

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Workshop Meeting at 9:00 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 Regular Workshop to order at 9:05 a.m.

A. Open Discussion

The following issues were briefly addressed during *Open Discussion*:

- Superintendent's Request for Executive Session (Re: Collaborative Bargaining)
An Executive Session (Re: Collaborative Bargaining) was scheduled for February 17, 2009, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 130, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.
- Vacancy-Legal Assistant/Paralegal/Agency Clerk Position (General Counsel's Office)
It was noted that the Legal Assistant/Paralegal/Agency Clerk position in the General Counsel's Office was recently vacated and the Superintendent had decided that the position would remain vacant under the current hiring freeze. It was also noted that Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs, would assist the General Counsel by performing many of the tasks associated with the Legal Assistant position.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the additions, deletions, amendments and/or corrections to the February 17, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

No discussion was held.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Curriculum and Instruction
2. K-12 Access Control

Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, advised that she had received notification from the Florida Department of Education that the School District's K-12 Access Control grant application

had been approved. Mr. Steve Sharp, Division Chief, advised that the grant funds would be utilized to enhance access control at various schools within the School District by installing devices such as electronic locks, doors, and security turnstiles. He noted that by strengthening access control at the schools, the staff would be better able to control individuals attempting to enter school buildings, including individuals who may attempt to circumvent the current check-in policy. Mrs. Hightower understood concerns about school safety, however, she did not want “people thinking that their school is a prison” whereby the School District was trying to “keep people in, as well as keep people out.” Mr. Slayton requested that the Board be notified once it was determined which schools would receive access control enhancements as a result of this project.

3. Communications Equipment/Technology

Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, advised that she had received notification from the Florida Department of Education that the School District’s Communications Equipment/Technology grant application had been approved.

4. University of Phoenix School Affiliation Agreement with the School Board of Escambia County, Florida

(NOTE: *This item was previously addressed at the December 12, 2008 Regular Workshop.*)
Mr. Slayton commented that his concern with this agreement had to do with the School District working with an entity (*University of Phoenix*) that was in the business of making money rather than in the business of providing a quality education.

7. The School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Prometric Inc. Facility Availability/Regional Test Center Agreement

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boone, Mr. Carl Leiterman, Director of Workforce Education, confirmed that the \$300.00 fee (*per test day*) received from Prometric would cover the cost of equipment and supplies (*outlined in Attachment “A”*) that the School District’s George Stone Technical Center would be required to provide for each testing session.

8. 2009-2010 Proposed Staffing Allocation Table

(NOTE: *This item was previously addressed at the February 12, 2009 Special Workshop.*)
General discussion took place with regard to various issues related to the allocation of staff; however, there were no specific concerns as to the staffing allocation table as presented. The Superintendent noted for the record, that the proposed staffing allocation table contained changes to teaching units only and that no changes had been made to non-teaching units at that time. He noted that as the budget process continued, it might become necessary to adjust the allocation of non-teaching units; however, those adjustments would be determined by the leadership team at the school-level rather than at the District-level.

B. Finance

No discussion was held.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

g. Special Requests

6. Adoption of proposed 2009-2010 student calendar.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, clarified that the designation of paid holidays was outlined in the Master Contract.

D. Purchasing

12. Bid Award: A. V. Clubbs Middle School HVAC Renovations, Classrooms

Mr. Slayton commented that he would like for the Superintendent to consider relocating the A.V. Clubbs Middle School program to a different facility, as the current facility was beginning to “show its age” and should probably be closed rather than extensively renovated.

14. Architectural/Engineering Services: New Downtown Elementary School

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, responded to concerns from several Board Members regarding the extensive site work that would be done to alleviate any concerns regarding issues associated with the property designated for the new downtown elementary school. He advised that a brief presentation would be made at the March 12, 2009 Special Workshop regarding the development of the new downtown elementary school.

15. Architectural/Engineering Services: Ferry Pass Middle School New Gymnasium

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boone, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, confirmed that the prototype used for the gymnasium at Warrington Middle would also be used for the new gymnasium at Ferry Pass Middle.

E. Operations

1. Facilities Planning

B. Miscellaneous

1. Jim Bailey Middle School

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, confirmed that the revised Half-Cent Sales Tax Project for Jim Bailey Middle School (*outlined in the backup documentation*) had been endorsed by the Half-Cent Sales Tax Watchdog Committee.

F. Student Transfers

No discussion was held.

G. Internal Auditing

Mr. Bergosh took issue with many of the letters that had been submitted by various schools in response to audit findings; he noted that the letters were poorly constructed and were somewhat aloof and disrespectful in tone. The Superintendent assured the Board that this issue was being addressed with school administrators. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, Mr. David Bryant, Director of Internal Auditing, confirmed that he had received no response from the Transportation Department regarding the missing items listed on their inventory report. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, stated that he was in the process of determining why the response from Transportation was not received by Internal Auditing.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS
A. Items from the Board
-No items submitted

B. Items from the Superintendent
1. Student Recommendations

With support from Board Members, the Superintendent stated that he would establish a committee that would be tasked with creating a reinstatement process whereby an expelled student* could potentially earn readmission into regular public school by adhering to the conditions of a rehabilitation plan (*with standards related to grades, attendance, behavior, etc.*).

**A student expelled for reason(s) other than those defined as a "zero-tolerance" offense.*

4. Recommend that employee #45020-4108-121 be suspended without pay for five (5) working days beginning Wednesday, February 18, 2009, based on misconduct as more specifically identified in the notice letter to employee.

Mr. Bergosh did not believe that the punishment recommended for this particular employee was severe enough based on the infraction (*falsifying timesheets which had resulted in the misappropriation of thousand of dollars in School District funds*). Although he was aware of the concept of "progressive discipline" as outlined in the Master Contract, Mr. Bergosh still believed that this particular employee should have been terminated immediately, rather than given what he considered to be essentially a "five-day vacation" (*leave without pay*).

C. Items from the General Counsel
-No items submitted

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS
-No items submitted

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair