

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 15, 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 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 Special Workshop to order at 3:03 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Update on Class Size - Jeff Bergosh

The Superintendent reported that the School District was “leaning forward” in trying to make class size. He said staff would continue to monitor class sizes and would implement various strategies (i.e., substitute teachers, co-teaching model) in a “best effort” to meet class size requirements. Mrs. Hightower said she would like to know how many schools actually find themselves in co-teaching situations due to class size.

- Update on A. A. Dixon Charter School - Jeff Bergosh

Mr. Bergosh said he would defer this topic to the September 16, 2011 Regular Workshop as the Superintendent had said he was planning to bring a presentation at that time.

- Update on Progress Regarding Students who were Relocated after Closure of Carver/Century - Gerald W. Boone

The Superintendent reported that the students who were relocated to Bratt Elementary or Ernest Ward Middle after the closure of Carver-Century K-8 had integrated and adapted well to their new schools.

- Scheduling of November and December Board Workshops & Meetings - Gerald W. Boone

The School Board agreed to the following schedule for November 2011:

- Regular Workshop - November 9, 2011, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center (agenda to include an abbreviated Open Discussion session)

- Regular Meeting - November 15, 2011, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center
- Organizational Meeting - November 22, 2011, beginning at 8:00 a.m., in the Superintendent's Conference Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building

The School Board agreed to the following schedule for December 2011:

- Special Workshop - December 8, 2011, beginning 3:00 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center
- Regular Workshop - December 9, 2011, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center
- Regular Meeting - December 13, 2011, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center

It was noted that the December schedule would be revisited in November to determine whether the December Special Workshop and December Regular Workshop should be combined into one session.

- Certificates and Awards - *Linda Moultrie*

At the request of Mrs. Moultrie, the Superintendent said that staff would take a look at what could be done to improve the quality of the certificates and awards given by the School District/School Board.

- Student Transportation - *Linda Moultrie*

In response to concerns expressed by Mrs. Moultrie, the Superintendent said that staff would offer support to the administration at N.B. Cook Elementary in dealing with issues related to the "car line."

Mrs. Moultrie requested 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.

- Scheduling of Orientation - *Patricia Hightower*

At the request of Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent said that staff would explore the possibility of "spreading the window" for next school year's elementary, middle, and high school orientations.

- Sale of District Properties - *Patricia Hightower*

Mrs. Hightower requested that the School Board be notified of any purchase offer made on any piece of School District property regardless of whether or not the Superintendent intended to recommend sale of the property. The Superintendent said that any time a legitimate purchase offer had been made on a piece of property he had presented a tentative sales agreement to the School Board.

Mrs. Hightower also requested that the Superintendent have staff maintain a separate accounting of the proceeds from the sale or lease of School District property so that the School Board would be able to see exactly "how much money comes in" from sales and leases and "how much money is taken out." Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, advised that the separate accounting of those proceeds was already occurring within the Local Capital Improvement fund. She explained that each time that money from that fund was appropriated for a project it had been presented to the School Board in the form of a capital outlay budget amendment.

- Possible Assistance from Sheriff's Department Dealing with Entrances to Schools on Opening Day - *Bill Slayton*

Mr. Slayton requested that the Superintendent have staff look into the possibility of employing/requesting assistance from the Sheriff's Office in dealing with the entrances to schools on opening day. The Superintendent said he would survey principals to determine which schools had the most difficulty this past opening day and would solicit support perhaps from a School Resource Officer (SRO) for next year's opening day.

- School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee - *Bill Slayton*

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent confirmed that the issues with the school attendance zones for Jim Allen Elementary and Myrtle Grove Elementary had been resolved.

- Update on Drug Testing Policy/Time Line for Returning Forms- *Bill Slayton*

Mr. Slayton said there had been some confusion among students, coaches, and principals as to the timeline for returning the drug testing consent forms. The Superintendent clarified that a consent form had to be completed and returned prior to a student participating in an extra-curricular activity.

- Parent Portal Rollout Demonstration – *Superintendent*

The Superintendent announced that the Focus Gradebook Parent Portal was now available. Staff provided a brief demonstration of this online portal that would allow parents to view their child's class schedule, grades, and assignments for each class.

- 2010-2011 Annual Wellness Report – *Superintendent*

Ms. Roxanne Baker, representing the Safety, Health, Wellness Advisory Council, Subject Area Specialist-Physical Education, Health, Wellness, Driver's Education & Athletics, provided a handout to Board Members entitled "2010-2011 Wellness Policy Operational Procedures, School Board Update, September 15, 2011."

### 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 5:11 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair