

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, OCTOBER 13, 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 (*not present*)

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on October 6, 2011 – Legal No. 1540284

[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

- Video Streaming of School Board Meetings - Jeff Bergosh

Mr. Bergosh once again, requested that video from every session of the School Board be archived on the School District's website. (NOTE: *Mr. Bergosh previously made this request at the July 14, 2011 Regular Workshop.*) He said he was pleased that the Superintendent's staff was already archiving video from each "regular meeting" but believed that the video archiving should be expanded to include every session of the School Board. Mr. Bergosh pointed out that many important issues were discussed during School Board sessions yet the minutes from those sessions did not always capture all of the discussion that had occurred. He cited this "limitation" of minutes as yet another example of why he believed that moving toward an archived video system for all School Board sessions was appropriate and necessary. He noted that having the video from each School Board session accessible via the School District's website would allow for viewing by all who were interested. The Superintendent reminded Mr. Bergosh that the video recording of every School Board session was not presently possible due to staffing constraints. He also clarified that he was not opposed to the concept, but because resources were "tight" the School District would have to identify a solution that relied on technology, not staff.

- Protocol for Questioning of Students on School Property by Law Enforcement - Jeff Bergosh

Mr. Bergosh said that at a meeting in the future, in conjunction with Mrs. Waters and the Superintendent, he would like to discuss the possibility of enhancing the current School Board policy that relates to the questioning of students at school for non-school discipline related or law enforcement purposes. Mr. Bergosh was worried that students, particularly those of the middle-school age, do not necessarily grasp the ramifications of the statements they willingly make and do not necessarily realize they are potentially incriminating themselves and/or their parents by statements made to law enforcement investigators during interviews conducted at school. He believed that parents should be notified and given the opportunity to be present for any interview that a law enforcement investigator wished to conduct with their student while the student was at school. Captain Dale Tharpe and Lieutenant Robert Martin of the Escambia County Sheriff's Office gave the School Board a brief overview of the process currently

followed by law enforcement with regard to the questioning of a student at school for law enforcement purposes. Lieutenant Martin cautioned against any guidelines that might prevent law enforcement from being able to properly conduct their investigation.

- Scenarios Regarding Various District Insurance Plans - *Jeff Bergosh*

Mr. Bergosh said he had requested that the Superintendent provide information regarding the out-of-pocket expenses that would be incurred by employees for various illness or injuries in relation to the recent change in health insurance plans. Mr. Kevin Windham, Director of Risk Management, said that as the "open enrollment" period approached, he would be sending out a series of emails, providing educational information (including a comparison of the different health insurance plans) so that employees would better understand the different aspects of each health insurance plan available. He also noted that the Risk Management office would be conducting several insurance seminars, related to the new medical insurance plans, at various locations through the District. It was noted that the bargaining group would be conducting information meetings as well. Mr. Windham was hopeful that the emails and the seminars would provide employees with the information they needed to determine the best medical plan for their specific situation.

- Update on Foundation for Excellence - *Gerald Boone*

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boone, the Superintendent confirmed that Ms. Jennifer Passeretti had been selected as the new executive director of the Escambia County Public School Foundation. The Superintendent said Ms. Passeretti would be introducing herself to each School Board Member over the next couple of weeks.

- Update on Transportation Issues for N. B. Cook Elementary - *Linda Moultrie*

(NOTE: *This topic was previously addressed at the September 15, 2011 Special Workshop.*) Mrs. Moultrie asked for an update to her request that the Superintendent have staff explore the possibility of providing a bus to service N.B. Cook Elementary students living on the west-side of town. Mr. Robert Doss, Director of Transportation, reported that staff was currently trying to determine whether the loads of each of the two buses that were currently serving N.B. Cook Elementary could be combined so that all bus stops would be serviced by only one bus, running along the eastern corridor and then along the western corridor in a perimeter fashion.

- IPad Issues - *Bill Slayton*

Mr. Slayton said he had discussed with the Superintendent various problems that he had experienced with his iPad, one problem being the inability to open email attachments. The Superintendent said that it had been determined that the School Board Members' iPads were in need of several updates. It was decided that Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, would collect each School Board Member's iPads after the October 18, 2011 Regular Meeting and would return the iPads once the updates had been completed.

- Proper Protocol for Informing Parents of Incidents Involving Their Child's School - *Bill Slayton*

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent confirmed that his office did in fact provide guidance to school principals with regard to the appropriate amount and type of information that should be provided to parents regarding specific incidents that involved their particular school.

- Funds for Advertisement for Adult Education Classes for District - *Bill Slayton*

Mr. Slayton asked that the Superintendent and his staff look into the possibility of advertising the School District's adult education classes. The Superintendent said he was not opposed to the concept, but noted that resources for doing so were limited at the present time.

- Race to the Top Update – *Superintendent*
[Handout provided to School Board Members]

Ms. Sandra Hardwood, Coordinator of Race To The Top (RTTT) gave a brief update on the implementation of the RTTT plan.

- Strategic Plan - Superintendent
[Handouts provided to School Board Members]

Staff briefly summarized the information outlined in the “draft” version of the 2011-2012 Strategic Plan. School Board Members were asked to review the “draft” version of the Strategic Plan and to provide any suggested edits to Ms. Sandra Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning. It was noted that the School Board would be asked to approve the 2011-2012 Strategic Plan at the November 15, 2011 Regular Meeting.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL