

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JANUARY 15, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop meeting at 3:00 p.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building, 215 West Garden Street, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

Chair: Mrs. Patricia Hightower Vice Chair: Mr. Gerald Boone

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh  
Mrs. Linda Moultrie  
Mr. Bill Slayton

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

*Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on January 7, 2009 – Legal No. LN1377261*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. PROCESS/PROCEDURE FOR SPECIAL MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

*[NOTE: At the December 12, 2008 Regular Workshop, the Board expressed their desire to meet two (2) times each month in a workshop setting prior to the monthly Regular Meeting. It was decided that a Special (monthly) Workshop would be held on the Thursday afternoon prior to the Regular Meeting on Tuesday for “open discussion” items and presentations; and that the Regular (monthly) Workshop would continue to be held on the Friday morning prior to the Regular Meeting on Tuesday to review items that were listed on the Regular (monthly) Meeting agenda.]*

Board Members agreed on the following procedures for the recurring special workshops:

-Discussion/presentations on issues that were not germane to the Regular (monthly) Meeting agenda would occur at the Special (monthly) Workshop; the Regular (monthly) Workshop would be limited to the review of items appearing on the Regular (monthly) Meeting agenda.

-Advertisement of the Special (monthly) Workshop should not include an ending time, yet the Board would “unofficially” strive to stay within a 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. timeframe.

-The location of the Special (monthly) Workshop would be the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building.

III. OPEN DISCUSSION

Participation in Foundation for Excellence Meetings by School Board Members – Patty Hightower

It was decided that a different Board Member would attend each monthly meeting of the Foundation for Excellence.

Review of School Board Policy 6Gx17-3.11 – Selection of School Names – Patty Hightower  
[a handout outlining the current policy was provided to each Board Member]

It was noted that there had been multiple requests to have the newly constructed Fine Arts Auditorium at Washington High School (WHS) named in honor of an individual who serves or who has served at the school. This situation had become an issue because the process for deciding on one individual was rather vague; therefore, Mrs. Hightower felt that it might be necessary for the Board to readdress the current process for the naming of facilities, as outlined in School Board Policy 6Gx17-3.11 – Selection of School Names. Discussion regarding the current policy raised several questions, including (1) whether or not to continue with the practice of naming facilities in honor of people; (2) whether to limit the naming of facilities to geographic locations only; and (3) if continuing the practice of naming facilities in honor of people, whether or not that honor should be limited to only those who are deceased. The Superintendent did not believe that the current policy was necessarily the problem with the situation at WHS; the problem was that there were no guidelines for implementing the policy whenever more than one name was being considered. To help with such situations, the Superintendent offered to develop an implementation protocol whereby all submissions would be evaluated against a set of standard criteria in order to determine which individual should receive the honor. Mr. Bergosh stated that he was willing to pull his item regarding the naming of the auditorium at WHS from the January Regular Meeting agenda (*Item VII.A.1*) if that would help with the Superintendent's process. After much discussion, the Board agreed to continue operating under the current policy while dealing with the situation at WHS; and the Superintendent agreed to develop a protocol for implementation of the current policy.

Assignment of Board Members for Monthly Agenda Responsibility for Delivering Invocation – Patty Hightower

It was decided that each Board Member would rotate monthly, the responsibility for identifying an individual to give the invocation at the monthly Regular Meeting.

Request for Information: District Vehicles

Mr. Slayton requested the following information from the Superintendent and his staff:

- *How many District vehicles (not buses) are in the District fleet?*
- *What departments/staff are they assigned to?*
- *How many vehicles are assigned to employees with permission to drive home and what is the purpose of the assignment?*

Special Meeting re: 2009-2010 Budget

A Special Meeting for the purpose of determining the Board's budget priorities was scheduled for February 13, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. (prior to the 9:00 a.m. Regular Workshop), in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.

Joint Meeting with the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners

[January 27, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center]

Mrs. Moultrie asked that an item regarding the consolidation of District town hall meetings (School Board and County) be added to the agenda for the January 27, 2009 Joint Meeting.

Budget Update

Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, gave a brief update on the budget situation by reviewing information outlined in handouts she had provided to the Board entitled, *School District of Escambia County – Impact of Funding Changes – FY2008-09 3<sup>rd</sup> FEFP*

*Calculation Compared to FY2008-09 Revised 3<sup>rd</sup> FEEP Calculation and Escambia School District General Revenue Forecast Analysis (Worst Case Scenario).*

Update on the Establishment of a Band Program at West Florida High School

Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, advised the Board that due to the current budget situation, the plans to establish a band program at West Florida High School would be delayed one year, or until such time as the budget situation improved. This delay was especially disappointing to Mr. Bergosh as he had advocated for a band program at West Florida High School for quite some time.

School Start Time Realignment Task Force  
Closure & Consolidation Long Range Plan Development Task Force

Each Board Member was asked to provide a representative for each of the Superintendent's task forces.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Ms. Gail Husbands, representing the Escambia Education Association (EEA) addressed the Board regarding issues related to public school funding.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair