

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, DECEMBER 9, 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. Bill Slayton Vice Chair: Mr. Jeff Bergosh (*not present*)

Board Members: Mr. Gerald W. Boone
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 November 30, 2011 – Legal No. 1546435

[General discussion took place among Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff throughout this meeting.]

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Slayton called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

January 2, 2012

The Superintendent alerted the School Board that apparently, when the School District's 2011-2012 calendar was established, it was not realized that January 2, 2012 was a federal holiday. Since it was unfortunately too late to make any adjustment to the calendar, the Superintendent said January 2nd would remain a school day despite the federal holiday designation and principals would be expected to use their discretion with regard to issuing excused absences if a student was unable to be at school that day.

Class Size Compliance

[Handout provided to School Board Members by the Superintendent]

Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, reviewed the School District's 2011-2012 Class Size Compliance data as outlined in the handout provided. It was noted that the School District missed compliance during the October 2011 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) survey by the slimmest of margins - i.e., only one half of a one percent (.50%) for all grades. The Superintendent said that the School District would submit an appeal to the Department of Education (DOE) and if the appeal was substantiated there was a possibility that the School District could be determined to be in compliance for the 2011-2012 school year. Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, said that because the school district was out of compliance with Class Size Amendment requirements during the October 2011 FTE survey, it would be required to submit to the DOE, a Class Size Compliance Plan outlining the School District's strategy to meet Class Size at the various grade levels during the October 2012 FTE survey period. He noted that the Class Size Compliance Plan was due to the DOE in February so that plan would be submitted for the School Board's consideration on the January 17, 2012 Regular Meeting agenda.

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the December 13, 2011 Regular Meeting since initial publication.

The following item was moved forward on the agenda:

Charter School Quarterly Report (Item VII.1)

Representatives from the following charter schools were in attendance for this meeting: Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy, Pensacola Beach Elementary, Beulah Academy, Capstone Academy, Newpoint Academy, Newpoint Pensacola, A.A. Dixon, Byrneville Elementary, and Escambia Charter. Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, reviewed information outlined in the December 2011 Charter School Quarterly Report that was provided to School Board Members prior to this meeting.

- *Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy*

Mrs. Celestine Lewis, principal of Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy (JHPA), provided School Board Members with a handout that addressed the following topics: (1) *2011-2012 Implementation of Strategies for Increasing FCAT Scores*; and (2) *October 2011 Charter School Financial Issues*. Ms. Lewis asked School Board Members to review the information provided and contact her with any questions or concerns. Upon inquiry by Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, Mrs. Lewis confirmed that she was aware that JHPA was out-of-compliance with class size requirements and would be taking the appropriate steps to address the issue.

- *Pensacola Beach Elementary*

Pensacola Beach Elementary was recognized for receiving "High Performing School" status from the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE). Upon inquiry by Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, Mr. Jeff Castleberry, principal of Pensacola Beach Elementary, confirmed that he was aware that his school was out-of-compliance with class size requirements and he would be taking the necessary steps to address the issue.

- *Beulah Academy*

Beulah Academy was recognized for receiving "High Performing School" status from the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE).

- *Newpoint Academy and Newpoint Pensacola*

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mrs. Tracey Adcock, Board Chair for Newpoint Academy and Newpoint Pensacola, said that Newpoint's Board of Directors was contemplating whether or not to stay at the Creighton Road location because the property was in foreclosure and if they did chose to stay at the current location for the 2012-2013 school year, they would need to do extensive remodeling to that facility. Mrs. Adcock said their Board was also looking at several other locations and as they moved further along in that process, they would be happy to share that information with the School Board.

Richard Milburn Academy, Inc. Charter School Application

Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, informed the School Board that Richard Milburn Academy, Inc. had withdrawn its charter school application from consideration by the School District for the 2012-2013 school year.

The following item was moved forward on the agenda:

Update from A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence

NOTE: *This update was being provided as part of the Dixon Charter School Corrective Action Plan (CAP) that was approved by the School Board at the September 20, 2011 Regular Meeting. In accordance with the CAP, Dixon was to present an update to the School Board at each monthly workshop for the rest of the school year.* Ms. Cathy Bearden-Colbert, Principal of A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence, provided School Board Members with a handout that addressed the following topics: (1) *A.A. Dixon December Academic Statement*; and (2) *A.A. Dixon December Financial Statement*. Mr. Slayton requested that for future updates from Dixon, School Board Members be provided with an advance copy

of the reports prior to the actual meeting where the update would be given so that School Board Members would have an opportunity to review the information beforehand and be prepared to discuss and ask questions about the information during the actual update. Ms. Bearden-Colbert reviewed the information outlined in the handout she had provided and then responded to questions posed or comments made by the School Board and/or the Superintendent regarding the following issues:

- *Staff Development (A.A. Dixon December Academic Statement)*

Mrs. Hightower applauded Dixon for hiring of former Escambia County School District principals, Dr. Wendy Bennett, Mrs. Modeste McCorvey and Mrs. Linda Scott. It was noted that these individuals would give staff development, mentor teachers, and facilitate Dixon's afterschool and Saturday School programs in 2012.

- *Staffing Update (A.A. Dixon December Academic Statement)*

At the request of the Superintendent, Ms. Bearden-Colbert clarified that Dixon's Math Coach had also taken on the role and responsibility of teaching Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students until such time as Dixon was able to hire an ESE teacher. She confirmed that the Math Coach was in fact, ESE certified. She also noted that due to a reduction in student enrollment, Dixon now had less ESE students than before.

- *Net Income (A.A. Dixon December Financial Statement)*

The Superintendent was very concerned that Dixon had ended the month with a net income of negative \$44,970, especially since they had also brought forward a negative fund balance from last year of approximately \$100,000. The Superintendent was concerned that Dixon "had lost so much ground" that they would not be able to recover. For the January 2012 update from A.A. Dixon, the Superintendent requested that only the financial status of the school should be addressed (no information on academics would be addressed). He requested that Ms. Bearden-Colbert provide a full accounting of the school's finances through December 2011 and the school's budget projections through the end of June 2012. Though the update from Dixon was typically given during the School Board's monthly Regular Workshop session, it was decided that the update for January 2012 would be given during the School Board's Special "Open Discussion" Workshop to accommodate the schedule of Dixon's financial/accounting/budget person. The January Special "Open Discussion" Workshop was scheduled for January 12, 2012, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center. It was noted that the update from Dixon would be listed as a time certain item for approximately 4:15 p.m. The Superintendent said that Dixon's report should be submitted to him at least one week in advance of the January 12, 2012 Special Workshop and it would be provided to School Board Members several days before the meeting.

Mr. Boone noted for the record, that he was "through with good intentions for Dixon - it's not happening, it hasn't happened, it's a pitiful situation right now."

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:37 a.m. and reconvened at 10:46 a.m., with Mr. Slayton, Mr. Boone, Mrs. Moultrie, Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters present.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

B. Permission to Advertise

1. Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 2

NOTE: *Sections 2.01, 2.02, 2.03, 2.04, 2.05, 2.06, 2.23, 2.34, and 2.36 were the only sections of Chapter 2 with proposed amendments.* The Superintendent noted that 2.34 had been amended to reinstate the special retirement incentive. There were no questions from any School Board Member with regard to any of the proposed amendments to Chapter 2.

Mrs. Hightower said that she had discussed with Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services the need for some formatting adjustments as with the current format, it

was difficult to determine whether underlined verbiage represented an actual addition of verbiage or simply the presence of a hyperlink. It was noted that a possible solution would be to simply italicize hyperlinks and underline additions.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

2. User Agreement/Contract Summary Pensacola Civic Center and School District of Escambia County, Florida

Mr. Boone expressed his disappointment that School District would be paying more to the Civic Center this year (\$26,688.88) than last year (\$19,298.13) for high school graduations. The Superintendent said the reason the agreement was more for this year, was because the County Commission had a new practice of not allowing waivers of rental fees for the Civic Center whereas last year, the rental fee for the arena and parking lot had been waived.

B. Finance

13. 2011-2012 Educational Support Personnel Salary Schedule
14. 2011-2012 Miscellaneous Salary Schedule

NOTE: *These proposed 2011-2012 salary schedules have been changed to reflect an increase in Florida's minimum wage to \$7.67 per hour, effective January 1, 2012.* Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, confirmed that as noted in the backup documentation for each of these items, the cost of the change to the Educational Support Personnel salary schedule was \$4,008 and the cost of the change to the Miscellaneous salary schedule was \$6,594.

C. Human Resource Services

-No items discussed

D. Purchasing

-No items discussed

E. Operations

-No items discussed

F. Student Transfers

-No items discussed

G. Internal Auditing

-No items submitted

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

1. Appointment to the Board of Community Action Program Committee, Inc. - *Gerald Boone*

NOTE: *This item was submitted for the Board's consideration in response to a request made by Brenda Trimble, current Executive Director for the Community Action Program Committee, Inc. (CAPC).* It was noted that the CAPC was required to have a Board of Directors made of three segments of the community; from the public (elected) population, the private (business) population and representatives from the service communities that CAPC helps and supports. There was discussion as to whether or not it would be appropriate for a School Board Member to serve on the Board of the CAPC. Mrs. Waters noted that the problem with a School Board Member serving on the CAPC board was that unlike many other agencies, the School Board actually enters into contracts with CAPC. In her opinion, a School Board Member serving on the CAPC board would need to abstain from voting on any issue involving the CAPC and the School

Board. Mrs. Waters wondered if the CAPC would be willing to have a School District staff member serve on their board rather than a School Board Member. Mrs. Hightower asked that Mr. Slayton as the School Board's chairman obtain clarification from the CAPC on this issue. It was the consensus of those School Board Members who were present, to delete this item from the December Regular Meeting. The item was to be resubmitted on the January Regular Meeting agenda.

B. Items from the Superintendent

1. Student Recommendations

1. Recommend that, consistent with the decision of the formal hearing officer concerning student discipline number 12-15-221 be adopted as the order of the Escambia County School Board.

Mrs. Hightower asked for clarification regarding the formal hearing officer's recommendation for the "removal" rather than "expulsion" of student 12-15-221. Mr. Darriel White, Court Liaison, advised Mrs. Hightower that she would need to obtain clarification on the formal hearing officer's recommendation directly from the School Board's hearing officer.

C. Items from the General Counsel

-No items discussed

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Charter School Quarterly Report

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. Update from A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence

This item was handled earlier in the meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair