

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, NOVEMBER 14, 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

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh
Mr. Gerald Boone
Mrs. Claudia Brown-Curry

Board Members-Elect: Ms. Linda Moultrie
Mr. William Slayton

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Jim Paul

Superintendent of Schools-Elect: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Vice-Chair Mr. Pete Gindl, Sr. was not present.

Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal – Legal No.1364449 1T November 7, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

The first order of business was to present plaques to outgoing officers. Mrs. Brown-Curry received a plaque in appreciation for her service as School Board Member, District III. Mr. Paul received a plaque in appreciation for his service as Superintendent of Schools. Both Mr. Paul and Mrs. Brown-Curry stated that they were grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the students and employees of the School District. Mrs. Hightower received a plaque in recognition of her service as School Board Chair and although Mr. Gindl could not be present for this meeting, he also would be given a plaque in appreciation for his service as School Board Member, District V and for his service as School Board Vice-Chair. .

Mrs. Hightower suggested a short recess while the newly-elected Board Members and newly-elected Superintendent took their seats at the table. The Regular Workshop recessed at 9:08 a.m. and reconvened at 9:13 a.m. with Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Boone, Mrs. Moultrie, Mr. Slayton, Mr. Paul, Mr. Thomas, and Mrs. Waters present. *Mrs. Brown-Curry left the meeting at 9:13 a.m.*

A. Open Discussion

- Calendar Development Committee

Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, provided a handout which outlined a proposal for a calendar development committee consisting of:

5 School Board Appointees (Community Representatives)

3 ESP Representatives

3 EEA Representatives

3 PTA Representatives (one elementary, one middle, one high)
3 Representatives appointed by the Superintendent
3 Level Directors (elementary, middle, high)

December 1, 2008 was the deadline established for each Board Member to identify an appropriate representative for this committee. Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs, would be responsible for submitting the names of those representatives to the Superintendent.

Mrs. Hightower asked that the calendar committee look at the possibility of establishing a two-year school calendar.

- Budget Update

Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, gave a brief update on the budget situation by addressing the following issues: (1) the Governor's request that state agencies hold back 4% of their budgets and (2) the District's preparations for that potential hold back.

Mrs. Hightower suggested holding 'town hall' meetings where employees and community members could gather information, pose questions, and offer suggestions about the District's budget.

Mrs. Gail Husbands, president of the Escambia Education Association (EEA), requested to address the Board regarding various aspects of the District's budget situation.

- Florida's Differentiated Accountability Pilot Program

Ms. Sandra Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning, provided and reviewed a handout that listed the schools that had been identified under each category of differentiated accountability. Warrington Middle was of most concern because it had been identified as an "intervene" school. (*"Intervene" schools are those that have failed to achieve AYP for five or more years in addition to demonstrating severe, long-standing reading and mathematics-based deficiencies*).

Mr. Bergosh and Mrs. Hightower requested the approximate amount of money that the District had expended thus far, as a result of this unfunded pilot program.

- Paper-Less (Electronic) Agenda for School Board Meetings/Workshops

Mrs. Hightower and Mr. Bergosh requested that the Superintendent look into the feasibility of a paper-less (electronic) agenda for School Board meetings/workshops.

- Designation of Date, Time, and Location of Regular Monthly Workshop and Meeting

It was noted that the 2008-2009 schedule of regular monthly workshops and meetings would be determined at the November 18, 2008 Organizational Meeting. Mr. Ronnie Arnold, Associate Superintendent for Public & Interagency Affairs, advised that WUWF-TV (Cox Channel 4) could begin airing the regular monthly meetings at 5:30 p.m. (instead of 6:00 p.m.) as early as December 2008, if the Board wished to continue with the current schedule. (*Current schedule: Regular Meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month, at 5:30 p.m. Regular Workshops held the Friday before the Regular Meeting at 9:00 a.m. Both meetings held in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.*)

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Paul listed the additions, deletions, amendments and/or corrections to the November 18, 2008 Regular Meeting agenda. *Mr. Paul left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.*

III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

1. Snoezelen Study (9:30 a.m.)

Dr. Carla Thompson, Director of the University of West Florida CORAL (Community Outreach Research and Learning) Center, provided and reviewed a handout which outlined results from a

research study conducted at Escambia Westgate School (Snoezelen Center) regarding multisensory experiences and the sustained focus of students with special needs. Superintendent-Elect Thomas believed that the results from that study would finally ‘validate’ what the School District was doing for special needs students. He also expressed his desire to strengthen the relationship between the School District and the CORAL Center, as he believed that both entities were a valuable resource for each other.

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Board Members requested that the Superintendent provide a calendar that outlined the anticipated date of routine rule revisions. Several Board Members believed it would also be helpful if an “executive summary” sheet was provided for each rule revision to outline the various changes made and to briefly explain why those changes were made.

Revisions to School District Chapter 5 – Business Services

5.06 *Non-School Use of Educational Facilities*

(1) Use of Educational Facilities and Grounds

Mrs. Hightower believed that this section should clearly identify the criteria used in determining the ineligibility of an applicant.

5.06 *Non-School Use of Educational Facilities*

(3) Conditions for Use

(b) An appropriate regular school employee, custodian, lifeguard, and/or supervisor designated by the principal shall be on duty at all times when educational facilities or grounds are being used by an eligible non-school group.

(5) Fees and Rate Schedule

(c) In addition to the schedule of hourly and/or daily fees, the user shall pay directly to the school any additional costs incurred by the school in providing the requested facility including, but not limited to costs incurred in connection with providing appropriate staff.

Mr. Slayton was concerned that the fee and rate schedule outlined in policy did not specify the costs associated with compensating the school employee(s) (i.e., auditorium manager, stadium manager, custodian, etc.) who would be on duty while an educational facility was being used by a non-school group. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that Mr. Slayton’s concerns should be addressed within the Use of Facilities Agreement (referred to in Section 5.06) rather than in the fee and rate schedule outlined in policy. It was believed that the policy should simply state that a principal had the ability to designate and to assess charges for the appropriate employee(s); and that the Use of Facilities Agreement was the appropriate place for a principal to specify the employee(s) and their associated hourly rate of pay. Board Members tasked Mrs. Waters with making the appropriate modifications to the Use of the School Facilities Agreement.

Revisions to School District Rule 6Gx17-7.09 – Student Progression Plan *(compliance with legislative changes)*

Report Card and Grading System

Staff was to provide amended backup documentation for this item because the grade of D- (61-60) was inadvertently omitted from the grading system listed for grades 1-5.

Mrs. Hightower suggested that the kindergarten grading system also be mentioned under this section.

Grades 6-8 Student Progression (Middle Schools)

Middle School Promotion

~~G. Successful academic performance is directly correlated to school attendance. If a student is absent thirty or more days during a school year his/her promotion will be subject to administrative review by a staff committee appointed by the principal.~~

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Steve Marcanio, Director of Middle School Education, explained that the verbiage in item "G" was added several years ago in an effort to encourage students to attend school; however, since there was nothing in Florida Statute that supported that verbiage, staff believed it would be best to remove that item.

Grades 9-12 Student Progression (Senior High Schools)

General Requirements for High School Graduation

Mr. Boone suggested that staff review this particular section as he did not believe that the statement under item "4" was a proper sentence.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

1. Limited English Plan for the School District of Escambia County, 2008-2009

Amended backup documentation would be submitted for this item so that page 4 of the English Learner's Plan would specify the Director of Comprehensive Planning as the person responsible for overseeing the assessment of English Language Learner (ELL) students.

3. Charter Recommendation to the School Board of Escambia County, Florida regarding the Charter Application for the Charter Magnet School of Century, Florida

NOTE: *The District's Charter School Review Panel recommended to the Superintendent that the charter application submitted by the Charter Magnet School of Century, Florida, be denied by the School Board.*

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, advised that the individuals who submitted the charter application were Irvin Stallworth, (as President/Executive Director of Century Community Development Partnership, Inc.) and James Sutton (as organizer of the Charter Magnet School at Century, in organization).

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

*Purpose: To provide facilities for the 2008-2009 high school graduations
Amount of funding request: \$26,420.00
(\$1137.13 more than 2007-2008 due to an increase in personnel costs)*

Mr. Bergosh stated that he intended to vote for the approval of this agreement, yet he believed that \$26,420.00 was too much money to spend for rental of the Pensacola Civic Center. It was his desire to identify a less expensive facility in Escambia County that could accommodate the District's future high school graduations ceremonies.

B. Finance

7. Financial Status Report on Projects and Grants

Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, directed Board Members to “Schedule C” of the backup documentation for a listing of funds that had been returned to the State.

9. Escambia County District School Board Operational Audit for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008

Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, advised that a copy of the Operational Audit had been provided to the Board Member’s Office and had also been posted to the District’s website.

C. Human Resource Services

No discussion was held.

D. Purchasing

16. SMART Boards and Accessories for Various District Schools

Mr. Bergosh questioned whether “document cameras” would be a better purchase for the District since they could be utilized in the same way as SMART Boards, yet were significantly less expensive. Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, acknowledged that there had been positive reactions for both types of devices; however, he suggested that the District proceed with this purchase of SMART Boards, particularly for the benefit of the District’s Technology Learning Groups.

E. Operations

No discussion was held.

F. Student Transfers

No discussion was held.

G. Internal Auditing

-No items submitted

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

It was noted that the following issues would be addressed at the November 18, 2008 Regular Meeting: (1) Appointments for Legislative Liaison and Legislative Liaison Alternate to the Florida School Boards Association, November 2008 to November 2009; and (2) Appointments to the Escambia County Value Adjustment Board – One School Board Member and One Escambia County Citizen.

B. Items from the Superintendent

No discussion was held.

C. Items from the General Counsel

No discussion was held.

VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Draft: Proposed Policy, Advertisement and Application for Appointment of Disciplinary Hearing Officers

Mrs. Hightower was made aware that the School Board was in need of disciplinary hearing officers. Mrs. Waters drafted a proposed policy regarding the advertisement and application for appointment of hearing officers. Mrs. Hightower suggested that a statement regarding compensation be added to the proposed policy.

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Hightower called for public forum; however, there were no speakers.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There was a brief discussion regarding a recent public records request that had been made of all Florida school districts by Mr. Joel Chandler of Polk County. Mr. Chandler requested the personal information (names, addresses, gender, age, title, and telephone numbers) of all employees and dependents covered under each school district's health insurance policy. There was concern that the release of such personal information could be a violation of Federal Law, specifically Protected Health Information (PHI) outlined in detail in the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability ACT (HIPAA).

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair