

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, DECEMBER 10, 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. Bill Slayton (*not present*)

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 December 1, 2010 - Legal No. 1498420

[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 9:05 a.m.

The following items were moved forward on the agenda:

V.G., Internal Auditing

2. Internal Accounts Audits *with* findings (2009-2010)

-Warrington Middle

Ms. Sandra Rush-Riley, Principal of Warrington Middle School, addressed the Board regarding the findings cited in the 2009-2010 audit of Warrington Middle School. (*A complete list of audit findings and the principal's response to each of those findings is included in the backup documentation for this item.*)

-Lincoln Park Elementary

Mrs. Waters advised of a pending criminal investigation related to the audit findings for Lincoln Park Elementary. Because there was a possibility of litigation as a result of that investigation, she advised that this workshop was not the appropriate forum to discuss the facts of the case. (*A complete list of audit findings and the principal's response to each of those findings is included in the backup documentation for this item.*)

VIII., Committee/Departmental Reports

1. Charter School Quarterly Reports

NOTE: Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, provided the Board with a quarterly report (December 2010) on charter schools prior to this meeting.

Representatives from the following charter schools were in attendance for this meeting: Capstone Academy, A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence, Beulah Academy of Science, Byrneville Elementary, and Escambia Charter. Ms. Mathis briefly reviewed some of the information outlined in the quarterly report. Ms. Malinda Jones, Coordinator of Cost

Accounting, responded to questions posed by Mr. Bergosh regarding possible cash flow issues at Capstone Academy, A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence, and Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy.

Mrs. Waters left the Regular Workshop at 9:38 a.m.

The following item was postponed from the December 9, 2010 Special Workshop:

Overview of the Race to the Top Grant – *topic submitted by the Superintendent on the December 9, 2010 Special Workshop Agenda (NOTE: Staff began their presentation on this topic at the December 9, 2010 Special Workshop; however, due to time constraints, a vast majority of the presentation was postponed to this meeting.)* Staff members continued their presentation regarding the various components of the School District’s plan for implementation of the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant. It was noted that the School District had received Department of Education (DOE) approval of its implementation plan and would receive approximately \$8 million in RTTT grant funds over a four year period. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, the Superintendent advised that advertisement of the RTTT positions would not occur until the School District had received the RTTT grant award letter from the DOE. Mr. Bergosh noted that he completely agreed with the majority of the School District’s plan for implementing the RTTT grant. However, he was very disappointed that the Board was not given an opportunity to review and provide input on that plan prior to the DOE’s November 9th submission deadline.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 10:55 a.m., with Mr. Boone, Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Moultrie, Mrs. Hightower and the Superintendent present. (*Mr. Slayton was not present.*)

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the December 14, 2010 Regular Meeting agenda since its initial publication.

FTE Analysis

[Handout provided to Board Members]

Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, gave a brief update on FTE by reviewing information outlined in handout that he had provided to the Board entitled: *Survey 2 Results (FYE 6/30/11)*. Comparing Survey 2 Annualized 2010-11 with FTE Projections 2010-11, total unweighted FTE was only 17.59 under projections, while total weighted FTE was under projections by 186.62. Comparing Survey 2 Annualized 2010-11 with Prior Year Actual 2009-10, total unweighted FTE was under projections by 243.25 (indicating a slight decline in enrollment in the District), while total weighted FTE was under projected by 201.02.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 2 – Human Resource Services

2.01 Administrative and Professional

(3) Principals, Assistant Principals, Interim Assistant Principals shall have the following qualification:

D. Recruitment and Selection

The recruitment and selection of Principals, Assistant Principals, Interim Principals, and Interim Assistant Principals shall conform to the objective based process contained in the currently adopted William Cecil Golden School Leadership Professional Development Program for School Leaders.

Mrs. Hightower questioned the reasoning for removing the “capital letters” for the proper name of William Cecil. Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource

Services, advised that the proposed revision simply reflected Florida Statute. After further discussion, it was determined that this section would need to be corrected with “capital letters” for the proper name of William Cecil.

Mrs. Hightower mentioned that she had many other concerns and/or questions regarding various aspects of the Chapter 2 amendments. The Superintendent asked Dr. Scott to contact not only Mrs. Hightower, but each Board Member to discuss their concerns and/or to answer their questions. If their concerns and/or questions could not be resolved prior to the December 14, 2010 Regular Meeting, the Superintendent indicated that he would delete the item from that agenda and present it at a later time.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

1. 2010-2011 School Improvement Plans

Mr. Boone said it was brought to his attention that the 2010-2011 School Improvements Plans were already posted on the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) website as having been “approved” by the School Board. The Superintendent explained that when schools began working on their School Improvement Plans in August, one of the required elements was to indicate when the School Board was expected to approve their plan. Schools had originally projected that their plans would be submitted for School Board approval in November and therefore, the plans posted to the FLDOE website reflected the date of the School Board’s November Regular Meeting. The Superintendent said schools had been to update their plans on the FLDOE website to reflect December 14, 2010 as the expected date of School Board approval.

5. Title I, Part D, Subpart 2: Local Neglected and Delinquent Program 2010-2011 Project Application

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, explained that the amount of funding from Title I, Part D, Subpart 2: Local Neglected and Delinquent Program, was based on the number of students in the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) residential facilities; therefore, the amount of funding would decrease as the number of students served decreased.

7. Escambia Charter School of Excellence, Inc. d/b/a Brownsville Charter School of Excellence Charter Application Review and Recommendation to the School Board of Escambia County, Florida

NOTE: The District’s Charter School Review Panel had recommended denial to the Superintendent for the charter school application submitted by the Escambia Charter School of Excellence, Inc. d/b/a Brownsville Charter School of Excellence.

In response to questions posed by Mrs. Moultrie, Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, reviewed the various concerns that contributed the Charter School Review Panel’s decision to recommend denial of the charter school application. *(These concerns are detailed in the backup documentation for this item.)*

8. Twenty First Century Academy of Pensacola, Inc. d/b/a Newpoint Academy Charter Application Review and Recommendation to the School Board of Escambia County, Florida

9. Twenty First Century High School of Pensacola, Inc. d/b/a Newpoint High School Charter Application Review and Recommendation to the School Board of Escambia County, Florida

NOTE: The District’s Charter School Review Panel had recommended approval to the Superintendent for two (2) charter school applications (Item V.A.8 and Item V.A.9) submitted by Newpoint Schools. The following representatives of Newpoint Schools were present to respond to any questions or concerns from Board Members regarding their charter school application: Mrs. Tracey Adcock, Board Chairperson, Mrs. Carla Lovett, Principal, Newpoint Schools, Panama City Florida, and Mr. Gary Scott, School Financial Services. The following topics were

addressed: plan for securing an appropriate facility, anticipated target population, and student recruitment.

B. Finance

10. Amendment to 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Classrooms for Kids Program Project Allocation Lists

Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, explained that by approving this item, the Board would be certifying that sufficient student capacity exists with the current facilities to meet class size requirements; and therefore, the remaining Classroom for Kids funds may be used for any lawful capital outlay purpose.

C. Human Resource Services

3. Risk Management

b. Workers' Compensation Medical Bill

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Kevin Windham, Director of Risk Management, explained that this was a request to pay \$43,553.02 to Baptist Hospital for a Worker's Compensation medical bill on claim #0400375 (date of accident: 08/06/04). It was noted that the claim details were available in the Risk Management Department.

D. Purchasing

9. Annual Agreement Renewal: Consultant Services for the School Board

Description of Purchase: *Recommend the renewal of an agreement to provide legislative consulting/lobbying services on behalf of the Escambia County School Board in accordance with the School Board's legislative platform.*

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent clarified that although this item was entitled "Consultant Services for the School Board," the actual agreement specified that Mixon and Associates would provide legislative consulting/lobbying services on behalf of Superintendent, the School District, and the School Board. Mrs. Hightower requested that the Board be notified in advance of any workshop/meeting at which a representative of Mixon and Associates would be present. This would insure that Board Members were prepared to discuss issues with the representative.

14. Fleet Vehicles

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Chuck Peterson, Director of Maintenance, clarified that the crew cab pickup trucks included as part of this purchase would be used as primary means of transportation for the School District's paint crews and grounds crews.

18. Apple Computers for Various Schools

Mrs. Hightower requested a demonstration of a how an iPad (tablet computer device developed by Apple, Inc.) could be used to conduct a classroom walkthrough.

On an separate issue related to the use of an iPad, the Superintendent offered to purchase an iPad for each Board Member who was interested in going completely paperless* with regard to their monthly agenda information. NOTE: *The concept of a paperless agenda was previously discussed at the July 15, 2010 Regular Workshop.* Two Board Members, Mrs. Hightower and Mr. Bergosh, accepted his offer. The Superintendent advised that the appropriate order would be placed and once the devices were received, his office would contact Mrs. Hightower and Mr. Bergosh to schedule a basic training session.

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

- E. Operations
 - No items discussed
- F. Student Transfers
 - No items discussed
- G. Internal Auditing
 - 2. Internal Accounts Audits *with* findings (2009-2010)
 - Warrington Middle
 - Lincoln Park Elementary

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

- 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
 - No items submitted

- VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS
 - 1. Charter School Quarterly Reports

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

- VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

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

- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Mrs. Hightower requested a brief update on the progress of the new downtown elementary school. Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, stated that construction of the school was on schedule to be completed by August 1, 2011. The Superintendent advised that he would 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.

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair