

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 12, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop 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

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on January 31, 2009 – Legal No. 1381950 1T

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

Update on the Development of a Facility Naming Protocol

(NOTE: *This issue was previously addressed at the January 15, 2009 Special Workshop. See: Review of School Board Policy 6Gx17-3.11 – Selection of School Names.*) Mr. Norm Ross, Deputy Superintendent, advised that the protocol for naming a School District facility had been developed and would be presented to the Board as an informational item in March.

Update on Superintendent's Task Forces

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, gave a brief update on the Superintendent's Task Forces.

- School Start Time Realignment Task Force
*Mission: Revisit school start and end time schedules and look for improvement opportunities.
Recommendation(s) to be available mid-to-late March.*
- Closure & Consolidation Long Range Plan Development Task Force
*Mission: To develop a system that defines the parameters by which a school is evaluated for closure and consolidation; and ensure a viable long range Closure & Consolidation plan.
Recommendation(s) to be available mid-to-late March.*

School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee (SAZAC)

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, advised that by mid-March, SAZAC would most likely have a final recommendation for a Westside-elementary school closure.

Selection of Superintendent's Appointee - Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

Mr. Bergosh and Mrs. Moultrie each offered to serve, for half-of-a-term, as the Superintendent's appointee to the Early Learning Coalition Board.

Citizens Education Academy

Mrs. Moultrie asked that at some point in the future, the Superintendent consider the establishment of a Citizens' Education Academy to give interested citizens an opportunity to learn more about the operations of the School District and the roles of the Superintendent and the School Board.

(Old) Molino Elementary School Property

(NOTE: *This issue was previously addressed at the January 27, 2009 Joint Meeting between the School Board and the Escambia County Board of Commissioners.*) The Superintendent advised that the contract for the sale of the old Molino Elementary School property (*to the County*) would probably be presented at the March Regular Meeting.

Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT) Revisions - Mathematics

At the request of Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent offered to have Ms. Shelia Montgomery, Mathematics Specialist, provide an update at the March 12, 2009 Special Workshop, regarding changes to FCAT Mathematics.

Public Records Request – Joel Chandler

(NOTE: *This item refers to a records request, made by Mr. Joel Chandler of Polk County, to all Florida school districts, for the personal identifying information (names, addresses, gender, age, job title, and telephone numbers) of all employees and dependents covered under each school district's health insurance policy. There was concern that the release of such information may violate federal law, specifically the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which restricts the disclosure of Protected Health Information (PHI) by covered entities. Because of that concern, Mrs. Waters recommended and the Board approved a motion (at the January 27, 2009 Special Meeting) to seek a declaratory judgment from the court on the question of whether or not the information that Mr. Chandler had requested, was in fact, projected under HIPAA.*) Mrs. Hightower advised that the request for a declaratory judgment had been delayed because she had questions for Mrs. Waters regarding the way in which the request was structured. Mrs. Hightower stated that her questions had been addressed and Mrs. Waters could now proceed with submitting the request.

III. PRESENTATIONS

1. Unite Escambia (*Time Certain – 3:30 p.m.*)

A brief presentation was given regarding Unite Escambia (*formerly known as the Escambia Community Collaborative*), a community-wide partnership working for improvement of the community's physical, mental, economic, environmental and social health.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Ms. Ellen Lawrence, representing the Escambia Education Association (EEA), addressed the Board regarding the following items: the "Make Our Schools a Priority" initiative; upcoming education rallies; the "Penny per Pupil" campaign; and the "Letters to Legislators" campaign.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair