

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JANAUARY 27, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the Escambia County Board of Commissioners convened in Joint Meeting at 10:00 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

School Board of Escambia County

Patricia Hightower, Chair, District IV
Gerald Boone, Vice Chair, District II
Jeff Bergosh, District I
Linda Moultrie, District III
Bill Slayton, District V
Malcolm Thomas, Superintendent of Schools
Donna Waters, School Board General Counsel

Escambia County Board of Commissioners

Marie K. Young, Chair, District III
Grover C. Robinson, Vice Chair, District IV
Wilson B. Robertson, District I
Gene M. Valentino, District II
Kevin W. White, District V
Robert R. McLaughlin, County Administrator
Alison Rogers, County Attorney

Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on January 24, 2009 – Legal No. 1380546 1T

Mrs. Hightower called the Joint Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, ECSD, gave the invocation and Commissioner Robinson, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

1. Opening Remarks – Chairman, Patricia Hightower
2. Opening Remarks – Chairman, Marie Young
3. County's Participation with Capital Improvement Funding for the Pinestead Longleaf Corridor Project and School Access Needs in the Pine Forest School Area in Exchange for Molino and Wedgewood Schools and Property – Jim Waite, Project Manager, Baskerville-Donovan, Inc.

Mr. Randy Lane, Baskerville-Donovan, Inc., Project Manager, and Mr. Larry Newsom, Director of Transportation, BCC, gave a brief presentation regarding the County's Participation with Capital Improvement Funding for the Pinestead (*Road*)-Longleaf (*Drive*) Corridor Project and School Access Needs in the Pine Forest School Area in Exchange for Molino and Wedgewood Schools and Property. Discussion occurred regarding an aerial (*handout provided*) of the proposed Pinestead Road-Longleaf Drive corridor, which included a service road parallel to Longleaf Drive. The Superintendent stated that in his opinion the proposal, as presented, was seriously flawed. County Administrator McLaughlin advised that the plan was purely a conceptual proposal to improve access to the schools, and that all options would be considered. Commissioner Robertson suggested that the County not proceed any further with this project until such time as a committee, consisting of BCC and ECSD staff, was established to determine the impact on the four schools (*Longleaf Elementary, Pine Forest High, West Florida High, and George Stone Center*). It was noted that Ms. Joy D. Blackmon, Bureau Chief, Public Works Bureau, would be the contact person for the County, and Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, would be the contact person for the ECSD.

4. Direction to Staffs to Develop a Master Plan for “Safe Walk to School” to Meet the Requirements of Chapter 1006.23, Florida Statutes, Hazardous Walking Conditions – Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, ECDSB / Larry Newsom, Director of Transportation, ECBC

Mr. Larry Newsom, Director of Transportation, BCC, and Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, ECSD, gave a brief presentation regarding a Master Plan for “Safe Walk to School” to Meet the Requirements of Chapter 1006.23, Florida Statutes, Hazardous Walking Conditions. Mr. Newsome advised that a Master Plan would be developed and, as funds became available, sidewalks could be constructed or roadway shoulders improved, to encourage walking and shared or recreational paths could be developed to enable children to ride their bicycles to school. Mr. Dennis advised that GIS (*Geographic Information Software*) mapping had given the ECSD the ability to pinpoint the location of students, as well as identify which students walk to school and the routes they take. Commissioner Robinson requested that staff ensure inclusion of the Olive Road sidewalk project, which was on the TPO (*Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization*) agenda. In response to comments from Commissioner Robinson regarding the need for sidewalks on Olive Road, Mr. Newsom advised that the required corridor study was underway for improvements to Olive Road, from Old Palafox Highway to Scenic Highway, which included sidewalks, bike lanes, and access management.

5. Direct Staff to Look at Consolidation of Functions

Discussion took place regarding possible consolidation of the following functions:

- Escambia County Area Transportation (Transit [ECAT]) and School Bus Transportation
 - Fleet Maintenance
 - Employee Health Insurance
 - Purchasing
 - Information Technology
 - Human Resources
- District Town Hall Meetings – School Board and County

Mrs. Hightower advised that she had spoken with the Superintendent and County Administrator McLaughlin concerning the possibility of consolidating ECAT and school bus transportation. The Superintendent stated that the ECSD was willing to study the feasibility of consolidating transportation and other functions; however, the ECSD had a number of compliance issues that would have to be considered. County Administrator McLaughlin advised that it might be possible to combine the County, ECAT, and the Sheriff maintenance facilities. Mrs. Moultrie suggested that a representative of the Sheriff’s Office be included in the establishment of a task force to consider the consolidation of functions. Following comments from Commissioner Robinson concerning a joint Town Hall Meeting with the District IV School Board Member (*Mrs. Hightower*), Mrs. Moultrie advised that she too, supported the concept of joint Town Hall Meetings, and looked forward to meetings with Commissioner Young in District III. Ms. Amy Lovoy, Bureau Chief, Management and Budget Services Bureau, addressed the possibility of consolidating employee health insurance, noting that a large pool of participants could result in reduced costs. Commissioner Valentino requested that the respective heads of budget and finance be directed to convene their own committee, with the Superintendent and County Administrator McLaughlin, to address the functional elements of consolidation. It was noted that this issue could be discussed again at the next Joint Meeting of the BCC and the School Board. Mr. Bergosh requested that the Pensacola City Council also be included in the next Joint Meeting.

6. Non-Agenda Issues

Discussion occurred regarding the County's possible acquisition of the old Molino Elementary School property and the Wedgewood Middle School property. The Superintendent advised that the ECSD was prepared to sell the properties because of the need for capital funds with which to build additional school facilities. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, ECSD, advised that the target price for the old Molino Elementary School property was \$400,000. Commissioner Young suggested that BCC and ECSD staff meet together to review both properties (*old Molino Elementary School and Wedgewood Middle School*). Commissioner White requested that BCC staff provide a recommendation for the second Regular BCC Board Meeting in February (*February 19, 2009*) or the first Regular BCC Board Meeting in March (*March 5, 2009*).

Public Forum

Barbara Mayall addressed the School Board and the Board of County Commissioners concerning the proposed Pinestead Road-Longleaf Drive Corridor Project.

7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the Joint Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair