

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

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

Vice Chair: Mr. Gerald Boone (*served as Chair in Mrs. Patricia Hightower's absence*)

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 August 19, 2009 - Legal No. 1419324

[General discussion took place among Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff throughout this meeting.]

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Boone called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

Request to Rename Gymnasium at Pine Forest High School

Mr. Bergosh submitted to the Superintendent, a request made by the principal and School Advisory Council at Pine Forest High School, to rename their gymnasium in honor of Coach Ann C. Suarez.

Discretionary Capital Outlay Millage

(Handouts provided to Board Members)

Mr. Bergosh reiterated comments he had made at previous meetings regarding his opposition to increasing the total millage rate for 2009-2010 over that which was levied in 2008-2009 (*see minutes: July 14, 2009 Special Workshop, July 15, 2009 Regular Workshop, July 23, 2009 Special Meeting, July 30, 2009 Special Meeting, September 10, 2009 Special Workshop*). He encouraged the other Board Members to consider reducing the Capital Improvement portion of the local millage to 1.110 mills (instead of 1.250 mills), such that the total millage (State & local combined) levied for 2009-2010, would remain at the 2008-2009 level of 7.72 mills. He asked the other Board Members keep in mind these two facts when considering his proposal: (1) the District had historically levied the maximum millage allowed for capital improvement taxes (with the exception of last year); and (2) the District was one of only sixteen (16) school districts in the State of Florida (total of 67 school districts statewide) that levies the ½ cent sales tax. (NOTE: The ½ cent sales tax provides an avenue for local school districts to receive additional revenue from taxpayers to fund capital outlay projects.)

School Board Members' Salary Reduction

Mr. Bergosh initiated discussion about recent State legislation which sought to reduce Board Member compensation (statewide) to no more than that of a beginning teacher. He noted that the District currently had three instructional salary schedules (10-month, 11-month, 12-month) and questioned the other Board Members as to which schedule should be followed for calculating their compensation. Board Members

agreed to take the same salary as a beginning teacher (with a baccalaureate degree) on the 10-month salary schedule.

Impact on School District of Zoo Closing – Bill Slayton

Mr. Slayton initiated discussion on how the recent closure of the Zoo of Northwest Florida would affect student field trips.

Self-Serve Lunches – Bill Slayton

Mr. Slayton initiated discussion about parental concerns with the safety of self-serve lunch lines, particularly those at elementary schools, in light of the H1N1 flu (Swine flu) pandemic.

Custodial Supervision Plan

(Handout provided to Board Members)

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, presented the District's plan for improving custodial operations by shifting certain supervisory responsibilities back to the principal/site administrator.

RFP Process/Priorities

Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, advised that the District was currently writing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the outsourcing of custodial services. Upon completion of the RFP for custodial services, the District would then begin writing RFP's for transportation and foodservice operations.

Update on Move to New District Administrative Offices (former Gulf Power Building)

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, displayed the initial architectural drawings of the new District administrative offices (renovations to the former Gulf Power building). He noted that completion of the Information Technology (IT) infrastructure was tentatively scheduled for March 2010 and relocation of all District administrative offices would most likely occur between March 2010 and November 2010.

School Board Policy Revision Process

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, reviewed the District's proposal for a policy revision process that would expand upon the existing process to include a content reduction and consolidation component.

10 Day Count Enrollment Update

Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, reported that the 10 day count had shown that District enrollment was at approximately 40,000 students. While the District's enrollment was down about 500 students from last year, Mr. Fetsko noted that it was still less of a decrease than what had been projected.

Cox Cable Digital Channel 98

Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, announced that the District would be sharing airtime on Cox digital channel 98 with the County, the Sheriff's Office, and the City of Pensacola. He advised that the District was still in the early planning stages of this project but programming would eventually include the showcasing of school programs, highlights of school events, relaying of important information, etc.

III. PRESENTATIONS

-None

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Boone called for public forum; however, there were no speakers.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair