

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, AUGUST 11, 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 July 22, 2011 - Legal No. 1531302

[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

- Scholarship Postings to Website (see June 16, 2011 Minutes) – Patricia Hightower

Mrs. Hightower initiated a follow-up discussion on the issue of scholarship postings to the School District's website as previously discussed at the June 16, 2011 Regular Workshop. The Superintendent confirmed that his staff did intend to post School District's website, the total dollar amount of scholarships received by students at each high school as well as, the total dollar amount of scholarships earned by all high school students combined.

- Legislative Concerns for Submission to Florida School Boards Association - Patricia Hightower

This topic was previously addressed at the July 14, 2011 Regular Workshop. Mrs. Hightower reminded School Board Members that the deadline to submit proposals for the Florida School Boards Association 2012 Legislative Platform was August 26, 2011. At the suggestion of Mrs. Hightower, the School Board agreed to submit as a group, a proposal regarding the issue of co-enrollment funding. The Superintendent said Ms. Lesa Morgan, Director-Workforce Education, could assist Mrs. Hightower in phrasing the "rationale" and providing pertinent data to explain and/or support the School Board's proposal.

- Procedure for Late Adds to School Board Agenda - Patricia Hightower

Mrs. Hightower initiated a discussion regarding the procedure for last-minute changes to items appearing on the monthly Regular Meeting agenda. She suggested, and the Board agreed, that there should be no changes submitted to the School Board after 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the Regular Meeting. This would ensure that the Board would have sufficient time to review the recommended change prior to being asked to take action at the Regular Meeting. The Superintendent believed that

the deadline was reasonable, but noted that he would reserve the right to delete the item if the changes could not be made within the specified timeframe.

- Procedure for Handling Confidential Items and Continuous Changes to Original Electronic Agenda - Patricia Hightower

Mrs. Hightower initiated a discussion regarding the issue of continuous changes to original electronic agenda. Her concern was that with the electronic agenda, there had been no way for a School Board Member to know if an item had been amended or added since initial publication. However, she had discussed the issue with Mrs. Holley DeWees, Administrative Recording Secretary, and Mrs. DeWees had since developed a procedure for notifying School Board Members via email whenever a change had been made to the electronic agenda. Mrs. Hightower said that she would also discuss with Information Technology (IT) staff several other difficulties she had experienced while trying to view backup materials via hyperlinks in the electronic agenda.

- Comprehensive Drug Awareness Plan Wrap-Up – Superintendent
[Handout provided to Board Members]

Mr. Steve Sharp, Manager-Protection Services, provided a handout to School Board Members that outlined the results of the random K-9 drug searches from the 2010-2011 school year. Mr. Sharp reported that out of 352 searches at middle and high schools, there only twenty-eight (28) K-9 alerts; seven (7) of those alerts resulted in the finding of drugs, while the remaining twenty-one (21) found drug residue or odor.

Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director-High School Education, reported that there had been a 42% reduction in drug-related student expulsions from the 2009-2010 school year to the 2010-2011 school year. Mrs. Spooner noted that in 2009-2010, there were 72 drug-related expulsions in high schools and 20 in middle schools (total of 92 drug-related expulsions for 2009-2010) as compared to 36 drug-related expulsions in high schools and 17 in middle schools during 2010-2011 (total of 53 drug-related expulsions for 2010-2011).

- Focus Curriculum Goals Overview – Superintendent
[Handouts provided to Board Members]

Various staff provided status reports on the focused curriculum goals for each grade-level.

- Revisions to the Escambia Principal Preparation Plan – Superintendent
[The revised plan was provided to Board Members in electronic format prior to this meeting.]

Mr. Steve Marcanio, Director-Middle School Education, reviewed the various revisions that had been made to the 2008-2013 Escambia Principal Preparation Plan.

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 5:30 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair