

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, DECEMBER 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:

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 Regular Workshop to order at 9:07 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the December 15, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda since its initial publication.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Notice of Intent to Advertise to Amend School District Rule 6Gx17-3 – School Operating Procedures  
*(Item III.B.1, December 15, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda)*

Staff responded to various questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding the proposed revisions to School District Rule 6Gx17-3. The only revision requested by Mrs. Hightower was under Section 3.13(7)(c): *There will be no student candy sales, school or student food concessions, food sales by or on behalf of school organizations (e.g., PTOAs, Quarterback Clubs), etc., at any time in elementary schools [see School Store, Chapter 6Gx17-3.09(2)] and until one (1) hour following the close of the last lunch period in secondary schools.* [NOTE: The requested revision was simply to change PTOs (Parent Teacher Organizations) to PTAs (Parent Teacher Associations).]

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

3. Establishment of Escambia High School Culinary Arts Academy
4. Establishment of Washington High School Culinary Arts Academy

The Superintendent and Dr. Michelle Taylor, Specialist-Workforce Education, responded to questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding culinary arts academies and career academies in general. *No additional information was requested.*

11. Guiding Youth to Success School of Performing Arts Charter Application Review Recommendation to the School Board of Escambia County, Florida

Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, advised that the District's Charter School Review Panel had recommended to the Superintendent that the charter application submitted by the Guiding Youth to Success School of Performing Arts be denied by the School Board. The review panel determined that overall, the application did not exhibit a complete understanding of the responsibilities entailed in the operation of a charter school. It was recommended to the applicant that they continue to work on the areas of weakness that were identified during the review and then resubmit their application next year. (It was noted that a summary of the application strengths and weaknesses was outlined in the backup documentation.) Ms. Katrina Washington, representative of Guiding Youth to Success School of Performing Arts, addressed the Board regarding the recommendation made by District's Charter School Review Panel. School Board Members echoed the District's Charter School Review Panel in recommending that the applicant continue to work on the areas of weakness and resubmit an application next year. *No additional information was requested.*

12. Escambia Charter School of Excellence Charter Application Review Recommendation to the School Board of Escambia County, Florida

Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, advised that the District's Charter School Review Panel had recommended to the Superintendent that the charter application submitted by the Escambia School of Excellence be approved by the School Board, with the following conditions: (1) The school would have at least one hundred twenty-five students enrolled as of July 1, 2010; and (2) The location of the school would be made known to the District and Board on or before May 1, 2010; and (3) The school's Board of Directors would be named with at least 80% living in Escambia County, Florida, on or before June 1, 2010; and (4) The school would provide the District with its comprehensive transportation plan on or before June 1, 2010. (It was noted that a summary of the application strengths and weaknesses was outlined in the backup documentation.)

15. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – FADSS Race to the Top

*(This item was previously addressed at the December 10, 2009 Special Workshop.)* There was much discussion regarding various aspects of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – FADSS Race to the Top. The Superintendent's recommendation was that the School Board authorize the Board Chair to sign the MOU as well as, a letter of intent 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 Union was currently discussing the issue with their lawyers to determine whether or not they should "sign off" on the MOU along with the Superintendent and possibly the Board Chair if approved by the School Board.

B. Finance

7. Auction Lists I and II for December 2009

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, confirmed that the various musical instruments listed on the auction list for December 2009 were no longer repairable. *No additional information was requested.*

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional  
g. Special Requests

3. Approve adoption of Student Calendars for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years.

Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, responded to general questions posed by Board Members regarding the student calendars for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. *No additional information was requested.*

D. Purchasing

7. Annual Renewal: STARS Suite Software for Middle and High Schools

There was some discussion among Board Members and staff regarding the Starts Suite™ Curriculum in general, but there were no questions or concerns regarding this particular purchase item.

E. Operations

-No items discussed

F. Student Transfers

-No items discussed

G. Internal Auditing

5. Transportation Extra Pay Analysis

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, clarified that this audit was in fact requested by the Transportation Department.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

-No items submitted

B. Items from the Superintendent

-No items discussed

C. Items from the General Counsel

1. Engagement Agreement Letter from Leonard J. Dietzen, Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, P.A.

Mrs. Waters advised that this was an agreement to retain Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, P.A. as counsel on behalf of the School Board as it pertains to specialized issues involving Union negotiations and Labor Law consultations.

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Charter School Quarterly Report (*Time Certain- 9:30 a.m.*)

NOTE: Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, provided the Board with a quarterly report (December 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.

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 1:00 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair