

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JANUARY 16, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Workshop Meeting 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. 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 Regular Workshop to order at 9:05 a.m.

A. Open Discussion
-No items submitted

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the additions, deletions, amendments and/or corrections to the January 20, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS
-No items submitted

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Revisions to School District Chapter 5 – Business Services

5.02 *Purchasing*

(13) *Minority and Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program*

(a) *Definitions*

Mr. Bergosh was to confer with Mrs. Waters regarding his desire to add a category for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses to the District's procurement program.

5.06 *Non-School Use of Educational Facilities*

(4) *Classification of Users*

(a) *All users of educational facilities, other than school-sponsored organizations, shall pay fees as outlined in Section 5 of this rule. Users are divided into three groups for the purpose of assessing fees.*

(1) *Group A (Non-Profit)*

*Any organized non-profit group or organization with the school district whose purpose is directly connected to the school district or community --- examples are:
Parent Teacher Organizations
School Parent Groups
School Committees
Athletic Boosters
Band Boosters
Municipal/Government Agencies*

Mrs. Hightower requested that the term “Parent Teacher Organizations” be changed to “Parent Teacher Groups” to encompass both Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs) and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs).

Notice of Intent to Modify, Change, and/or Delete School Attendance Zone Boundaries

This rule modifies, changes, and/or deletes school attendance zone boundaries for elementary and middle schools in Escambia County, Florida. The effect of these changes is to close Carver/Century K-8 and redistrict elementary school students to Bratt Elementary and middle school students to Ernest Ward Middle.

Mr. Slayton acknowledged that Ernest Ward Middle would offer the incoming middle school students many extracurricular activities that had not been offered at Carver-Century; however, he was concerned that Century’s geographic distance from Ernest Ward, coupled with the lack of adequate transportation of many Century residents, would present a problem for those students actually being able to participate in those activities. Mrs. Moultrie noted that the School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee (SAZAC) had strongly encouraged that priority be given to providing transportation to parents from the Carver-Century area to attend scheduled meetings (i.e., open house, PTA meetings, conference days/nights) at each school (Bratt and Ernest Ward). In response to the comments and concerns, the Superintendent assured the Board that he was committed to doing everything economically reasonable with regard to providing adequate transportation for both students and parents.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

4. Approval of Web Design Services Academy for Booker T. Washington High School

Mrs. Moultrie referred to the following sentence listed on page 7 of the backup documentation: *“Traditionally, more males become information technology works; thus, extra efforts will be made to recruit females.”* It was noted that “works” should be corrected to “workers”.

5. Escambia County School District Strategic Plan 2006-2012 (2008-2009 Update)

Board Members and the Superintendent agreed that the current format of the School District’s strategic plan was rather voluminous and quite difficult to follow. The Superintendent offered to develop a streamlined version of the plan that would be simple enough for all stakeholders to comprehend. Mrs. Hightower requested that the Board be included in the Superintendent’s process for developing a new format for the plan.

B. Finance

9. Amendment to 2007-2008 Classrooms for Kids Project Allocation List

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, the Superintendent confirmed that the additional modular classrooms at Bratt Elementary School would assist in the overall accommodation of the incoming elementary students from Carver-Century.

C. Human Resource Services

2. Educational Support Personnel

f. Special Requests

- Request employee number 5621-9620-11 be reinstated effective Monday, January 12, 2009. Employee was suspended February 20, 2008 without pay pending the outcome of criminal charges and District investigation. The State Attorney dropped the charges.

Mr. Bergosh noted for the record, that he was not comfortable with reinstating this employee, despite the fact that the State Attorney had decided to drop criminal charges.

D. Purchasing

3. Annual Agreement Renewal: District-Wide Student Records, Parent Portal and Grade Book Software

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, informed the Board that personnel from Tyler Technologies would be on-site during February and March to complete a gap analysis between the current records application and the replacement application. At the request of Mr. Slayton, Mr. Manderson agreed to report to the Board in April regarding the results of that analysis and/or the projected timeline for the deployment of the full software package (including the Parent Portal component).

AMENDED

4. Contract Service Arrangement Agreement: BellSouth Primary Rate Interface (PRI) Lines

Mrs. Moultrie noted that the contract with BellSouth did not specify an effective date. Mr. Bill Bush, Director-Management Information Systems (MIS), clarified that the contract would begin on July 1, 2009; he was to confer with Mrs. Waters regarding the insertion of the effective date into the contract.

5. IBM z10 Business Class Mainframe Server

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Bill Bush, Director-Management Information Systems (MIS) advised that the mainframe server was critical to the processing of all District applications (student information, payroll/human resources, finance, warehouse inventory and DOE reporting); therefore, this was not a purchase that should be delayed.

6. SuccessMaker Software Technical Support Services and Professional Development

Mrs. Moultrie noted that the amended backup documentation indicated that the amount of this purchase had been reduced. Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, explained that the reduction in price was the result of renegotiations with the vendor, Pearson Learning. Pearson Learning understood the School District's current financial situation and rather than lose their contract, they agreed to reduce the amount instead.

12. Apple Computers for Various Schools

In response to Mr. Bergosh's question as to why the School District was requesting the purchase of iPods for various schools, Mr. Don Manderson, Director-Instructional Technology, explained the multiple ways in which an iPod could be used to stimulate educational activity. (NOTE: *iPod is a brand of portable media players designed and marketed by Apple Inc.*)

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 discussion was held.

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~~

2008-2013 Escambia Principal Preparation Plan [Item V.A.6, January 20, 2009 Regular Meeting agenda]

NOTE: This item was intended for information purposes only; therefore, it was deleted from the January Regular Meeting agenda and placed on the January Regular Workshop agenda instead.

Mr. Steve Marcanio, Director-Middle School Education, explained that the 2008-2013 Principal Preparation Plan was originally approved by the Board at the June 17, 2008 Regular Meeting. That plan was submitted to the Department of Education (DOE) however, it was later returned to the School District for modifications. The School District received full approval for the modified plan on December 1, 2008.

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair