

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 10, 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 25, 2011 - Legal No. 1507337*

[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

- County Voting Boundaries – *Superintendent*

Mr. David H. Stafford, Escambia County Supervisor of Elections, addressed the School Board regarding the need for the elected bodies of Escambia County to begin the redistricting process once official data from the 2010 United States Census was published (late-March or early-April 2011). NOTE: Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1(e), of the Florida Constitution, after each decennial census the Board of County Commissioners is required to redraw district boundaries so as to evenly divide the population therein as closely as reasonably practicable. Mr. Stafford said it was suggested, but not statutorily required, that the voting district boundaries for the School Board align with the voting district boundaries for the County Commission. He suggested that the School Board coordinate a joint session with the County Commission to begin the redistricting process. He noted that the County Commission had tentatively scheduled a meeting to discuss the process on May 26, 2011.

- PATH Program Initiative – *Superintendent*

NOTE: *The Providing Avenues To Hope (PATH) Program is an initiative of the Gulf Coast African-American Chamber of Commerce. It is a program that is directly modeled after the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Best Practices for Gang Prevention.*

Mr. George Hawthorne, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of Diversity Program Advisors, Inc., and volunteer director of the Gulf Coast African American Chamber of Commerce, addressed the School Board regarding his proposal to purchase the former Brownsville Middle School property for \$1 million. Mr. Hawthorne hoped to revitalize the Brownsville area by turning the former school facility into a family resource center for the community (which would also serve as the headquarters for the PATH initiative) and to eventually sell some of the surrounding acreage to Habitat for Humanity for an affordable-housing subdivision. Mr. Hawthorne responded to various questions posed by Board Members related to his offer, including questions about potential investors, bridge financing, escrow money, land development, etc.

- Growth of Physical Education Briefing – *Superintendent*  
Ms. Cassandra Waller, member of the Escambia Physical Education Association, showed a brief video clip that illustrated the progression of physical education through history.
- Algebra I Exam – *Superintendent*  
*2011 Algebra I End-of-Course Assessment Overview: The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is transitioning to end-of-course (EOC) assessments for certain high school courses. The first course to transition to EOC testing in Florida is Algebra I. The Algebra I EOC Assessment will measure student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, as outlined in the Algebra I course description.*  
Dr. Sheila Montgomery, Secondary Mathematics Specialist, and Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director of High School Education, addressed several important aspects of the 2011 Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment including:
  - Timeframe for Testing - Week of May 16, 2011
  - Scoring – The current expected date for the delivery of student scores to districts is June 7, 2011, which is also the last day of school for teachers. Mrs. Spooner noted that receiving student scores at such late a date would affect the delivery of report cards.
  - Course Grade – For students who entered grade 9 in the 2010-11 school year and enrolled in Algebra I or an equivalent course, each student’s Algebra I EOC Assessment score must be used to calculate 30 percent of his/her final grade in the course. The method for applying this requirement was to be determined and applied by each school district. The Superintendent indicated that the method, once determined, would be communicated with the Board.
 Mrs. Hightower requested that the Superintendent direct staff to develop a “fact” sheet or a short video clip, which parents could access via the School District website, that would outline information pertaining to the 2011 Algebra 1 EOC Assessment.
- District Representative for Crime-Stoppers Board Meeting – *Linda Moultrie*  
Ms. Sandra Bell, Teacher on Special Assignment/Safe and Drug Free Schools, confirmed that she had been attending and would continue to attend local Crime-Stoppers meetings as a representative of the School District.
- Recycling Process for 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Pace Building – *Patty Hightower*  
It was noted that this issue would be addressed by the placement of recycling receptacles on each floor of the District’s Administration Building (Pace Boulevard).
- Oil Spill Litigation – *Jeff Bergosh*  
Mrs. Waters reported that a Request for Proposals (RFP) would be issued for the purpose of soliciting outside legal counsel to represent the School Board, the County Commission and the City Council with respect to claims against BP and others, from uncompensated losses resulting from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, in the event any such legal actions are required. Mrs. Waters advised that she had been asked to participate on the selection committee that would review the proposals and determine which firms to interview.

Due to time constraints, discussion on the following topics was postponed until the February 11, 2010

Regular Workshop:

- Contract for General Counsel – *Gerald W. Boone*
- Vacant Property – *Linda Moultrie*
- Budget Priorities – *Patty Hightower*
- National Signing Day for Academic Scholarship Winners – *Patty Hightower*
- District-wide Calendar – *Bill Slayton*
- Tablets or No Tablets – *Bill Slayton*

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 5:15 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair