

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 17, 2012

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Regular Workshop 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: Mr. Bill Slayton Vice Chair: Mr. Jeff Bergosh

Board Members: Mr. Gerald W. Boone (*not present*)
Mrs. Linda Moultrie (*not present*)
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 February 1, 2012 – Legal No. 1552286

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Slayton called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Update on Class Size Appeal

NOTE: *This topic was previously addressed at the December 9, 2011 Regular Workshop.*

The Superintendent advised that the School District's Class Size appeal had been accepted and that the published report from the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) now showed Escambia County as being in compliance (post-appeal) with Class Size Amendment requirements for the 2011-2012 school year.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

-No items submitted

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

I. Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures (SP&P) Document

Mr. Bergosh questioned whether this item could be postponed for a month so that School Board Members would have sufficient time to thoroughly review the voluminous backup documentation before being asked to consider approving this item. There appeared to be some confusion as to whether or not this item actually required School Board approval. The Superintendent said that the SP&P document did not have to be approved by the School Board, but that it did have to be submitted as an item on a School Board meeting agenda simply to ensure that School Board Members were aware of the updated information. Mrs. Hightower however, noted that the "executive summary sheet" included with the backup documentation for this item did in fact, state that the required action was School Board adoption and signature. The Superintendent said that the SP&P document was based on a template created by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services. He

also said that neither the School District, nor the School Board could make any changes to that document. Ms. Teri Szafran, Director of Exceptional Student Education (ESE), clarified that the SP&P document had already been submitted to and approved by the FLDOE. She clarified that the FLDOE did not require the School Board's approval of the document; however, it was the School District's procedure that the document "went through the agenda process" to ensure that School Board Members were aware of the updated information. Ms. Szafran noted that the SP&P document was referred to in School Board policy, specifically in Section 4.02(1): *Rules governing programs for special instruction and services for exceptional students shall be prescribed in the publication **Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures (SP&P)**. This publication is hereby incorporated in this rule by reference. Copies of this publication are on file and may be obtained by contacting the Director of Exceptional Student Education.* Mr. Bergosh questioned why the School Board would be asked to consider taking action on a document that could not be altered. He noted that such an item should not be on a School Board agenda if the School Board had no "control" over the information outlined in that item. Later in the meeting, Mrs. Waters advised that a recent discussion among members of Florida School Board Attorney's Association (FSBAA) indicated that most Florida school districts were handling the adoption of the SP&P document through the rule-making process (as outlined in Chapter 120, Administrative Procedures Act). Mrs. Waters agreed with the member of the FSBAA that this should be handled through the rule-making process as the SP&P document was in fact, for the purpose of establishing procedures that would be enforced upon the public. It was noted that this item would be deleted from Section V.A, Curriculum and Instruction and added as an item under Section III.B, Proposed Additions or Revisions to School District Rules-Permission to Advertise.

At this time, the following item was moved forward on the agenda:

Update from A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence

[Handouts provided to School Board Members by the presenter]

NOTE: *This update was provided as part of the Dixon Charter School Corrective Action Plan (CAP) that was approved by the School Board at the September 20, 2011 Regular Meeting. In accordance with the CAP, Dixon was to present an update to the School Board at each monthly workshop for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year.*

Ms. Cathy Bearden-Colbert, Principal of A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence, reviewed Dixon's monthly academic and financial reports as outlined in the handouts provided. As they had done in the past, School Board Members expressed frustration that they had not received advanced copies of the reports. Again, Mr. Slayton requested that for all remaining updates from Dixon, School Board Members be provided with an advance copy of the reports prior to the actual meeting where the update would be given. This would ensure that School Board Members would have an opportunity to review the information beforehand and be prepared to discuss and ask questions about the information during the actual update. Board Members also expressed frustration with the lack of information provided in Dixon's monthly financial report. Mr. Bergosh said the School Board should be provided with the school's most current financial information available at the time of the monthly update.

Several School Board Members expressed their disappointment that recent media releases from Dixon had not given any credit to the School District for having donated three (3) buses to the school. Ms. Bearden-Colbert acknowledged that the School District had in fact, allowed Dixon to have the three (3) school buses and had also worked with the school to obtain those buses, assisted the school with ensuring that their bus drivers were certified, and had performed the maintenance on the buses. Ms. Bearden-Colbert clarified that Dixon's donor, Levin-Rinke Resort Realty had "purchased the buses for us and helped with taking care of the maintenance, but the buses came from the District."

The Superintendent advised Ms. Bearden-Colbert that at the March 27, 2012 Regular Meeting, he planned to recommend that the School Board approve a 90-day notice for closure of Dixon, consistent with the CAP that was approved by the School Board at the September 20, 2011 Regular Meeting.

2. 2012-2013 Proposed Staffing Allocation Table

Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, advised that the backup documentation for Item V.A.2 would be amended, as there was a line that was inadvertently left off at the bottom of the table on page 16, with regard to the Senior School Finance Specialist position that was currently allocated to George Stone Technical Center.

Mr. Bergosh commended staff for ensuring that the School District had complied with Class Size Amendment requirements for two years in a row (2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years). Mr. Bergosh said he intended to support the 2012-2013 Proposed Staffing Allocation Table because he trusted that the Superintendent and his staff understood “what we need to do to stay in compliance.”

Mrs. Hightower referred to page 7 which indicated a change in allocation of the Technology Coordinator position from all middle schools to only those middle schools with 600 or more FTE. Mrs. Hightower said she understood that the change was a “matter of funding” but expressed her desire for all middle schools to receive that allocation if the District did “find extra money” in the budget for 2012-2013.

Mr. Bill Vincent, representing the Escambia Education Association (EEA), expressed concern with changes that had made at the elementary school level, specifically the verbiage that had been stricken with regard to the allocation of music, art, and physical education teachers. He believed it was important that the verbiage remain to ensure that “we understand that we are trying to at least maintain the status quo while working toward the goal.” He was also concerned that the allocation table for elementary education appeared to represent a decrease in the number of teaching units for the very important areas of music, art, and physical education. In response to the concerns expressed by Mr. Vincent, the Superintendent clarified that staff had simply tried to “tweak” the District’s staffing allocation table “to reflect what actually happens when we staff our schools.” He noted that the table did not represent a reduction in units; in fact, staff had been very careful in spite of the budget shortfall, to try to maintain the presence of music, art, and physical education. Dr. Sandra Durr, Fine Arts Specialist, reassured the School Board that the proposed staffing allocation did not represent any reduction in teaching units for music, art, or physical education.

B. Finance

6. Scrap Lists I and II for February 2012

Mr. Bergosh noticed that many computers appeared on the Scrap Lists for February 2012, including some that had been purchased fairly recently. Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, confirmed that all computers recommended for disposal by scrap had been thoroughly assessed by the Management Information Systems (MIS) division and were determined not economically feasible to repair. Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Information Technology (IT) confirmed that the School District does contract with a company to dispose of “scrapped” computer components in a manner compliant with the regulations set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in accordance with all other federal guidelines.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

g. Special Requests

2. Approval for the following employees to receive payment in the amount of \$250 per SES school for which they provided transportation route planning and maintenance services outside the scope and span of their regular work day from October 13, 2011 through January 12, 2012, as the first installment of two, funded by monies received from SES providers in conjunction with paragraph 20 of the SES Transportation Services Addendum:

Drew, Patricia L. – 6 schools (Bellview, Lincoln Park, Montclair, Myrtle Grove, Sherwood Elementary Schools and Woodham Middle School)

McKnight, Pamela A. – 6 schools (Weis, Navy Point, Oakcrest, Warrington, West Pensacola Elementary Schools and Warrington Middle School)

Spindler, Della N. – 1 school (Jim Allen Elementary School)

Walker, Janine M. – 4 schools (Brentwood, Ensley, Holm and Semmes Elementary Schools)

Mr. Bergosh advised that he intended to pull Item V.C.1.g.2 for separate vote at the February 21, 2012 Regular Meeting.

AMENDED

9. Approval of the following job descriptions on the Administrative Salary Schedule, effective July 1, 2012:

Special Center Assistant Principal - George Stone
Coordinator III - Second Chance

Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, advised that the backup documentation for Item V.C.1.g.9 would be amended to correct the Pay Grade on the job description for the Special Center Assistant Principal - George Stone.

D. Purchasing

29. Change Notice #18 to Purchase Order #305748 – New Downtown Elementary School (Global Learning Academy)

Mrs. Hightower referred to the backup documentation for Item V.D.29 which indicated that the contractor would install large shrubs at the perimeter of two (2) mechanical enclosures to deter vandalism at Global Learning Academy. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, advised that staff had expressed concern about the architect's use of thorny holly shrubs in the vicinity of the student playground and the architect had agreed to replace the holly bushes with a more suitable shrubbery at no cost to the District.

E. Operations

1. Facilities Planning
B. Miscellaneous
2. Half-Cent Sales Tax - Tentative Project List

At the request of Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, reviewed the "highlights" of the tentative Half-Cent Sales Tax project list. Mrs. Hightower suggested that this item should be pulled for separate vote at the February 21, 2012 Regular Meeting to allow an opportunity for comments prior to any Board action.

F. Student Transfers

-No items discussed

G. Internal Auditing

-No items discussed

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board
-No items submitted

B. Items from the Superintendent

2. Recommend that employee #577989 be terminated effective Wednesday, February 22, 2012, for failure to complete the Return-to-Work Agreement executed May 17, 2010, as more specifically identified in the notice letter to the employee.

The Superintendent advised that this recommendation would be deleted from the February 21, 2012 Regular Meeting agenda.

3. Recommend that employee #1112-0411-1 be terminated effective Wednesday, February 22, 2012, based on misconduct as more specifically identified in the notice letter to the employee.

The Superintendent advised that this recommendation would be deleted from the February 21, 2012 Regular Meeting agenda.

C. Items from the General Counsel
-No items discussed

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Update from A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

- Carissa Bergosh, School Liaison Office (SLO) for Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, addressed the Board regarding the Student to Student (S2S) program. *S2S is an initiative of the Military Child Education Coalition.*

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair