

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, DECEMBER 13, 2011

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Meeting at 4:00 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. Bill Slayton Vice Chair: Mr. Jeff Bergosh

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*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Slayton called the Special Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion by Mrs. Hightower, seconded by Mr. Boone, adoption of the agenda was approved unanimously.

III. DISCUSSION WITH MIXON & ASSOCIATES REGARDING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Mr. John Hamilton, Mixon & Associates, reviewed information outlined in a report he had provided to the School Board and the Superintendent. Mr. Hamilton's report focused primarily on Governor Rick Scott's recommended budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. With regard to the Governor's recommended budget, Mr. Hamilton commented that "it's better than it seems and not as good as it needs to be." He noted that Florida was facing a \$2 billion shortfall due to declined revenue and increased expenses. Mr. Hamilton asked that School Board Members and the Superintendent think about the School District's financial situation and what, if anything Mixon & Associates could do on their behalf, to leverage influence to improve that situation. Throughout this session, Mr. Hamilton responded to questions posed by School Board Members and the Superintendent regarding various legislative issues, including: millage swap and compression funding (Superintendent); Class Size penalty modifications (Hightower); internet sales tax reform (Bergosh); ability for local school boards to set school calendar (Boone); possible changes in the Florida Retirement System (Bergosh); and charter school legislation (Hightower). Mrs. Hightower initiated a discussion regarding the conference call sessions that Mixon & Associates would soon be scheduling with the Superintendent and his staff. She thought that perhaps the School Board Chair or the School Board's legislative liaison might wish to attend such sessions and participate in discussions about various legislative issues that the School Board wished for Mixon & Associates to either lobby for and against. Mr. Bergosh suggested that each School Board Member should be able to simply "listen in" on the conference call sessions; provided that no discussion occurred of course, because otherwise the session would have to be advertised. The Superintendent said the conference call sessions would most likely begin mid-January on Mondays around 12 p.m. prior to his executive staff meetings. As soon as he received the phone number for the conference call sessions, he would communicate that information with the School Board.

PUBLIC FORUM

The following individual(s) requested to the address the School Board during public forum:

James C. Nims, Jr., commented on the “perception” that School Board Members and the Superintendent had “forgotten” about teachers and students.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL