

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JANUARY 15, 2010

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:

Chair: Mr. Gerald W. Boone Vice Chair: Mr. Jeff Bergosh

Board Members: Mrs. Linda Moultrie  
Mrs. Patricia Hightower  
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 5, 2010 – Legal No. 1443217*

[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 9:03 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the January 19, 2010 Regular Meeting agenda since its initial publication.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Notice of Intent to Adopt School District Rule 6Gx17-3 – School Operating Procedures

Staff responded to various questions posed by Board Members regarding the proposed revisions to School District Rule 6Gx17-3. *There were no revisions requested and no additional information was required.*

Notice of Intent to Advertise to Amend School District Rule 6Gx17-4 – Instruction

Section 4.03, *Textbooks and Supplementary Instructional Materials*

(8): *Principals shall make a reasonable effort to collect from each pupil or pupil's parent the purchase price of any instructional materials the pupil has lost, destroyed, or unnecessarily damaged and to report and transmit such amount so collected to the Superintendent. ~~If such material has been in school use for more than 1 year, a sum ranging from 50 to 75 percent of the purchase price shall be collected as determined by the physical condition of the book.~~ Failure to collect such sum may result in the suspension of the pupil from participation in extra curricular activities or satisfaction of the debt by the pupil through community service at the school site.*

Mrs. Hightower believed that this section of policy should specifically mention graduation ceremonies, as most people reading the policy would not associate a graduation ceremony as an “extra curricular” activity. The Superintendent agreed that this section of the policy should be amended as follows: *Failure to collect such sum may result in the suspension of the pupil from participation in extra*

curricular activities (including graduation ceremony) or satisfaction of the debt by the pupil through community service at the school site.

There was much discussion regarding the significant loss of instructional materials (specifically textbooks) experienced annually throughout the District. Mr. Bergosh asked for the total amount of instructional materials lost or destroyed by students over the past three years, including the percentage of 'lost' textbooks that were the result of a student transferring from one school to another, or from a student withdrawing from Escambia County schools altogether.

Section 4.06, *Educational Media Materials*

(1) *Challenged Materials: Interested citizens may challenge materials being used in a school according to procedures established by the Board and published in the Educational Media Services Handbook.*

Mrs. Moultrie believed that this section of policy should indicate where a citizen would obtain a copy of the Educational Media Services Handbook. The Superintendent agreed that this section of the policy should be amended as follows: *Interested citizens may challenge materials being used in a school according to procedures established by the Board and published in the Educational Media Services Handbook: (a copy is available at each school as well as online at the Media Services website).*

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

3. 2010-2011 Proposed Staffing Allocation Table

Staff members responded to various questions posed by Board Members regarding the development of the 2010-2011 Proposed Staffing Allocation Table. *No additional information was requested/required.*

B. Finance

5. Legal Services:

Risk Management Fund

b) Steven J. Baker, P.A. \$25,951.63

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Waters explained that the \$25,951.63 bill from Steven J. Baker, P.A. was for the various legal expenses for a multiple-day tort trial. Mr. Baker was able to convince a jury that the School District had no liability in the case and thereby saved the School District a substantial amount of money. *No additional information was requested/required.*

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

d. Out-of-Field

5. Other

In response to questions posed by Board Members, Ms. Teenie Wehmeier, Certification Manager, clarified and/or expanded upon several of the explanations provided in the backup documentation regarding out-of-field ESOL teaching assignments. *No additional information was requested/required.*

D. Purchasing

17. Agreement for Consultant Services for the School Board

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent confirmed that the Mixon and Associates consulting firm would in fact, provide customized representation for the Board, the Superintendent, and the School District regarding legislative issues/priorities.

- E. Operations
  - No items discussed
- F. Student Transfers
  - No items discussed

- G. Internal Auditing
  - 1. Inventory Adjustment Reports
    - a. Inventory for seven (7) cost centers

Board Members had concerns with the rather ‘vague’ responses issued by Pensacola High School with regard to missing items from the December 2, 2009 Final Annual Physical Inventory Report. Mr. David Williams, Principal of Pensacola High School, apologized for those inadequate responses and provided copies of more in-depth explanations provided from each of the faculty members who had been assigned the now “missing” property. There was also brief discussion as to whether a principal had the option of requiring restitution from an individual responsible for the missing property. Mrs. Waters indicated that she would research the issue further.

- 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

Mr. Bergosh was concerned that the majority of students (listed under this section) were being recommended for expulsion because of drug-related offenses. Knowing that it was illegal to test every student for drugs, he suggested other pro-active methods for identifying and eliminating drugs on school campuses, such as increasing the services provided by law enforcement canines, and drug-testing students who wished to participate in sports and/or other extra-curricular activities. In addition, he suggested stronger prevention programs to educate students about the dangers of drugs and drug abuse. The Superintendent assured Mr. Bergosh that the District was doing and would continue to do its part to develop and implement various strategies for identifying and eliminating drugs on school campuses.

- 1. Recommend that the order of the formal hearing officer be adopted as the order of the Board in reference to student number 10-37-1251.

Mr. Bergosh had concerns regarding the Superintendent’s recommendation for student number 10-37-1251. He acknowledged that the offense committed by the student was a serious breach of conduct that warranted strong disciplinary action (i.e., suspension), but not expulsion. He noted that this was a 12<sup>th</sup> grade honor student with no prior disciplinary issues. Furthermore, this student implicated herself by voluntarily admitting to the offense and thereby assisting the District with closing out the investigation. He also believed that there were some students in the past who had committed worse offenses yet received less punitive discipline. Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director of High School Education, maintained that the offense committed by this student was an expellable offense. She noted that any other student committing the same offense, regardless of whether they were an honor student and/or had no prior disciplinary issues, would suffer the same consequence as this student.

The Superintendent noted that the Board's hearing officer had heard this particular case and had upheld the recommendation for expulsion.

C. Items from the General Counsel  
-No items submitted

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS  
-No items submitted

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, the Board made the following change to the Schedule of Meetings for February 2010: The time of the February 12, 2010 Regular Workshop would be changed from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and the first order of business would be a discussion regarding budget priorities for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair