

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JANUARY 12, 2012

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 3:00 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

Chair: Mr. Bill Slayton Vice Chair: Mr. Jeff Bergosh

Board Members: Mr. Gerald W. Boone  
Mrs. Linda Moultrie  
Mrs. Patricia Hightower

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

*Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on January 4, 2012 - Legal No. 1550058*

[General discussion took place among Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff throughout this meeting.]

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Slayton called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Boone advised the Board that he had gone to Tallahassee, Florida yesterday to participate in the events honoring Daniel Pierce, student from Tate High School, who was chosen as one of five recipients in the State of Florida for the Take Stock in Children "Leaders 4 Life" Fellowship.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Board Meeting Calendar - *Bill Slayton*

Mr. Slayton asked if there were any issues with the upcoming January, February and March Board meeting schedules. It was determined that the Regular Meeting for the month of March should be changed because it falls within the week of Spring Break. The Board agreed that the March 2012 Regular School Board Meeting should be held on Tuesday, March 27 at 5:30 p.m. instead of Tuesday, March 20, 2012. Mr. Slayton asked the Superintendent to remind staff to check dates of School Board Meetings prior to setting events for which attendance by Board Members and the Superintendent would be expected. Mr. Bergosh requested that calendar information be posted to the website. Mr. Slayton said the Board would continue to review calendar postings at its monthly discussion workshops.

- High School Grades - *Linda Moultrie*

Mrs. Moultrie applauded the staff for a "job well done" but realizing that numerous changes are coming, she asked if there was a plan to communicate to parents, public and all stakeholders about forthcoming changes regarding pupil progression and graduation mandates. The Superintendent stated that there were several phases of changes and that there is only information about the first phase at this time. The Department of Education will have to complete their analysis before school districts will have information to communicate. The Superintendent stated that he will first need to find out what the Department of Education will do, then talk with the Board and then get the message out to the public. Mrs. Moultrie understood that the specific information may not be available but felt that there needed to be some method to let the public know that substantial changes are being considered.

- Scheduling iPad Training for Board Members - Board Members

Due to the varied types and amount of training each School Board Member needed, it was determined that each Board Member should contact Lori Weedo, Instructional Technology Teacher, to schedule a time and place for said training.

- Dixon Charter Financial Update - Superintendent

Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, presented a PowerPoint® regarding the financial data he and his staff had gathered. There was concern expressed by staff and several Board Members that the data continued to reflect a deficit for Dixon and that proposed cost saving measures may not get them in the “black” by year’s end. Some of the concerns revolved around their transportation needs, Title I funding and consultant and purchased services expenses. Although assertions were made by those speaking on behalf of Dixon Charter that in order to balance their budget some expenditures/debts would be “forgiven” if necessary and that a line of credit would be secured, no written evidence was presented to the Board to that effect. Mr. Slayton asked to see those things in writing. At a previous meeting Mrs. Hightower had requested but not yet received a copy of Dixon’s staffing pattern. She still wanted that information and wanted to know if it included what Dixon considered as contracted services as noted on the financial data presented today. Mr. Bergosh questioned whether or not a charter school could operate with a negative balance. Mr. St. Cyr indicated that he thought there had been some cases where it was allowed and the Superintendent stated the answer would be researched and information provided. Mr. Bergosh inquired about money being spent for “marketing” and if this meant recruiting of students. Mr. Lu Timothy May, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Dixon Charter School, stated that they were not actively recruiting students but that they would not turn anyone away that was interested in enrolling their students at Dixon. The Superintendent stated that there were still some inaccuracies in the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) but all were trying to work out the issues before bringing an amendment to the School Board. There seemed to be some discrepancies as to when the District and the Charter School received and/or shared certain pieces of information. Mr. Slayton pointed out that if staff didn’t have advance notice of important pieces of information to give the School Board in advance of the meeting, then the School Board would be at a loss to try and offer support and suggestions to help make Dixon Charter School successful.

- SACS Visit - Superintendent

Ms. Sandy Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning, handed out information related to the upcoming visit of AdvancED, pointing out that AdvancED merged with other organizations and is now our accrediting system (not Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - SACS). The team visit will take place from January 29 through February 1, 2012. There was a short Power Point outlining the schedule and process to be used by AdvancED. In closing, Ms. Edwards reminded the Board Members about date and time for their individual meeting with members of the AdvancED team, as well as the scheduled Oral Exit Report that would be presented by the team on February 1 at 12:00 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center. She encouraged everyone to be present to hear the exit report, indicating that there would not be an opportunity for input or questions at that time. A written report from the team would be expected in approximately thirty (30) days at which time it will be presented to the Board at one of their upcoming meeting.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Slayton called for public forum; however, there were no speakers.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair