

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 11, 2008

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Workshop Meeting 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: Mrs. Patricia Hightower Vice Chair: Mr. Pete Gindl, Sr.

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh (*not present*)
Mr. Gerald Boone
Mrs. Claudia Brown-Curry

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Jim Paul

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

A. Open Discussion

The following items were briefly addressed during the meeting:
(*Items are not necessarily in chronological order*)

- Primary Education Update re: “Next Generation Sunshine State Standards”
Ms. Laura Colo, Primary Education Specialist, briefly reviewed information outlined in a packet she had provided to Board Members regarding this issue.
- Requiring students to wear seat belts while riding school buses (if equipped with seat belts)
Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, advised Mrs. Brown-Curry that this issue was addressed in the Secondary Rights & Responsibilities Handbook. At the request of Mrs. Brown-Curry, the Superintendent stated that concerns about students not wearing their seat belts could be addressed with principals at the next principal’s meeting.
- Use of vacant School District facilities
At the request of several Board Members, Mrs. Waters stated that she would draft a policy that would require the Superintendent to notice the Board whenever a vacant school district facility was to be used by an outside agency.
- Non-school use of educational facilities & grounds
Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, stated that he would provide a copy of the policy regarding this issue to Mr. Gindl, as requested.
- Re-employment after retirement
Mrs. Hightower asked that this issue be addressed in policy.

- Intervention Programs
At the request of Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Norm Ross, Deputy Superintendent, indicated that staff would provide Board Members, at the September Regular Workshop, an updated listing of the various intervention programs that were available at each school.
- OASIS High School Preparatory Academy 2005-2006 Inaugural Class
Mrs. Hightower requested an update on the performance of OASIS students from the 2005-2006 inaugural class.
- Over-age Elementary and Middle School Students
Mrs. Hightower requested the number of "over-age" students at the elementary and middle school levels.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the additions, deletions, amendments and/or corrections to the July 15, 2008 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

-No items submitted

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Chapter 2, Human Resource Services

Mrs. Brown-Curry stated that she would meet with the Superintendent prior to July Regular Meeting to discuss her desire to revise Section 2.04, Recruitment and Selection of Personnel, (3) Position Advertising, as follows: (b) *Vacancies for Administrative and Professional positions with the exception of the Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Associate Superintendent, Director of Human Resource Services, Directors of Elementary School Education, Director of Middle School Education, Director of High School Education and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent shall be advertised for a period of no less than ten (10) days prior to the application deadline with the intent of establishing a pool of qualified candidates. Interviews of each member of this candidate pool shall be held. Recommendations for employment shall be made to the School by the Superintendent or his/her designee only from said qualified candidate pool.*

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

2. Professional Services Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Nurses on Call, Inc.

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boone, Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, stated that in order to provide educational services to a medically complex Exceptional Student Education (ESE) student, a nurse was needed during transportation of the student to and from school and during instructional services at school.

9. Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Child Care Training Coordinating Agency, the Okaloosa-Walton Child Care Services, Inc.

Mr. Boone noticed that all high schools, with the exception of West Florida and Northview, were listed as participating schools. Mr. Carl Leiterman, Director of Workforce Education, clarified that those two schools were not included because neither one currently had an Early Childhood Education program.

11. Addendum to the Charter School Contract between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Reaching Your Dream, Inc. dba Dr. Ruby J. Gainer School for Reaching Your Dream

Board Members requested the following information with regard to the Ruby J. Gainer School:

- average daily attendance rate;
- number of graduates from the 2007-2008 school year;
- number of students (by year) who had received a diploma/GED/certificate of completion

17. Contract between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and 100 Black Men of Pensacola, Inc.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, confirmed that 100 Black Men of Pensacola, Inc. would be providing the Second Step Violence Prevention program for the first time during the upcoming 2008-2009 school year.

Mrs. Brown-Curry noted that the numbers listed on “page 2 of 7” were out of sequence and would need to be corrected prior to the July Regular Meeting.

32. Advanced Placement Incentive Program (APIP) Grant

Mrs. Hightower referred to the following statement outlined on the “executive summary” sheet for this item: *The primary project objectives for the Escambia API Project include: 1) increasing the percentage of AP program participation of low income and minority students and increasing the number of those students passing AP exams, and 2) increasing the percentage of low income and minority student participation enrolled in AP course enrollment in later years.* If the primary objective was to increase the participation of minority students, Mrs. Hightower and Mrs. Brown-Curry questioned whether Bailey Middle and Workman Middle were appropriate selections, when there were other schools with a higher-percentage of minority students that could have been chosen.

Mr. Steve Marcanio, Director of Middle School Education, clarified that this program would actually target those students who were in the “academic middle” (i.e., low to middle performers). The grant committee had selected Pensacola High and Escambia High, along with their “feeder” middle schools, Workman Middle (feeder to Pensacola) and Bailey Middle (feeder to Escambia).

Mrs. Hightower questioned whether any additional staff would have to be hired in order to implement this grant program. Mr. Marcanio stated that the first year budget for the grant included the cost for a coordinator who would be responsible for overseeing the teacher training process, ordering materials, etc. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Marcanio confirmed that should the grant funding cease, then the coordinator position would be eliminated.

Mr. Marcanio stated that he would provide an additional packet of information that would address any additional questions and/or concerns that Board Members might have regarding this grant.

B. Finance

7. Statement from Florida Association of District School Superintendents for 2008-2009 annual dues

Mr. Boone referred to the invoice from the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) which stated that the payment of 2008-2009 annual dues was to be remitted by July 1, 2008; he questioned why this item was being presented for Board-approval at the July Regular Meeting (after the due date) rather than the June Regular Meeting (prior to the due date). Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, explained that the invoice from FADSS was not received until June 23, which was well after the deadline had passed for submitting items for the June Regular Meeting agenda.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

g. Special Requests

8. Approve Ruth Forrester, Dean, Woodham to work the month of July and to be paid at the regular hourly rate of pay from OASIS Title I funds.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, explained that Ms. Forrester would be working with the OASIS program (located at Woodham Middle) as part of a committee that would interview and assess each student, and his/her parent(s), who was interested in participating in the OASIS program.

2. Educational Support Personnel

f. Special Requests

- Request employee #45020-4108-202 be reinstated effective June 2, 2008. Employee was suspended February 20, 2008 without pay pending a district investigation and disposition of criminal charges. Employee was exonerated of criminal conduct.

The following speaker requested to address the Board regarding this item: Ellen Lawrence. Mrs. Lawrence noted that the Superintendent's previous recommendation that was approved by the Board at the February 20, 2008 Regular Meeting, indicated that this employee was not just "suspended" without pay, but rather "suspended (non-disciplinary)" without pay. Because the employee had now been exonerated of criminal conduct, she believed that in addition to reinstatement, the employee was also entitled to full back-pay with benefits.

Anticipating possible litigation with regard to this employee, Mrs. Waters advised Board Members not to engage in any discussion.

5. Affirmative Action

- Request approval of the Annual Equity Update

Staff members responded to various questions posed by Mrs. Brown-Curry regarding the information outlined in this report.

Mr. Gindl left the Regular Workshop at 11:22 a.m. during discussion on the Annual Equity Update (Item V.C.5)

D. Purchasing

11. Annual Agreement for Fingerprinting and Background Investigations of New and Existing Employees and Vendors

Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, and Mr. Bill Threadgill, Human Resources Coordinator, clarified information that was outlined in this agreement, as it related to the fingerprinting of new and existing District employees and vendors.

E. Operations

1. Facilities Planning

A. Final Payments

2. O.J. Semmes HVAC Renovations

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, clarified that this was the final payment from the HVAC renovations, whereby all window units in the classroom wing at O.J. Semmes had been replaced.

F. Student Transfers

No discussion was held.

G. Internal Auditing

No discussion was held.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

-No items submitted

B. Items from the Superintendent

No discussion was held.

C. Items from the General Counsel

-No items submitted.

VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items submitted

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

Linda M. Mick, of A Ticket to Ride Travel, addressed the Board regarding the inequity of the District's bidding process, specifically with regard to Item V.D.3, Bid Award: Travel Agency Services, RFP #084002.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair