

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, DECEMBER 12, 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. 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 December 4, 2008 – Legal No. LN1370919

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:15 a.m.

A. Open Discussion

- Calendar Survey

A survey regarding the 2009-2010 student calendar was to be accessible via the District website through January 2nd. Results from that survey were to be shared with the Calendar Committee.

- Superintendent's Task Forces

The Superintendent was to assemble a separate task force to study each of the following issues: (1) school starting and ending times for 2009-2010; (2) budget reduction recommendations; and (3) a long-range, comprehensive plan for school closures/consolidations.

- Master Board Program

Board Members and the Superintendent expressed a desire to participate in the 2009-2010 Master Board Program training events offered by the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA). The Superintendent's staff was to identify the funds necessary for \$3,000 participation fee and for the associated travel expenses. The Superintendent was to file the "intent to participate" form with the FSBA office.

- Analysis: Unweighted and Weighted Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students *(handout provided)*
[comparison of results from October FTE count to original projections]

- Update on Collected and Unpaid Taxes - Pensacola Beach Delinquent Taxes *(handout provided)*
[prepared December 2, 2008]

- Naming of the new Auditorium at Washington High School

Mr. Bergosh was asked by a community member to relay a request to the Superintendent for the new auditorium at Washington High School to be named in honor of the late Theodore B. Bennett. *(Mr. Bennett was a 1952 graduate of the school and continued his education at*

Alabama State University. He later returned to Pensacola and was subsequently employed as Band Director at Washington High School in 1969; later became Dean in 1983 until his demise in 1994.) The Superintendent agreed to add Mr. Bennett's name to the list of names that were being considered. He advised that the appropriate process would be followed in determining a name for the new facility (as outlined in Chapter 3, Section 3.11 "Selection of School Names").

- Four Day Work Week

Mr. Slayton was curious as to whether a four-day work week during the summer would result in a significant cost savings to the District. The Superintendent was to refer this issue to the task force that would be considering budget reduction recommendations.

- Additional Monthly Board Workshop

It was the desire of the Board and the Superintendent to meet two (2) times each month in a workshop setting prior to the monthly Regular Meeting. It was suggested that a Special (Monthly) Workshop 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 to begin the two workshops per month schedule in January with the Special Workshop being held on January 15th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. (location to be determined) and the Regular Workshop on January 16th at 9:00 a.m. (location to be determined). Mrs. Holley DeWees, Administrative Recording Secretary, was tasked with preparing the appropriate advertisement for both workshops.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 11:00 a.m. and reconvened at 11:10 a.m., with all Board Members, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters present.

- Florida Public Employers Labor Relations Association (FPELRA) – Annual Training Conference

Board Members expressed no objection to Mrs. Waters attending the FPELRA Annual Training Conference to be held in Orlando from February 1st through February 4th.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the additions, deletions, amendments and/or corrections to the December 16, 2008 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

1. Charter School Quarterly Report (9:30 a.m.)

(Representatives from the following charter schools were in attendance at this meeting: Capstone Academy, Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy, Pensacola Beach Elementary School, Byrneville Elementary School, Beulah Academy of Science, Ruby J. Gainer School for Reaching Your Dream, and Escambia Charter School.) Prior to this meeting, Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, provided the Board with a quarterly report (December 2008) on charter schools.

Ms. Celestine Lewis, Executive Director of Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy, addressed the various issues affecting the students of today.

Ms. Dee Wolfe-Sullivan, principal of Byrneville Elementary School, reminded everyone that charter schools were also "public" schools; she asked that charter schools be given the opportunity to purchase items that are made available to other public schools throughout the District [i.e., Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units].

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Revisions to School District Chapter 3 - School Operating Procedures

Discussion took place regarding the intent of several revisions outlined in the backup documentation for this item under Section 3.02, Office of School Choice [specifically, Section (4)(b)1.,2.,3. and Section (5)(f)7], relative to the child of an employee who does not live within Escambia County. It was ultimately determined that those revisions were not included in the version of the Chapter 3 policy that had been approved for advertisement at the October 21, 2008 Regular Meeting; therefore, those revisions would not be considered as part of this request for adoption. Mrs. Waters clarified for the record, that the Board would only consider for adoption at the December 16, 2008 Regular Meeting, the version of Chapter 3 policy as it was approved for advertisement at the October 21, 2008 Regular Meeting.

Section (4)(b)1.,2.,3. and Section (5)(f)7 as approved for advertisement at the October 21, 2008 Regular Meeting is outlined below:

3.02 Office of School Choice

(4) Student Assignment

(b) No student who is not a bona-fide full-time resident of Escambia County, Florida, shall be allowed to enroll or remain enrolled in an education program designated by resolution of the School Board as a magnet program, a magnet school or an academy/program unless:

- 1. The student is a child of a full time permanent employee of the school district. Students of employees do not need to meet the requirement of living in Escambia County to make application into a magnet/academy/program. Employees who are part time, non-permanent, or not directly employed by the district cannot make application if they live outside of Escambia County. Employment must be verified through the Human Resources Department; and*
- 2. The Superintendent of Schools shall certify that there is a vacancy in the magnet program, magnet school, or academy/program, and that no eligible student who is a bona-fide full-time resident of Escambia County, Florida, is seeking admission into the magnet program, magnet school or academy/program; and*
- 3. The School shall approve a request for transfer.*

(5) Student Transfer Procedure

(f) Transfers may be Granted for the Following Reasons:

(7) Magnet Programs or Schools

No student who is not a bona-fide full-time resident of Escambia County, Florida, shall be allowed to enroll or remain enrolled in an education program designated by Resolution of the School Board as a magnet program, a magnet school or a school of choice unless the Superintendent certifies there is a vacancy in the magnet program, magnet school, or school of choice, and that no eligible student who is a bona-fide full-time resident of Escambia County, Florida, is seeking admission into the magnet program, magnet school or school of choice.

The following speaker requested to address the Board regarding Chapter 3 policy (specifically, Section 3.02): Ellen Lawrence, representing the Escambia Education Association (EEA). Mrs. Lawrence requested that any reference to “permanent” employees in Section 3.02 apply to both full-time and part-time employees.

Revisions to School District Chapter 4 – Instruction

Mrs. Hightower noted a possible error, in that there were two pages labeled “10” in the backup documentation; both pages contained the same verbiage, yet were formatted differently.

4.02 Special Programs and Procedures for Exceptional Students

- (2) *A student shall be required to show evidence of work, satisfactorily completed, in order to qualify for a grade in each course or grade taken while homebound. This evidence shall be turned over to the student’s regular teacher prior to grading.*

The Superintendent and staff responded to questions posed by Mr. Boone regarding the homebound program in general; however, Mr. Boone expressed no concerns with this particular section of policy.

Addition of School District Rule 6Gx17-7.18 - Policy Against Bullying and Harassment

Staff members responded to general questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding the training had been and would continue to be provided for personnel who would be required to implement this particular policy.

Revisions to School District Chapter 2 - Human Resource Services

Mrs. Hightower believed that it would be helpful to actually include the definition of “normal retirement” in this particular chapter of policy. (*“Normal retirement” is defined as 30 years of service or age 62.*)

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

1. Modification to Workforce Education Fee Schedule for GED Testing for remainder of 2008-2009 School Year

Purpose: To comply with Florida State Board of Education amendment to rule 6A-6.021, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), requiring State of Florida High School Diplomas that allow GED Testing Sites to increase fees for the full test battery to not more than \$70.

Implementation Plan: Notify adult education clients that beginning 01/01/09, GED testing fee will be \$70.00 for full test battery.

In response to an inquiry made by Mrs. Moultrie, Mr. Carl Leiterman, Director of Workforce Education, advised the Board that there were scholarships available to adult education clients to help cover the increased cost of the GED testing.

3. Cooperative Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Pensacola Electrical Apprenticeship, Group Non-Joint

Staff responded to questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding the Apprenticeship Committee Coordinator that was referred to in this agreement. (There appeared to be conflicting statements within the agreement as to which entity was responsible for paying the salary and/or benefits for this particular position.)

4. Agreement of Clinical and Field-Based Experiences between the University of Phoenix and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida

Mr. Slayton stated that his main concern with this agreement had to do with the School District working with an entity (University of Phoenix) that was in the business of making money rather than in the business of providing a quality education.

7. No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 Supplemental Educational Services Contractual Agreement 2008-2009 (OASIS)

Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, responded to several questions posed by Mrs. Hightower, by explaining the process in which a group of teachers in the OASIS program had been approved by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) to become a Supplemental Educational Services (SES) provider for the School District.

B. Finance

10. 2008-2009 Miscellaneous Salary Schedule

Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, noted that one of the changes to the Miscellaneous Salary Schedule was to increase the hourly rate for minimum wage categories to \$7.25 effective January 1, 2009. She explained that Florida's minimum wage was scheduled to increase to \$7.21 on January 1, 2009, but the Federal and Florida minimum wage was scheduled to increase to \$7.25 on July 24, 2009; and so, approval of the \$7.25 rate now would avoid multiple rate changes within that short time frame.

C. Human Resource Services

No discussion was held.

D. Purchasing

The following speaker requested to address the Board with a general concern regarding items listed under this particular section: Gail Husbands, representing the Escambia Education Association (EEA). Mrs. Husbands asked the Board and the Superintendent to reconsider some of the purchases that were being made for "things that might be wonderful when times are good" yet might not need to be purchased when "times get difficult."

13. Renewal of Performance Pathways Software

Description of Purchase: Performance Pathways consists of three products: Performance Tracker (a data mining application), Assessment Builder (which is used with FCAT Test Maker) and TechPaths Curriculum Mapping. During the 2007-2008 school year, Phase I was completed which included the implementation of Performance Tracker and Assessment Builder. Phase II which includes the implementation of TechPaths will occur in the 2008-2009 school year. The implementation of TechPaths will provide the vision of a total data analysis solution where assessment data leads to instructional changes in the curriculum. The IT Department has given this item its endorsement after checking it against the District software matrix.

Amount of Purchase: \$64,980.00

Funding Source: General Fund (1110) – SAI Operational Cost – Regular Term (0718)

Mrs. Hightower had various concerns regarding this particular item; the Superintendent agreed to address her concerns prior to the Regular Meeting or else the item would be deleted from the agenda.

19. "My Kid Scoop" Program for Title I Students

Description of Purchase: The purchase is for the delivery of Pensacola News Journal newspapers to 4500 kindergarten to second grade students each Monday beginning August 18, 2008 for 37 weeks. Newspapers will include full page "My Kid Scoop" program. The top half of the page to include parent information and bottom half of page will contain "My Kid Scoop" curriculum.

Amount of Purchase: \$44,955.00

Funding Source: *Other Special Revenue Fund (4210) – Title I, Part A, Basic (5303)*

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, explained that it was actually the School District's Title I staff who developed the curriculum and information for the "My Kid Scoop" program; that information was then sent to the Pensacola News Journal to be published in the Monday edition of its newspaper. Those newspapers were then sent to the District to be disseminated to kindergarten, first and second grade students in Title I schools. Mr. Bergosh intended to reject this purchase as he believed that the funds could be better spent for some other educational purchase. He disagreed with paying Pensacola News Journal almost \$45,000 to print information that had been developed by School District staff. Mrs. Nowlin advised Mr. Bergosh that the Board had already approved the contract for the "My Kid Scoop" program at their August 2008 Regular Meeting*; yet the invoice/purchase request had been delayed until now.

**This was later determined to have been an incorrect statement; no such contract was ever presented to or approved by the Board in August 2008.*

E. Operations

No discussion was held.

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

3. Student Recommendations

4. Recommend that, consistent with the decision of the due process committee, student number 09-27-951 be expelled from all public schools of Escambia County for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year with the option to enroll, if qualified and if space is available, in an alternative educational program exclusive of regular school placement. Placement to be at the discretion of the Superintendent and to be available as an alternative during the full expulsion time frame.

(NOTE: *Student Number 09-27-951 was charged with sexual misconduct.*) Mr. Boone took issue with the fact that only one of the two students involved in the act of sexual misconduct was being recommended for expulsion. Mr. Darriel White, Court Liaison, advised that the other student could not be recommended for expulsion because of the federal guidelines regarding Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students.

C. Items from the General Counsel

No discussion was held.

VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Academy Enrollment at High Schools

Mr. Carl Leiterman, Director of Workforce Education, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation showcasing the various career academies available to high school students in the District.

Career Academy Enrollment Summary

Enrollment Membership	Total
ALL HIGH SCHOOLS – Total Student Enrollment	10,850
ALL HIGH SCHOOLS – Total Career Academy Students	2,921
% of Total CA Students	26.92%

**Data retrieved November 17, 2008*

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Hightower called for public forum; however, there were no individuals who wished to speak.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair