

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JUNE 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 (was not present)

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on May 23, 2009 - Legal No. 1403879 IT

[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.

Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Brokerage Agreement Amendment
Item V.C.3.a, June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Mr. Kevin Windham, Director of Risk Management, clarified that this item was a request to amend the brokerage agreement with Arthur J. Gallagher, Inc. dated July 1, 2002 whereby, for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the brokerage fee would be paid for out of minimum commission as opposed to being directly paid by the District. This would result in a cost savings to the District of \$72,500.00 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Charter Schools Quarterly Report

(Representatives from the following charter schools were in attendance at this meeting: Byrneville Elementary School, Beulah Academy of Science, Ruby J. Gainer School for Reaching Your Dream, Escambia Charter School, Capstone Academy, Pensacola Beach Elementary School, and Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy.) Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, had provided the Board with a copy of the quarterly report (June 2009) on charter schools prior to this meeting. Mr. Tom Harrell was introduced as the new principal of Capstone Academy. Mr. Michael Finney, chairman of the Board of Directors for the Ruby J. Gainer Charter School, reported that the school's Board of Directors had made the difficult decision to close the school due to low student enrollment and imminent legislative budget cuts.

Budget Resolution No. 2009-05
Item V.B.9, June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Services, explained that Budget Resolution No. 2009-05 would provide that \$2 million of

Instructional Materials categorical funding to be used to maintain academic instruction for the 2009-2010 school year. The adoption of this budget resolution was required to exercise the flexibility to use categorical funds for regular operating purposes. [NOTE: The \$2 million would be transferred out of the Instructional Materials-Textbook (Basic, K-12) account into the Reserve for Contingencies (Unrestricted Reserve) account.]

2009-2010 Budget

The Board agreed to schedule a Special Workshop (re: 2009-2010 budget) for July 14, 2009, at 3:00 p.m., in Conference Room B, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building.

Custodial Zone Sub-Contracting – Zone 3

Item V.D.37, June 16, 1009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, clarified that the District was asking to continue on a month-to-month basis with Southern Management simply to maintain some flexibility while the District continued to explore various options for the best and most economical solution for custodial services. Those options included the possibility of bringing all custodial services back in-house, the privatization of custodial services in specific segments of the District, or privatization for the District entirely.

Unauthorized Purchase for Annual Support for School Inspection Database

Item V.D.29, June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Description of Purchase: *Request authorization to issue Purchase Order and payment for the annual support of school inspection database. Effective Dates: January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.*
Amount of Purchase: *\$4,000.00*

In accordance with School Board Rule 6Gx17-5.02(3) – Purchasing and Business Services Department-Board Designated Authority, this expenditure was being reported as an “unauthorized” purchase. According to Mr. Steve Sharp, Division Chief-Protection Services, the “unauthorized” purchase was caused by the misplacement of an invoice.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

-None

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Item III.B.3, June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Chapter 3, School Operating Procedures, Rules and Procedures of the District School Board [specifically, Section 3.07(12) – Student Accident Insurance]

Discussion for this item focused on the proposed amendment to Section 3.07(12)(c):

3.07 SAFETY 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.

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.

Mr. Kevin Windham, Director of Risk Management, explained the basis for a “mandatory” versus a “voluntary” student athletic accidental insurance coverage plan. He cited various problems with the current “voluntary” plan, such as:

-Certification given by the parent at a given point in time does not verify coverage for the entire school year as medical insurance coverage could be lost due to non-payment of premiums, loss of employment, etc.

-Principals, athletic directors or coaches have no way of “verifying” that the minimum level of coverage exists at the time the student is participating in athletics;

-School or District staff cannot be required, due to lack of time, to constantly verify insurance coverage for each day of the school year that a student competes in athletics;

-Parents who are the least able to afford the insurance coverage that represents the sport with the highest number of uninsured (football) pay at least \$54 for insurance coverage;

-Parents currently with no insurance are required to pay a separate premium for other sports (\$20 for soccer, \$9.50 for all other sports).

Mr. Windham believed that those problems and others could be solved by moving to a “mandatory” plan. He also noted that moving to “mandatory” insurance coverage would allow the District to obtain better coverage through a “blanket plan” at a more affordable pricing structure than the current \$54 for football, \$20 for soccer and \$9.50 for all other sports. In fact, staff had already identified at least one insurance policy with an affordable assessment of \$6 for all middle school athletes and \$12 for all high school athletes, regardless of the sport or number of sports the student athlete participates in during a school year.

Each of the current high school Athletic Directors expressed their support of a “mandatory” insurance coverage plan, as long as the District was able to secure an affordable insurance policy that would cost parents only around \$12 and \$15 per student, per year, regardless of the sport or number of sports that the student athlete chose to participate in during a school year.

It was noted that this item was a request simply to advertise the proposed policy amendment; if approved for advertisement, staff would then continue to look the most economical insurance policy and then present that policy for approval at the same time that the proposed policy amendment was presented for adoption.

Mr. Bergosh had significant concerns about the proposed policy that would require all students who participate in athletics to purchase accident insurance from a School District approved carrier. While he supported the idea of every student athlete having adequate insurance coverage, he disagreed on principle, with having a “blanket” policy that would essentially force those parents who already had their own private or military insurance to purchase additional insurance from the District if their child wanted to participate in athletics. He stated that he might be willing to support the proposed amendment if it included a waiver that would exempt parents who have a non-cancellable health insurance policy (retired military, civil service, federal and state employees, etc.) from having to purchase additional insurance from a School District approved carrier.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 5:00 p.m. and reconvened at 5:15 p.m., with Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Boone, Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Moultrie, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters present. Mr. Slayton was not present.

Item III.B.1, June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

The School Board will by Resolution on July 21, 2009, at its regularly scheduled Board Meeting name Booker T. Washington High School’s auditorium the “Theodore B.D. Bennett Auditorium” as approved by the Booker T. Washington High School Advisory Council Selection Committee at its May 7, 2009 meeting.

It was noted that a copy of the resolution would need to be provided as backup documentation for this item.

For the following items (appearing on the June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda), staff responded to general questions posed by the Board. No changes were requested by any of the Board Members other than the correction of minor typographical, grammatical, or formatting errors.

Item III.B.2, Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Chapter 5, Business Services, Rules and Procedures of the District School Board [specifically, Section 5.12 – Jessica Lunsford Act]

Item III.B.4, Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to School District Rule 6Gx17-7.02, Code of Conduct: Elementary Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook Revisions 2009-2010

Item III.B.5, 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

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

Contract between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Village Architects Incorporated
Item V.A.31, June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Steve Marcanio, Director of Middle School Education, advised that this was a new contract for a new discipline initiative based on restorative justice practices which would be implemented in selected middle schools during the 2009-2010 school year. Village Architects Incorporated would provide coordinator, training, and technical assistance services to the School District for a Restorative Justice alternative to out-of-school suspensions.

B. Finance

Budget Resolution No. 2009-05
Item V.B.9, June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

This “Finance” item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

C. Human Resource Services

Item V.C.3.a, June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda
Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Brokerage Agreement Amendment

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

D. Purchasing

The following “Purchasing” items (appearing on the June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda) were addressed earlier in this meeting:

Item V.D.29, Unauthorized Purchase for Annual Support for School Inspection Database

Item V.D.37, Custodial Zone Sub-Contracting – Zone 3

E. Operations

Item V.E.2.A.1, June 16, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda

Interlocal Agreement between the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County, Florida and the Escambia County School Board to Provide Pet Sheltering Facilities and Services during Emergencies

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, reported that Molino Park Elementary School's Physical Education building had been identified to serve as Escambia County's first emergency pet shelter in conjunction with the public shelter also located at that facility.

F. Student Transfers

No discussion was held.

G. Internal Auditing

3. Inventory Adjustment Reports

a. Inventory for fifteen (15) cost centers

Mr. David Bryant, Director of Internal Auditing, responded to general questions posed by Mr. Bergosh regarding the inventory adjustment report prepared for the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) department.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

No discussion was held.

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

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Salary Adjustments

Mrs. Hightower wanted an "accounting" of the salary adjustments (pay grade and/or pay step adjustments) that had been made due to recent changes in job descriptions and as a result of the re-hiring of several retirees. She questioned whether the District had saved any money as a result of the recent changes.

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

It was decided that this issue would be addressed during the “open discussion” portion of the July 15, 2009 Regular Workshop.

Strategic Planning Process

The Board agreed to schedule a Special Meeting (re: Strategic Planning Process) for June 30, 2009, at 11:00 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.

Special Retirement Incentive

At the request of Mrs. Hightower, Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, stated that he would provide Board Members with the number of employees who had elected to participate in the “Special Retirement Incentive” and an analysis of the District’s cost savings achieved from offering this special incentive.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

-None

X. PUBLIC FORUM

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair