

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 16, 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 August 18, 2011 – Legal No. 1534731

[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.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent reported on the Commissioner of Education's recent visit to Warrington Middle School.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Resolution to Name Street "Jack Kauffman Lane"

Mr. Boone noted that there were two different resolutions included in the agenda backup materials. He also noted that the description of the location was incorrect in both resolutions. The Superintendent said that staff would provide an accurate version of the correct resolution.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

2. School Improvement Grants 1003(g) 1114

It was noted that some of the funds from this grant would provide for a Mathematics Coach, a Reading Coach, and a Teacher Assistant for In-School Suspension (ISS) at Warrington Middle School. (The Teacher Assistant would provide support for ISS and pull data reports to support progress monitoring.) Mrs. Hightower questioned why Warrington Middle needed a teacher assistant for their ISS program. Ms. Sandra Riley-Rush, Principal of Warrington Middle School, responded by explaining that Warrington Middle's ISS classroom consisted of both an ISS teacher (with ESE certification) and an ESE certified Teacher Assistant. To conserve funds, she had put those two individuals in that classroom and they had been able to operate the ISS program and the in-lieu of suspension program quite efficiently.

27. Cooperative Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Lakeview Center, Inc. 2011-2012

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Ms. Teri Szafran, Director of Exceptional Student Education (ESE), explained that the purpose of this agreement was to provide early intervening services to general education students who were at-risk because of behavioral issues. Ms. Szafran clarified that the \$80,000 was not “new money” but rather a “shifting of the way we were spending existing funds.” The \$80,000 would provide for three (3) personnel specifically requested by the three principals who house the three ICARE classes (Weis Elementary, Brentwood Elementary, and Warrington Elementary).

30. Contract with WBSR, 1450

Mr. Slayton questioned how this would work when Pensacola High School was at an “away” game. The Superintendent explained that a broadcast fee would be paid to the “away” school to provide reasonable accommodations to the radio station.

The following items were moved forward on the agenda:

Charter School Quarterly Report

NOTE: Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, provided the Board with a quarterly report (September 2011) on charter schools prior to this meeting. Representatives from the following charter schools were in attendance for this meeting: Escambia Charter, Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy, Byrneville Elementary, A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence, Pensacola Beach Elementary, Newpoint Academy, Newpoint High School, and Capstone Academy. Ms. Mathis briefly reviewed some of the information outlined in the quarterly report. School Board Members posed questions to the various school representatives concerning information outlined in the report.

Dixon Charter School Corrective Action Plan

NOTE: There was much discussion on this item between School Board Members, the Superintendent, School District staff, employees of Dixon Charter, and Mr. Greg Ruffin, consultant for Dixon Charter’s governing board.

Mr. Fred R. Heid, Regional Executive Director for School Improvement, Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), summarized the results of the FLDOE Curriculum Review recently conducted at A.A. Dixon Charter School. (NOTE: Mr. Heid provided his report via speakerphone. The Superintendent had provided a copy of the FLDOE Curriculum Review to School Board Members prior to this meeting.)

Academic Concerns:

1. School is unable to meet the mission of the Charter application contract (focus on painting and drawing). The School’s Correction Action Plan staffing allocation does not include an art teacher.
2. The FLDOE Curriculum Review indicates significant academic deficits.
3. There is no appropriate progress monitoring process in place. This will handicap the school’s ability to meet the DOE reporting requirements.
4. There are insufficient media services available (library books) to students nor is there appropriate technology access (number of computers for students).
5. There is no plan to address professional development through funding or a schedule for training.
6. Due to significant deficits in the proposed Ed Futures, Inc. agreement, A.A. Dixon has received a list of the School District’s concerns.

Financial Concerns:

1. The Corrective Action Plan relies on fee concessions by vendors to help address its financial hardship.

2. *The current contract with Ed Futures, Inc. is based on a percentage (11%) of revenue rather than a fixed amount.*
3. *The proposed June 30, 2012 fund balance of \$5,072 does not include the Ed Futures, Inc. professional service fees of approximately \$84,000.*
4. *As of September 12th, the second year of the Federal startup grant had yet to be awarded for the 2011-12 fiscal year.*
5. *The school does not have a policy concerning minimum requirements for unreserved fund balance.*

During discussion, Mr. Ruffin said that there could be changes in transportation that were not included in the current Corrective Action Plan. He also noted that a 10 percent salary cut for teachers was not included in the current plan.

Mr. Bergosh said one option is to issue a 90-day notice for the school to close, monitor the school's progress and retract it if progress is made. Mrs. Hightower was concerned that giving the charter school a 90-day notice of termination would be detrimental to the school maintaining their student population in that "ones who are there might think they might need to leave." She wanted to make sure that students were progressing and said she would like to see a monitoring process. Mrs. Moultrie agreed with Mrs. Hightower that a 90-day notice of termination would be detrimental to the school maintaining its student population. She believed that a monitoring process would be appropriate at this point and would give the new administration the opportunity to implement the corrective action plans they had laid out. Mr. Boone said it was apparent that Dixon's staff had sincere intentions; however, he did not see the school being able to turn itself around in three months. The Superintendent said he had heard enough during this discussion to conclude that the Corrective Action Plan as submitted was inaccurate. He said he recommend that the School Board reject Dixon's Corrective Action Plan unless Dixon's governing board submitted a revised version that was accurate and correct. Additionally, he would recommend that the School Board issue the charter school a 90-day termination notice.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 11:48 a.m. and reconvened at 12:06 p.m., with all School Board Members, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters present.

B. Finance

4. Legal Services:

General Fund

- | | |
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| k) Shell, Fleming, Davis & Menge, P.A. | \$ 1,249.00 |
| l) Shell, Fleming, Davis & Menge, P.A. | \$ 534.40 |
| m) Shell, Fleming, Davis & Menge, P.A. | \$ 3,131.50 |
| n) Shell, Fleming, Davis & Menge, P.A. | \$ 465.00 |

At the request of Mrs. Hightower, Mrs. Waters said that she would get with the Superintendent's staff and Mr. Shay from Shell, Fleming, Davis & Menge, P.A., to schedule/arrange/set up/coordinate an Executive Session so that the School Board could discuss the Envisioneering litigation - for the purpose of discussing the Envisioneering litigation.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

d. Out-of-Field

Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, said that an amendment to this item was forthcoming to ensure that all teachers teaching out-of-field were reported prior to the October FTE Survey.

g. Special Requests

3. Ratification of amended Article IX – Professional Assessment and Development, of the 2009-2012 Master Contract between the School District of Escambia County and the Escambia Education Association.

Mr. Bergosh questioned whether the lawsuit filed by the Union would preclude the School District from implementing the Educator Evaluation (E3) process that was agreed to by the School District and the Escambia Education Association (EEA). The Superintendent said that at this point, absent an order by a judge, the law is the law and therefore, the School District was moving forward under the direction and deadline imposed by the Department of Education (DOE). Mrs. Waters said that in the lawsuit, the Union was asking for injunctive relief to enjoin school districts from following through on Senate Bill 736. While it was true that the School District had reached an agreement with the EEA, she said that because that bargaining occurred in the climate of the Senate Bill having been passed, there was a good argument that but for that bill, the EEA would not have signed that agreement.

D. Purchasing

4. Bid Renewal: Employee Benefits Consulting Services, RFP #033801

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, Mr. Kevin Windham, Director of Risk Management, this is Gallagher's services were still needed for the next three months in order to finish out the year. He said that between now and the end of the year, a Request for Proposals (RFP) would be issued to potentially secure another firm to provide employee benefits consulting services.

E. Operations

-No items discussed

F. Student Transfers

-No item discussed

G. Internal Auditing

1. Inventory Adjustment Reports for thirty-five (35) cost centers

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

-No items discussed

B. Items from the Superintendent

-No items discussed

C. Items from the General Counsel

-No items submitted

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

ADD 1. Charter School Quarterly Report

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 1:30 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL