

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

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

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 Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the September 15, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda since it was initially published.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

*Item III.B.1, September 15, 2009 Regular Meeting Agenda*

Notice of Intent to Advertise Revisions and Amendments to the District School Board Progression Plan, 6Gx17-7.09

The following error was discovered on page 50 of the backup documentation for this item:

Under the section Course Credit, subsection Semester Credit, the following text should not have been underlined: *A student who misses more than five (5) days during a semester must demonstrate mastery in one of the following methods to be eligible to earn credit:*

It was noted that this error would need to be corrected prior to this item being presented for adoption.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

9. Title II-A Higher Education Agency Partnerships Florida Teacher Quality Grants Program
12. Title II-A Higher Education Agency Partnerships Florida Teacher Quality Grants Program sub-contract with the University of West Florida

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boone, Mrs. Sandra Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning, confirmed that the effective dates listed for these two items, though very short in duration, were in fact correct.

2. State of Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Statewide Provider Agreement

Mr. Bergosh questioned why Bellview Elementary, one of the District's largest Title I schools, was not included as one of the school attendance areas providing Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) programs. Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, explained that due to limited funding, the District was not able to provide VPK services in every school attendance zone; therefore, VPK services were available only in the highest poverty neighborhoods. She noted however, that a child who lives within any Title I attendance zone, would be eligible for service at any pre-k center that was established, provided that there is an available slot (no transportation provided by District).

5. Learning for Life Character Education Program Grant 2009-2010

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, Mrs. Sandra Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning, clarified that all elementary and middle schools (including charter schools) had been offered the opportunity to participate in the Learning for Life Character Education Program; the schools listed in the backup documentation were those that actually chose to participate.

17. User Agreement/Contract Summary Pensacola Civic Center and School District of Escambia County, Florida

Mr. Bergosh stated that he was frustrated that the County continued to charge the School District a substantial amount of money each year to hold high school graduation ceremonies at the Civic Center. He intended to support the approval of this item, but stated that he would have liked to have seen a lower price negotiated. The Superintendent noted that the District had attempted to negotiate a lower price; however, \$26,630.88 was the lowest price that the County would offer.

B. Finance

No discussion was held.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

g. Special Requests

7. Amend the following page in the 2009-2010 Department Personnel Planning Document: Page 3 – School Board Attorney (4003)
8. Approval for the following job description: Confidential Legal Assistant/Paralegal

Mr. Slayton reminded the Board of their previous decision to hold the Legal Assistant/Paralegal/Agency Clerk position vacant for 2009-2010. He questioned whether the Board was "being fair to employees" because when the Personnel Planning Document (PPD) was approved, the Board had said that they "could live with it" (referring to the vacant legal assistant position) and yet now, if they approved this position, they would not be "living without it." Mr. Bergosh and Mr. Boone each expressed their support for this position primarily because of the need for an assistant position dedicated only to the General Counsel's office (currently, the Coordinator of Board Affairs was responsible for assisting not only the five School Board Members, but also General Counsel and Internal Auditing.) Mr. Bergosh also pointed out that the salary for this position (Confidential Legal Assistant/Paralegal) was substantially lower than that of the previous position (Legal Assistant/Paralegal/Agency Clerk).

D. Purchasing

11. School Buses for the Transportation Department

Mr. Bergosh questioned whether this purchase of twelve (12) school buses, at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million, was an “absolute necessity” given the District’s current economic situation. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, explained that the bus fleet was on a replacement cycle and that the District tried to maintain the same level of purchase (approximately 10% of the operating fleet) each year in order to keep the replacement cycle going. He noted that for this year, the purchase reflected only one-third of what it normally would have been. He stated that the “absolute necessity” would have been to purchase the entire 10%.

E. Operations

No discussion was held.

F. Student Transfers

No discussion was held.

G. Internal Auditing

-No items submitted

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

No discussion was held.

B. Items from the Superintendent

No discussion was held.

C. Items from the General Counsel

No items submitted.

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Charter School Quarterly Report – 9:30 a.m. Time Certain

NOTE: Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, provided the Board with a quarterly report (September 2009) on charter schools prior to this meeting. Representatives from the following charter schools were in attendance for this meeting: Capstone Academy, Byrneville Elementary, Pensacola Beach Elementary, Escambia Charter, Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy, and Beulah Academy of Science. Board Members had no questions or concerns about the information provided.

**ADD**

2. Paperwork Reduction Findings and Potential Solutions for the School District of Escambia County

Ms. Ursula LaMontagne, Paperwork and Data Collection Teacher Representative, provided a handout to Board Members and the Superintendent that outlined her proposal for a survey, to be

completed by teachers and staff, which could serve as a mechanism for capturing data for next year's paperwork reduction report. Superintendent indicated that the proposed survey would be presented to Executive Staff for the development of an appropriate implementation plan.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair