

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 11, 2011

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

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 Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

Capital & Energy Crew Recognition

The capital improvement crew and the capital energy crew were recognized for the dedicated efforts, hard work, and outstanding quality of service that they provided in the renovation of the School District's administration building located at 75 North Pace Boulevard.

Facilities Planning, Capital Improvement Crew: Michael Barnes, Supervisor; William "Bill" Bailey, Brad Bodree, Brandon "Chad" Cherry, Randall Henderson, Keevan Pugh, Montie Roberts, Mark Seaman, Jace Waters, and George Whitehead. Facilities Planning, Capital Energy Crew: Carlos Colon, Supervisor; Robby Bodree, Roger Hodges, David Nelson, Lance Reaves, Chad Sanders, and Eddy Walker. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, and Steve Mraz, Construction Project Manager.

Career and Technical Education Month – Resolution

Mrs. Hightower requested that this item be amended to reflect that a copy of the resolution would be tendered to all middle and high schools in the School District.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the February 15, 2011 Regular Meeting agenda since its initial publication.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

-No items discussed

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

1. Ernest Ward Middle School Graphic Arts Academy
2. Warrington Middle School Graphic Arts Academy
3. Ernest Ward Culinary Arts Academy

Mr. Slayton had no issue with the establishment of any of the middle school academies as listed, Items V.A.1 through V.A.3, yet he wanted to be sure that there was always “some type of continuation for middle school academy students at their feeder high school.” Ms. Lesa Morgan, Director of Workforce Education, said that the continuation of academy programs from middle school to high school was a topic that was addressed in the Workforce Education Department’s five-year plan. That plan would also address those high school academy programs that were not associated with any middle school program (i.e., Multi-Media Academy at Tate High School).

4. 2010-2012 School Health Services Plan (Mandated by School Health Services Act, s. 381.0056)

Mr. Bergosh noticed that the 2010-2012 School Health Services Plan had been due to the Florida Department of Health by December 15, 2010. Ms. Karen Thoennes, Health Services Coordinator, confirmed that the plan had been submitted by the December 15, 2010 deadline with the understanding that it still required approval by the School Board.

5. 2011-2012 Proposed Staffing Allocation Table

The Superintendent indicated that the Middle Schools Education-Personnel Resources Allocation Table (page 7 of the backup documentation) would be amended as to include the International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinator at Warrington Middle School.

B. Finance

4. Legal Services:

General Fund

a) The Hammons Law Firm	\$ 589.00
b) The Hammons Law Firm	\$ 533.73
c) The Hammons Law Firm	\$ 834.00
d) The Hammons Law Firm	\$ 835.00
e) The Hammons Law Firm	\$ 1,924.00
f) The Hammons Law Firm	\$ 8,067.05
g) Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell	\$ 5,795.00
h) Shell, Fleming, Davis & Menge, P.A.	\$ 93.00
i) Shell, Fleming, Davis & Menge, P.A.	\$ 676.50

Based on the large amount of outsourced legal service fees each month, Mr. Bergosh questioned whether the Board should continue to outsource legal matters or whether they should consider creating another in-house attorney position. Mrs. Waters acknowledged that the work-load in her office had continued to increase, but that she and her Legal Assistant, Ms. Sharon Goshorn, were managing. At the request of Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Waters said she would provide information regarding the number of in-house attorneys staffed by several peer School Districts, including: Marion County, Osceola County, Seminole County, and Collier County. On a separate but related issue, Mrs. Hightower requested that the Superintendent make his staff aware that there were times when the General Counsel’s office was working under extreme deadlines and did not need to be disturbed. Mrs. Waters said she would encourage staff to schedule an appointment rather than “just showing up” at her office and expecting to meet immediately.

10. Amendment of the Notice of Tax for School Capital Outlay Advertisement (2010-2011)

It was noted that a Special Meeting would be held on March 15, 2011 to consider a measure to amend the use of property tax for the capital outlay projects previously advertised for the 2010-2011 school year. The meeting would be advertised to begin at 5:01 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.

C. Human Resource Services

-No items discussed

D. Purchasing

1. Bid Award: Vehicles – (1) Tire Service Truck and (1) Wrecker – ITB #111203

Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, clarified that this item was a request to purchase one (1) 2012 International Terrastar tire service truck with an Elite Stellar Body, in the amount of \$81,200. Although an invitation for bids was issued for the wrecker, Mr. Rob Doss, Director of Transportation, said staff had determined during the bid evaluation process that it would be more cost-efficient to simply continue with the local contracted wrecker service; therefore, the bid for the wrecker would not be awarded.

8. Video Surveillance Security System for Escambia High School

Mr. Bergosh said he was supportive of purchasing a surveillance system for Escambia High School, yet he was curious about the high amount (\$71,554.83) of this purchase considering the relatively inexpensive cost for cameras. Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, clarified that this purchase would include not only the video surveillance cameras, but also the recording units and monitors. *Description of Purchase: Video surveillance security system to include installation services of infrastructure and system, video surveillance equipment, and warranty support. This system would allow the school to have a more secure campus and be more proactive in the security of the students. The system was to be integrated into the District-wide system to allow viewing from any designated department.*

E. Operations

1. Facilities Planning

A. Final Payments

1. B. T. Washington High School Track Improvements
2. B. T. Washington High School Track Improvements (Installation and Striping)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, confirmed that construction of the School District's first rubberized track, located at Washington High School, was complete. The Superintendent advised that the ribbon-cutting ceremony was scheduled for February 22nd and the very first track meet would be held on February 26th.

F. Student Transfers

-No items discussed

G. Internal Auditing

1. Inventory Adjustment Reports for fourteen (14) cost centers

Mr. Bergosh commented on the respectful and professional letter received from Mr. Frank Murphy, principal of Pine Forest High School, in response to his school's Final Annual Physical Inventory Report for the 2009-2010 school year. In contrast, Mr. Bergosh noted that typically the audit responses from principals had been quite terse and unprofessional.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
-None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board
-No items were discussed

B. Items from the Superintendent
1. Student Recommendations

Mr. Bergosh commented about the noticeable decrease in the amount of student expulsion recommendation of the past several months. The Superintendent said the decrease could be attributed to a combination of efforts such as in-school suspension, in-lieu of suspension programs, the comprehensive drug eradication plan, behavior plans, etc.

C. Items from the General Counsel
-No items submitted

The following item, which was to appear on the February 17, 2011 Special Meeting agenda, was discussed at length:

Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendment Creating School District Rule 6Gx17-3, Section 3.20 – Random Drug Testing of Students

NOTE: This proposed policy would authorize the random drug testing of any student electing to participate in school athletics, extra/co-curricular activities, and on-campus parking. This item was previously discussed at the February 11, 2011 Regular Workshop.

Mr. Slayton said he had no problem with the random drug testing of high school students. However, he was concerned that middle school students may lack the emotional maturity to handle such testing and therefore, at the February 17, 2011 Special Meeting, he would offer the following amendment to Section 3.20(3)(F) of the proposed policy: *Selection of Students for Testing: Drug screening shall occur at various times throughout the school year. Each ~~secondary~~ high school student who participates in athletics, extra/co-curricular activities, or on-campus parking shall be included in a database and will be subject to random drug screening.* Mr. Bergosh said he supported the random drug testing of both middle and high school students, but in light of Mr. Slayton's concern he suggested the possibility of using a less invasive method of drug testing for middle school students (i.e., salvia test or hair-strand analysis rather than urine sample). Mrs. Moultrie said that when the proposed drug testing policy was first introduced, she too was concerned about the testing of middle school students. However, she said the reality was that there were middle school students who were involved in drugs and therefore, she would support the policy as written whereby students from both middle and high school would be randomly tested. Mrs. Hightower was concerned that the policy did not include a clear definition of what types of activities/programs would be considered extra/co-curricular. Various aspects of the policy were discussed among staff and Board Members including: confidentiality, selection of students for testing, process for calling students for screening, collection of samples, sanctions, and appeal procedures. Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director of High School Education, noted that once the policy was approved, a standard operating procedure (SOP) would be developed that would outline the specific procedures for implementing the policy. Mr. Bergosh requested, if the policy was approved, that the Superintendent provide a regular update to the Board regarding the number of students tested, the number of positive and negative test results, and the number of positive test results overturned by the Medical Review Officer (MRO).

Due to time constraints, discussion on the following topics were postponed from the February 10, 2011 Special Workshop:

- Contract for General Counsel – *Gerald W. Boone*
The Board agreed to schedule a Special Workshop for March 10, 2011 to discuss this topic. The Special Workshop would begin at 5:30 p.m., in Room 130, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.
- Vacant Property – *Linda Moultrie*
Mrs. Moultrie advised that she had discussed this issue with the Superintendent prior to this meeting. *No additional discussion was necessary.*
- District-Wide Calendar – *Bill Slayton*
[NOTE: *This issue was previously addressed at the April 15, 2010 Special Workshop.*] The Superintendent reported that staff was still exploring the possibility of an electronic district-wide master calendar.
- Tablets or No Tablets – *Bill Slayton*
Mr. Slayton initiated a discussion regarding the possibility of students being permitted to bring their own web-enabled devices (laptops, PDAs, iPod Touches, IPADs, etc.) to school. The Superintendent advised that the Information Technology (IT) department had been working on a solution that would eventually allow student-owned devices to be brought to school. The solution would involve the establishment of a guest path on the School District’s network for student-owned devices. The guest path would route those devices through a web filter and on to the internet for study resources, yet would keep them away from sensitive areas on the network meant only for staff and school faculty.

The following topic was also briefly addressed during this session:

- Florida School Boards Association’s Video Contest – *Patty Hightower*
Mrs. Hightower reported that the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) would sponsor a video contest called “What’s Super About Public Schools!” Florida’s public high school students would be asked to create thirty-second public service announcements depicting the positive role public school plays in their lives.

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Capital & Energy Crew Recognition

This item was handled earlier in the meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair