

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JUNE 21, 2011

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 4:00 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 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. Boone called the Special Workshop to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM MIXON & ASSOCIATES

Mr. Jim Hamilton, Mixon and Associates, provided a brief update from the 2011 Legislative Session. He noted that some of the major issues addressed during the session included retirement reform, pay for performance, and the budget. Several education issues failed including a bill that proposed to reduce the salaries of school board members. Many issues impacting education did pass, including the following:

Senate Bill 1546 relating to Charter Schools: *Establishes criteria for high-performing charter schools. Authorizes a high-performing charter school to increase enrollment, expand grade levels served, submit a quarterly financial statement, consolidate the charters of certain charter schools, and receive certain modification or renewal of its charter. Establishes criteria for high-performing charter school systems. Provides that student capacity of a high-performing charter school shall be determined annually by the governing board. Deletes provisions relating to the Charter School Review Panel, etc.*

House Bill 1255 relating to Public School Accountability: *Revises numerous provisions relating to K-12 public education system; revises provisions relating to virtual instruction courses & school board member acceptance of gifts; adds auditory-oral education programs to list of public school choice options; revises provisions relating to Opportunity Scholarship Program, McKay Scholarships, Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, special education services, requirements for middle grades promotion & high school graduation, digital curriculum, career & professional academies, etc.*

House Bill 1329 relating to McKay Scholarship Expansion: *Makes scholarships available to students with disabilities who have 504 accommodation plan issued under federal law; allows parent to request & receive scholarship for student to enroll in & attend private school if student has 504 accommodation plan; provides that students with certain temporary 504 accommodation plans are ineligible for scholarship; provides that parent may choose to enroll student in public school in adjacent district under certain conditions; provides for scholarship amounts.*

Senate Bill 736 relating to Student Success Act: *Revises provisions relating to the evaluation of instructional personnel and school administrators. Requires the Department of Education to approve each school district's instructional personnel and school administrator evaluation systems. Requires the Commissioner of Education to approve or select and the State Board of Education to adopt formulas for school districts to use in measuring student learning growth. Requires school districts to administer assessments for each course offered in the district, etc.*

Throughout his update, Mr. Hamilton responded to questions posed by Board Members, regarding clarification of various legislative issues.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair