

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, APRIL 15, 2010

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 March 27, 2010 - Legal No. 1456721

[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 3:05 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Textbook Losses – topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh

[NOTE: During the January 15, 2010 Regular Workshop, there was much discussion regarding the significant loss of instructional materials (specifically textbooks) experienced annually throughout the District. At that time, 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.] Mr. Bergosh acknowledged that he had received information dated March 23rd regarding textbook losses; however, he had recently been told by the Superintendent that the information provided was inaccurate and incomplete. Mr. Bergosh suggested that discussion on this topic be postponed until complete and accurate information had been provided.

- Log-On Credentials for FAIR Test Data and Other District Data Systems – topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh

Mr. Bergosh stated that he had already addressed this issue with the Superintendent; therefore, discussion on this topic was no longer necessary.

- House Bill 7189 Implementation and Class Size Full Compliance Implementation – topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh

House Bill 7189 Implementation: Mr. Bergosh noted that House Bill 7189 had been vetoed by the Governor; therefore, discussion on this topic was no longer necessary.

Class Size Full Compliance Implementation: It was noted that this issue would be addressed through Item V.A.18, *Amendments to 2010-2011 Staffing Allocation Table*, on the April 20, 2010 Regular Meeting agenda. The Superintendent noted that with the adjustments made to the Staffing Allocation Table, the District would begin the 2010-2011 school year in compliance with Class Size

as specified by the Constitutional Amendment that would be on the November 2010 ballot. If the Constitutional Amendment failed, the District would then be prepared to make additional adjustments at the beginning of the second semester.

- Start Up of Weekly Channel 98 “School Board Live” Program – *topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh*
Mr. Bergosh had heard from many constituents that they felt disconnected from the School District and from their School Board representatives. He suggested the possibility of doing a monthly “School Board Live” call-in talk/discussion program on Channel 98, but noted that even just video streaming the monthly Board meetings on the District website may provide a partial solution to that “disconnection” by projecting more School Board information to the public. At the request of the Board, the Superintendent agreed to have staff explore the inexpensive mediums available for recording and streaming the monthly Board meetings.
- Seating Arrangement for Regular Monthly Workshop – *topic submitted by Gerald Boone*
Mr. Boone briefly reviewed minor changes to the seating arrangement for the Regular Monthly Workshop.
- Procedures for Conducting School Board Meetings – *topic submitted by Gerald Boone*
Mr. Boone briefly reviewed minor changes to the procedures for conducting School Board Meetings.
- Moving Date for School Board Members to New District Administration Building – *topic submitted by Gerald Boone*
Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, advised that there would be a two (2) week delay in transitioning the Executive Offices (includes Superintendent and School Board) to the new District Administration Building. The new target moving window would be June 28, 2010 through July 1, 2010.
There was brief discussion regarding the naming of the new District Administration Building. The Superintendent suggested that the current name, in honor of Dr. Vernon McDaniel, be transferred from the building at 215 West Garden Street to the new location at 75 North Pace Boulevard. There being no objection by the Board, the Superintendent stated that he would bring forth a recommendation on the May Regular Agenda, to advertise to the public, the Board’s intent to transfer the name of the District Administration Building.
- Update on Negotiations with ECUA Regarding the Brownsville Water Leak – *topic submitted by Linda Moultrie*
Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, advised that ECUA would not engage in negotiations for reimbursement of any fees associated with the Brownsville water leak until such time as the District could demonstrate a normal bill at that site. This would give both parties the assurance that all leaks had been repaired.
- Groundbreaking Ceremony – *topic submitted by Patty Hightower*
Mrs. Hightower expressed some of her concerns with the unprofessional manner in which the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the new downtown elementary school had been handled. She wanted a procedure developed that would ensure that the arrangements for all major events (i.e., groundbreaking ceremonies, school grand openings, etc.) were handled appropriately, specifically with regard to the scheduling a major event, the selection of and appropriate invitation to local dignitaries, the preparation of an accurate program, and the formal recognition of those elected officials in attendance. The Superintendent agreed to create a standard procedure, which he would share with the Board prior to the end of summer, whereby the arrangements for all major events would be handled by the Superintendent’s Office.

- Request for Update on Bus Radio – *topic submitted by Patty Hightower*
Mrs. Hightower stated that Mrs. Waters had already provided information on this issue; therefore, discussion on this topic was no longer necessary.
- Zero Tolerance Policy – *topic submitted by Patty Hightower*
Mrs. Hightower stated that she was continuing her research on issues related to the Zero Tolerance policy. If she felt a need to bring any information forward to the Board, she would then suggest holding a Special Workshop for discussion on that topic.
- District Master Calendar – *topic submitted by Bill Slayton*
[NOTE: *This issue was previously addressed at the March 11, 2010 Special Workshop.*] The Superintendent advised that staff was continuing to work on a Master Calendar for all major events occurring throughout the School District.
- Selection of Office Area for Board Members at New Administration Building – *topic submitted by Bill Slayton*
Mr. Slayton remarked that each Board Member would need to select an office area at some point prior to moving to the new Administration Building.
- School Web Sites – *topic submitted by Bill Slayton*
[NOTE: *This issue was previously addressed during the March 11, 2010 Special Workshop.*] Mr. Slayton initiated a discussion regarding the importance of school websites. He also noted the importance of lending support to the schools in helping them maintain current and accurate information on those websites. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, noted that since this issue was last discussed at the March 11, 2010 Special Workshop, District staff had decided to form a “website management team” that would be responsible for monitoring and providing feedback with regard to the content of individual school and department websites. At the suggestion of Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Dennis agreed that the team would also enlist some assistance from outside stakeholders such as parents, community members, business people (i.e., realtors) for an “outside” perspective.
- District Websites – *topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh*
Mr. Bergosh suggested the possibility of creating a webpage for the School Board, similar to that of the Superintendent’s, which would include at the minimum, a picture of each Board Member, biographical information and contact information for each Board Member, and a map outlining each Board Member’s particular district. The Superintendent stated that he would look into the possibility of creating such a webpage for the School Board.

ADD

- Update from Health Department on Concessions – *topic submitted by the Superintendent*
Representatives of the Escambia County Health Department provided a brief update on the new concession stand requirements.

ADD

- FTE Update – *topic submitted by the Superintendent*
The Superintendent stated that this update would be postponed until the April 16, 2010 Regular Workshop.

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 5:10 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair