

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 17, 2008

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 9:00 a.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. Pete Gindl, Sr.

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh (*not present*)
Mr. Gerald Boone (*entered at 9:37 a.m.*)
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 Special Workshop to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. DISCUSSION RE: 2008-09 BUDGET

Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, reviewed various forms of information that had been provided to the Board with regard to the 2008-09 budget. Throughout the meeting, staff responded to general questions posed by individual Board Members with regard to various aspects of the budget.

(*Mr. Boone entered at 9:37 a.m.*)

Mrs. Hightower commented, that should the financial situation for 2008-09 improve and the District have more funds than anticipated, she would like for the Board and the Superintendent to discuss their priorities in terms of restoring items that were previously eliminated from the budget. She cited the following positions as her personal restoration priorities: 1) Art, Music or Physical Education elementary teaching units; and 2) support staff at the high school level. Her desire was to make certain that classroom positions were restored prior to the restoration of any administrative positions.

Proposed 2008 General Election State Constitutional Amendments (November 4th Ballot)

Mrs. Hightower requested information regarding the potential impact of the following proposed State amendments:

- Amendment 5 – Eliminating State-Required School Property Tax and Replacing with Equivalent State Revenues to Fund Education
- Amendment 7 – Religious Freedom
- Amendment 9 – Requiring 65% of School Funding for Classroom Instruction; State's Duty for Children's Education

Schedule of Upcoming Board Meetings

Board Members confirmed the following meeting schedule:

- Special Meeting (re: Advertisement of 2008-2009 Tentative Budget & Millage)
July 22, 2008, 4:00 p.m., Board Room, McDaniel Building
- Special Meeting (re: Public Hearing & Adoption of the 2008-2009 Tentative Budget & Millage)
July 29, 2008, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, McDaniel Building
- Special Meeting (re: Adoption of Annual Financial Report)
September 11, 2008, 9:00 a.m., Board Room, McDaniel Building
- Regular Workshop
September 11, 2008, 9:15 a.m., Board Room, McDaniel Building
- Special Meeting (re: Public Hearing & Adoption of 2008-2009 Final Budget & Millage)
September 16, 2008, 5:30 p.m., Room 160, Hall Center
- Regular Meeting
September 16, 2008, immediately following 5:30 p.m. Special Meeting, Room 160, Hall Center

Use of Molino Park Elementary School as Pet-Friendly Hurricane Shelter

Mrs. Hightower had been informed that the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners would be discussing and/or possibly voting that day, on a proposal to designate Molino Park Elementary School as a pet-friendly hurricane shelter. She was not certain that Molino Park Elementary School, or any school facility for that matter, would be an appropriate setting for a pet-friendly shelter. The Superintendent assured Board Members that the School District was not obligated to any decision made by the County Commission with regard to this issue. It was noted that the Superintendent, his staff, and Board Members would ultimately decide whether or not usage of the Molino Park Elementary facility, or any school facility, was appropriate for a pet-friendly shelter.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair