-2010 tentative millage and tentative budget, carried unanimously.

IV. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

(Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit “B”)

1. Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County Core Contract Renewal Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Motion by Mr. Bergosh, seconded by Mr. Slayton, to approve *Item IV.1*, carried unanimously.

2. Title I, Part A: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged 2009-2010 Project Application

Motion by Mr. Boone, seconded by Mr. Slayton, to approve *Item IV.2*, carried unanimously.

3. Title I Part D, Subpart 2: Local Neglected & Delinquent Program (Local N & D) & (ARRA) 2009-2010 Project Application

Motion by Mrs. Moultrie, seconded by Mr. Slayton, to approve *Item IV.3*, carried unanimously.

4. Contract between Workforce Escarosa, Inc. and the School Board of Escambia County Florida for Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) WIA 2009-2010-01

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Bergosh, to approve *Item IV.4*, carried unanimously.

V. HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

(Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit "C")

1. Amend the following page in the 2009-2010 Department Personnel Planning Document:
Page 26 – Payroll & Benefits Accounting (4209)

Motion was made by Mrs. Moultrie and seconded by Mr. Slayton, to approve *Item V.1*. In response to questions posed by several Board Members, the Superintendent explained that it was originally believed that the hours for one of the Payroll Specialist positions could be reduced from 40 hours per week to 30 hours per week. However, it was later determined that due to the workload of the Payroll Department, the reduction in hours was not feasible; and therefore, it was his recommendation for that position to resume a 40 hours per week schedule. Motion was approved unanimously.

VI. PURCHASING

(Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit "D")

1. K12 Virtual School Program Curriculum and Materials Agreement

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Bergosh, to approve *Item VI.1*, carried unanimously.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Hightower called for public forum; however, there were no speakers.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair