

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JANUARY 13, 2011

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 3:00 p.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. Bill Slayton

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh
Mrs. Linda Moultrie
Mrs. Patricia Hightower

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on January 3, 2011 - Legal No. 1501652

[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

- Procedure for High School Students to Exit Bus Early to Attend Club Meetings - Gerald Boone
Mr. Boone advised that he had discussed this issue with the Superintendent prior to this meeting. *No additional discussion was necessary.*
- Update on Pensacola Beach Tax Dollars – Patty Hightower
Mrs. Hightower stated that she had discussed this issue with Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services prior to this meeting. *No additional discussion was necessary.*
- Progress of Paperless Agenda – Bill Slayton
NOTE: *The concept of a paperless agenda was previously discussed at the July 15, 2010 Regular Workshop.* Mr. Slayton initiated a discussion regarding the progress of the paperless agenda. The Superintendent reminded the Board that he had recently offered to purchase an iPad (tablet computer device developed by Apple, Inc.) for each Board Member who was interested in going completely paperless* with regard to their monthly agenda information. He noted that only two Board Members, Mrs. Hightower and Mr. Bergosh, had accepted his offer. The Superintendent reiterated his previous offer which was then accepted by the rest of the Board. The Superintendent advised that the appropriate order would be placed and once the devices were received, his office would coordinate with Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs, to schedule a basic training session for the Board. It was suggested by several Board Members that Mrs. West should also receive an iPad. The Superintendent was to determine whether the budget would allow for the purchase of an additional iPad for Mrs. West.

**Completely paperless with regard to all agenda information with the exception of confidential items such as employee/student discipline recommendations, student transfer information, etc.*

- Security Issues – *Bill Slayton*

Mr. Slayton said he had noticed an increase in law enforcement presence at the January 4, 2011 Regular Meeting, which he assumed was probably in response to the shooting incident that occurred in December at a session of the Bay County School Board in Panama City, Florida. Mr. Norm Ross, Deputy Superintendent, clarified that the administration had always ensured that a law enforcement officer was present at each regular School Board meeting; however, in light of the recent shooting incident in Bay County, administration had decided to also secure a law enforcement officer for each workshop or special session of the School Board.

- Gainer Building – *Superintendent*

Mr. Stephen B. Shell, Shell, Fleming, Davis & Menge, P.A., reminded the Board that at their March 2, 2010 Special Meeting, they agreed to proceed with litigation against Reaching Your Dream, Inc. in order to settle a question of ownership with regard to the 1600 East Moreno Street property of the former Dr. Ruby J. Gainer School for Reaching Your Dream (charter school). In the intervening year, Reaching Your Dream, Inc. did not respond to the lawsuit so a default was entered. Mr. Shell noted that the issue now was whether it was economically feasible and viable for the School District to take ownership of the property. Mr. Shell questioned whether the Board's desire was to [1] allow Hancock Bank (current mortgage-holder) to take the property back through foreclosure (Mr. Shell noted that the bank's mortgage was superior to the School District's interest); [2] negotiate with Hancock Bank to lower the amount of the mortgage that the School District would then assume (Mr. Shell noted that the School District's previous offer to assume the mortgage at \$250,000 was not accepted by the bank); or [3] simply "walk away" from the litigation. He noted that the property was in poor condition and it was unlikely that the School District would recover anything by taking the property. After discussion, the Board Members agreed with Mr. Shell's recommendation to simply "walk away" from the litigation. -

- Skyward – *Superintendent*

The Superintendent and Board agreed to schedule a software presentation for January 26, 2011, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., with location to be determined. The purpose of the presentation would be to demonstrate Skyward, a finance and human resource administration software platform, and Focus, a student information software platform.

- IPAD Presentation - *Superintendent*

As requested by Mrs. Hightower at the December 10, 2010 Regular Workshop, staff provided a brief demonstration of how an iPad (tablet computer device developed by Apple, Inc.) could be used to conduct a classroom walkthrough.

- SAZAC Recommendations – *Superintendent*

[*Handout provided to Board Members*]

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, presented the following recommendation made by the School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee (SAZAC) in response to a request to analyze and develop an attendance zone for the new downtown elementary school:

1. Close Hallmark Elementary School (pending completion of new downtown elementary school) and redistrict all students to the new school.
2. Close Yniestra Elementary School (pending completion of new downtown elementary school) and redistrict all students to the new school.
3. Close Spencer Bibbs Elementary School (pending completion of new downtown elementary school) and redistrict students to the new school and other adjacent schools.

(*Detailed information on this recommendation was included in a handout provided to Board Members entitled, "2010-2011 Closure and Consolidation Effort, Downtown Elementary and Spencer Bibbs Recommendation."*)

- New Downtown Elementary School

At the request of Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent stated that he would have the principal of the new downtown elementary school, Dr. Sheree' Cagle, give a presentation to the Board regarding the new school's curriculum plan. He also noted that he planned to present to the Board, most likely at their January 18, 2011 Regular Meeting, a request to advertise the name "Global Learning Academy" as approved by way of a nomination and vote held at both George S. Hallmark and Allie Yniestra Elementary School sites.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Mrs. Hightower asked that the Superintendent notify the Board once the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant award letter was received from the Department of Education (DOE).

There being no further discussion, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair