

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Meeting at 8:00 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive, 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 Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Bergosh, to adopt the agenda, was approved unanimously.

II. 2009-2010 BUDGET

*(NOTE: General discussion amongst Board Members and staff took place throughout the meeting.)*

Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, reviewed the following information:

School District of Escambia County  
Analysis of Projected Fund Balance  
FY 08/09

[HANDOUT]

	June 30, 2008	June 30, 2009	Decrease
Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$ 10,831,323.83	\$ 9,624,800.00	\$ (1,206,526.83)
Local Unencumbered Carryovers	13,994,978.54	7,323,218.00	(6,671,760.54)
Total	\$ 24,826,302.37	\$ 16,948,018.00	\$ (7,878,284.37)
Percentage of General Fund Revenue	7.89%	5.85%	-2.04%

School District of Escambia County  
Analysis of Projected Fund Balance  
FY 08/09

[HANDOUT]

	June 30, 2008	June 30, 2009 with 2% reduction	Decrease from 2008
Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$ 10,831,323.83	\$ 4,592,306.00	\$ (6,239,017.83)
Local Unencumbered Carryovers	13,994,978.54	7,323,218.00	(6,671,760.54)
Total	\$ 24,826,302.37	\$ 11,915,524.00	\$ (12,910,778.37)
Percentage of General Fund Revenue	7.89%	4.19%	-3.70%

It was noted that additional information on the budget would be provided to the Board as it became available.

The Superintendent noted that when dealing with the budget situation, the School District would always consider the following three objectives: (1) ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely (“best value for the dollar”); (2) protecting the services provided to students; and (3) protecting, as much as possible, the employment of those who provide the services of the School District. *“We have to prepare for the worst and hope for the best. We’re going to survive this year because of that strong fund balance – in order to survive next year, we need to get that strong fund balance again.”*

It was noted that the Florida Legislature was considering a measure that would empower School Board Members to voluntarily cut their own salaries. *(Traditionally, School Board salaries are set by the State, based on student enrollment in each of Florida’s 67 county-wide districts.)* If the measure was approved, Mr. Bergosh believed that the School Board would “lead the way” with a substantial wage concession that would essentially put their pay on level with a beginning teacher’s salary.

2009-2010 Proposed Staffing Allocation Table

*(See: Item V.A.8, February 17, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda)*

Discussion took place regarding the proposed Staffing Allocation Table for 2009-2010. Board Members were advised that slight increases to class size were being proposed in order to realize a savings of approximately \$2.5-\$3 million. Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, noted that the School District had been progressively reducing its class sizes in order to adhere to the 2010-2011 deadline for full implementation of the Class Size (*Reduction*) Amendment; however, with the grim budget projections, these slight increases had become necessary in order to realize a substantial cost savings.

Mrs. Hightower referred to a caveat outlined in the backup documentation which stated *“Deviations from this allocation table may result from Class Size Reduction requirements, other statutory requirements, staffing needs, scarcity allocations, requirements imposed by school grades or other academic circumstances that may require special consideration.”* She noted that in the past, the Board had not been notified of any changes made to the Staffing Allocation Table after its initial approval by the Board. At the request of Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent stated that he would notify the Board Members as to any changes made to the Staffing Allocation Table after its initial approval.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair