

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JUNE 16, 2011

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Regular Workshop at 8:00 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 (*not present*)

Vice Chair: Mr. Bill Slayton (*served as Chair in Mr. Boone's absence*)

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 May 27, 2011 - Legal No. 1524092

[General discussion took place among Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff throughout this meeting.]

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Slayton called the Regular Workshop to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

1. Precinct Redistricting – Jeff Bergosh
[*Handout provided to Board Members*]

Mr. Bergosh initiated a follow-up discussion related to the redistricting of voter precincts as previously addressed during a joint session with the Board of County Commissioner's on May 26, 2011. School Board Members expressed their thoughts regarding the best way to align the voting district boundaries for the School Board with the voting district boundaries for the County Commission. After brief discussion, Mr. Bergosh requested that this issue be added as an item on the June 23, 2011 Special Workshop agenda. It was noted that another joint session with the County Commission would be held on July 11, 2011 to continue the redistricting process.

2. Success of Scholarship Recognition – Patty Hightower

Mrs. Hightower initiated a discussion regarding the success of this year's scholarship recognition initiative. The Superintendent said that this year, more than ever before, there had been a concerted effort by all high schools to recognize scholarship recipients. He said that while the large number (1,000+) of students receiving scholarships was indeed impressive, it also added to the dilemma of publicity. Mrs. Hightower said she had suggestions that she would like to discuss at some point in the future. Mr. Slayton suggested that the Superintendent have his staff post to the School District's website, the names of all students receiving a scholarship, the high school they attended, and the university or college that they would be attending. Mr. Bergosh suggested that the posting also include the total dollar amount of scholarships received by students at each high school as well as, the total dollar amount of scholarships earned students throughout the School District.

3. Custodial Services at Schools – Patty Hightower

Mrs. Hightower chose not to address this issue during this session.

4. District-Wide Calendar – Bill Slayton

NOTE: *This issue was previously addressed at the February 11, 2011 Regular Workshop and the April 15, 2010 Special Workshop.* Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent reported that staff was still exploring the possibility of an electronic district-wide master calendar.

5. Missed Textbook Adoption for Elementary Music (2 years) – Bill Slayton

Mr. Slayton said that was recently brought to his attention that there was an elementary school that had not received new music textbooks for eight (8) years. The Superintendent confirmed that it was true that textbooks for elementary music had not been purchased in eight (8) years. He explained that the School District had adopted a music textbook during the last adoption cycle (2008-2009); yet because of the cost of the new textbooks and the difficult financial situation facing the School District at that time, it was decided that the adopted materials would not be purchased. The Superintendent noted however, that the administration had never denied school's request to order materials; yet, there had been no request from any elementary school to purchase new music textbooks.

6. Board Members Web Page – Bill Slayton

There being no objection from the Board, it was decided that Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs, would be responsible for facilitating minor edits, when necessary, to the Board Members' webpage. The Superintendent said that Information Technology (IT) staff would install software on Mrs. West's computer and provide her with the necessary training to make minor edits to the webpage. Mrs. West asked that all editing requests be submitted in writing from Board Members.

7. High School Boundary Lines – Bill Slayton

Mr. Slayton questioned whether there had been any consideration to modifying the eastern most portions of the Pine Forest High School attendance zone and redistribute students to Washington High School thereby enhancing enrollment at Washington and providing capacity relief at Pine Forest. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, said that this had been one of the four recommendations that the Superintendent had presented earlier in the year to the School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee (SAZAC) for their review and recommendation; however, in the course of looking at total enrollments at both Pine Forest and Washington, SAZAC determined that it was not necessary to make any adjustments to high school boundaries at this point in time.

DELETED

~~8. High School Proposal for Literacy~~

9. Random Drug Testing Procedures – Superintendent

[Handout provided to Board Members]

NOTE: *At the February 17, 2011 Special Meeting, the Board approved a motion creating School District Rule 6Gx17-3, Section 3.20 – Random Drug Testing of Students, with the provision that prior to implementation, the policy guidelines/procedures would be presented to the School Board for review.* Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director of High School Education, reviewed the 'highlights' of the random drug testing procedures that were developed by the Drug Testing Task Force. Mrs. Spooner responded to questions posed by Board Members regarding various aspects of the procedures. Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mrs. Spooner said that the random drug testing of students (participating in school athletics, extra/co-curricular activities, and on-campus parking) would begin with the start of

school in August. At the request of several Board Members, Mrs. Spooner was to provide a comprehensive list of all middle school and high school extra-curricular activities.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 9:20 a.m. and reconvened at 9:30 a.m., with Mr. Slayton, Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Hightower, Mrs. Moultrie, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters present. NOTE: *Mr. Boone was not in attendance for this meeting.*

The following item was moved forward on the agenda:

Item VII.1, Charter School Quarterly Report

NOTE: *Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, provided the Board with a quarterly report (June 2011) 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, and Beulah Academy of Science. Mr. Robert Williams, financial officer for A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence, was in attendance; however, there was no representative from the school's administration present. Representatives from Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy were not able to attend this meeting so Ms. Mathis said she had asked them to appear at the July 14, 2011 Regular Workshop instead.

Ms. Mathis briefly reviewed some of the information outlined in the quarterly report. School Board Members posed questions to Mr. Robert Williams, financial officer for Dixon Charter, regarding the school's current financial status and plans to address the State's cut to FEFP funding for the 2011-2012 school year. In light of concerns about Dixon's financial struggles and their students' low academic performance, the School Board requested that the administrators for Dixon Charter present a plan for financial and academic improvement at the July 14, 2011 Regular Workshop.

10. Teacher Evaluation System – Superintendent

Dr. Karen Owen, Director of Staff Development, gave a brief PowerPoint® presentation regarding the School District's Teacher Evaluation System.

11. Secondary Reading Plan – Superintendent

Staff provided a brief update regarding the secondary reading plan.

III. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the June 21, 2011 Regular Meeting agenda since its initial publication.

July 21, 2011 Special Meeting

The time of the July 21, 2011 Special Meeting was changed from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to accommodate a public hearing (which must be held after 5:00 p.m.) regarding the proposed adoption of the following items: *Notice of Intent to Advertise Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Section 3.20 Random Drug Testing of Students* and *Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 7.02, Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.*

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 2.05, Ethics

2.05(3) *Tutoring*

Tutoring is a learning instructional activity which is not part of the assigned duties of instructional personnel. Instructional personnel shall neither tutor students for a fee on Board property nor grant students credit or promotion for being tutored. Instructional personnel providing supplemental education services (SES) pursuant to an outside contract with an authorized SES provider shall not be precluded from providing such services to students on Board property for a fee, provided that such fee is paid solely by the SES provider. Instructional personnel who are hired to provide SES shall not render such services to students currently enrolled in their regular classes or for that portion of the day in which the instructional personnel are under contract with the Board.

In answer to a questions posed by Mr. Slayton regarding tutoring, Mrs. Waters clarified that as per Section 2.05(3), instructional personnel shall neither tutor students for a fee on Board property nor grant students credit or promotion for being tutored.

Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 2.47, Tobacco-Free Hiring Policy

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Kevin Windham, Director of Risk Management, said that if the proposed policy was adopted by the School Board, then the effective date for tobacco-free hiring would be October 1, 2011 to allow staff ample time to update employment applications and other internal documentation and to develop appropriate procedures prior to implementation.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

18. Start up Charter Contract between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and 21st Century Academy of Pensacola, Inc. dba Newpoint Academy
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Ms. Vicki Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, noted that an amendment to these items was forthcoming. The amendment would change the location of Newpoint Academy and Newpoint Pensacola from 826 Creighton Road, Pensacola, Florida 32504 to 1600 East Moreno Street, Pensacola, Florida 32503. Ms. Vicki Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, said that the schools would temporarily lease the facility at 1600 East Moreno (former Gainer building) for one year and would then relocate to 826 Creighton Road location. In response to questions about the lease agreement for 1600 East Moreno Street, Ms. Carla Lovett, Director of Newpoint Schools, said that the bank would inform Newpoint on a month-to-month basis whether it was acceptable to make payment directly to the mortgagee (Reaching Your Dream, Inc.) or if payment should be made directly to the bank. "In other words, if the bank says that the party with the mortgage is in arrears and we should not make the payment to them, we would make it directly to the bank."

29. PSBLive

In answer to questions posed by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent explained that PSBLive would provide the following services at no charge to the School District for all District high schools: video stream via the internet a "game of the week" to be selected by the District; archive all games for future viewing "on demand" at no charge to viewers; solicit advertising to be

viewed during the game, the proceeds of which would be divided with the School District at a fifty/fifty (50/50) split; provide a minimum of ten (10) advertising spots per game for each school to sell for fundraising purposes for which the school will retain one hundred percent (100%) of the revenue it collects from an advertiser, or if the school chooses, PSBLive may sell some or all of these ten (10) school advertising spots and divide equally with the Contract the proceeds of those spots sold; ensure that all advertisers are appropriate for family viewing and are approved by the Florida High School Activities Association for broadcasting. At the request of Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent said that once it was finalized, he would provide the School Board with the schedule of events to be streamed. He said the finalized schedule would also be posted to the School District's website.

30. Contract for Educational Services between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida, and Camelot Schools of Florida, LLC

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, Ms. Vicki Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, reviewed the following performance data as outlined in Exhibit "A" (page 23 of 31 of the backup documentation):

--*Student Promotion – 73% promotion, 100% completion rate for eligible seniors*

--*FCAT Participation – 91%*

It was noted that being an alternative-learning program, Camelot would not receive a School Grade from the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) but rather a School Improvement Rating. Mrs. Moultrie wanted to be sure that the School District was not "just paying a company to take care of our 'problem' kids and yet they're not progressing in their education." She had received calls from several people who were concerned that Camelot was just the School District's 'dumping ground' for disruptive students and that those students were not actually learning anything. (NOTE: *Students attending Camelot may have been referred for the following reasons: expulsion, alternative placement, and/or transition from a residential juvenile justice program.*)

31. Amendment to the Charter Contract between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Escambia Charter School of Excellence, Inc. dba A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence

NOTE: *Concerns about Dixon's financial struggles and their students' low academic performance were addressed earlier in the meeting under the "Charter School Quarterly Report" discussion item.* In light of concerns expressed earlier in this meeting, Mr. Bergosh suggested that it would be prudent to postpone consideration of this contract until the July 19, 2011 Regular Meeting at which time the administrators for Dixon Charter would present a plan for financial and academic improvement. The Superintendent had no objection with deleting this item from the June 21, 2011 Regular Meeting agenda and placing it on the July 19, 2011 Regular Meeting agenda instead.

B. Finance

-No items discussed

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

b. Reappointments

Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, noted that an amendment to this item was possible, as staff was still working diligently to ensure that all instructional employees who were eligible for a professional services contract had been identified. Mrs. Waters suggested that principals be asked to submit in writing, not only those individuals they were recommending for a professional services contract, but also those individuals who they were not.

5. Affirmative Action
 - a. Approval of 2010-2011 Annual Equity Report

Mr. Bergosh referred to the chart included in the Equity Report that outlined the make-up of the administrative positions by race and gender. He was concerned that although the population of Escambia County was comprised of approximately 5% of Hispanic individuals, this report showed that the School District did not have even one (1) Hispanic individual serving in an administrative position (i.e., district-level administrator, principal, assistant principal, dean). Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Horace Jones, EEOC Coordinator, acknowledged that the School District was in fact, out of compliance with the Florida Educational Equity Act and had been asked by the State, to improve its recruitment strategies in an effort to address under-represented groups such as this.

D. Purchasing

17. Annual Agreement Renewal: Custodial Services

Amount of Purchase: *\$1,345,471.00 Est./Yr.*

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, confirmed that the renewal rate for this contract would be the same rate as last year.

32. Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #308488 – Human Resources

Mrs. Hightower questioned the need for an additional expenditure of \$25,000 for fingerprinting and background investigations. Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, said that the increase was due to an effort to avoid carrying over any pending reprints for Protections Services when they take over this process.

36. Change Notice #12 to Purchase Order #305748 – New Downtown Elementary School (Global Learning Academy)

Mrs. Hightower questioned the reasoning for the \$28,646.00 increase in contract amount for additional solar panels at Global Learning Academy. Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, explained that Gulf Power Company would provide the funding to cover this expense as part of the *Gulf Power Solar for Schools – Photovoltaic Solar Panel Array Agreement between Gulf Power Company and the School District of Escambia County* (Item V.E.1.B.2 - June 21, 2011 Regular Meeting agenda).

E. Operations

1. Facilities Planning
 - B. Miscellaneous
 2. Gulf Power Solar for Schools – Photovoltaic Solar Panel Array Agreement between Gulf Power Company and the School District of Escambia County

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting as part of the discussion on *Change Notice #12 to Purchase Order #305748 – New Downtown Elementary School (Global Learning Academy)* under Purchasing.

F. Student Transfers

-No items discussed

G. Internal Auditing

2. 2010-2011 Summary of Inventory Reports Submitted

The Superintendent pointed out that the School District's inventory loss ratio over the past four years had decreased from 0.51% in 2008, to 0.40% in 2009, to 0.23% in 2010, and now to 0.16% in 2011. He noted that the lowered loss ratio over the past four year was remarkable especially considering that during the last four years the School District had actually increased its inventory volume. He commended principals and department heads for their role in safeguarding the School District's assets.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-None

VII. 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 discussed

VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Charter School Quarterly Report

This item was handled earlier in the meeting.

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Kenneth Lamb addressed the Board regarding his support of Newpoint Pensacola. Mr. Lamb said that his family had relocated to Escambia County, Florida specifically so that his son could attend the new school.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair