

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, DECEMBER 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:

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 November 25, 2009 - Legal No. 1437314

[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

- Update on Focused Curriculum Goals – *topic submitted by the Superintendent*
(Handouts provided to Board Members)

Staff presented an overview of first-quarter discipline data for all grade levels, a status report on Warrington Middle School, and an explanation of the types of information schools could access from Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR).

- STOP Program – *topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh*

Mr. Bergosh referenced a letter in which Circuit Judge Ross Goodman had suggested that the School District implement the School Truancy Operation Program (STOP) to deter the rising trend of truancy cases. The Superintendent advised that staff was currently working on initiatives to address the issue; initiatives that Judge Goodman was obviously not aware of when he wrote the letter.

- Escambia School District's Participation in "Race to the Top" – *topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh*

Mr. Bergosh noted that he had placed this item on the agenda for this meeting before realizing that the Superintendent had submitted it as Item V.A.15, *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – FADSS Race to the Top*, on the December 15, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda. The Superintendent advised that Board Members would be provided amended backup documentation for Item V.A.15 that would update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was initially provided. His recommendation was that the School Board authorize the Board Chair to sign the MOU indicating that if Florida was awarded the "Race to the Top" grant, the School District intended to participate in the program but reserved the right to withdraw its participation if unable to complete the terms of the final grant submitted by the Florida Department of Education. Mr. Bill Vincent, Escambia FEA-Service Unit Director, advised the School Board that the local teachers' union was not comfortable signing an "open-ended" MOU.

- Update on MAP – *topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh*
(*This issue was previously addressed at the October 15, 2009 Special Workshop.*)
Mr. Bergosh questioned whether or not the School District would be participating in the Merit Award Program (MAP) for 2010-2011. The Superintendent advised that the School District was currently bargaining the issue with the local teachers’ union and trying to reach an agreement prior to the January 31, 2010 commitment deadline.
- Scheduling of Master Board Training Session – *topic submitted by Gerald Boone*
Board Members and the Superintendent agreed to schedule their last on-site Florida School Board’s Association (FSBA) Master Board Training session for either February 11, 2010, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., or February 18, 2010, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (*Final date and location was to be determined once availability of the FSBA presenter(s) was confirmed.*)
- Overall Educational Process – *topic submitted by Patty Hightower*
Mrs. Hightower initiated a conversation regarding the educational process as it related to teachers’ frustrations with issues such as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test (FCAT), pressures from increased demands made by the Florida Department of Education, and other changes occurring in the educational system.
- Update on Escambia School District’s Participation in “Census 2010” – *topic submitted by Patty Hightower*
At the request of Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent stated that Ms. Cherie Arnette, Subject Area Specialist-Social Studies, would provide Board Members with a list of activities that were underway to help teachers and students learn about the importance of the upcoming Census.
- High School Schedules for 2010-2011 – *topic submitted by Bill Slayton*
Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent confirmed that it was the School District’s intent to continue with the current block schedule for high schools during the upcoming 2010-2011 school year.

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 5:20 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair