

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, APRIL 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 (*entered the meeting at 3:10 p.m.*)
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 March 28, 2012 – Legal No. 1558265

[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.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Purchasing of Tablets - *Slayton*

Mr. Slayton asked for an update on the purchasing of tablets. Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, said staff was monitoring the devices that the School District could potentially use. While there were several devices available that appeared to be viable options, he said that at this point, staff preferred to keep tablet and sub-laptop purchases to the School District's two tier one vendors, Apple and Dell, until such time "as that space defines itself and the Department of Education (DOE) gives a recommendation for a tablet or sub-laptop device that can be used to deliver instruction and assessment."

Mr. Boone entered the Regular Workshop at 3:10 p.m.

- Protocol for Questioning of Students on School Property by Law Enforcement - *Bergosh*

NOTE: *This topic was previously addressed at the November 9, 2011 Regular Workshop. Mr. Bergosh had once again submitted this item as a topic for discussion so that he could hear from other School Board Members as to whether they agreed with him on the need for a change to the current policy as it relates to the protocol for a student being questioned by law enforcement while on school property. Neither Mr. Slayton, nor Mr. Boone saw a need to change the current policy because it appeared to be working well. Mrs. Hightower said that during her tenure as a School Board Member, she had received calls from parents who were unhappy that they had not been notified prior to their child being interviewed by law enforcement. She wanted to hear from members of the local law enforcement agencies as to their response to Mr. Bergosh's proposed change to the current protocol. Mr. Gerald E. Champagne, General Counsel for the Escambia County Sheriff's Office (ECSO), said that from the ECSO's perspective, the current process was working well; however, if the School Board desired to change the current process, the ECSO would be willing to work with the School Board in making those changes.*

- School Board Member Networking Statewide (and Nationwide) for Best Practices/Idea Sharing - Bergosh

Mr. Bergosh said he would postpone this item to the May 10, 2012 Special Workshop.

- April and May Calendar and District-Wide Calendar - Slayton

April and May Calendar: The time of the May 11, 2012 Regular Workshop was changed from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. so that School Board Members and the Superintendent would be able to attend the 8:30 a.m. “commissioning” ceremony of the National Flight Academy’s *Ambition*.

District-Wide Calendar: Mr. Slayton once again, restated his request for a district-wide calendar. [Mr. Slayton had repeatedly requested that staff establish a master calendar of all major events occurring throughout the School District.] The Superintendent responded that he would submit an item for the May 10, 2012 Special Workshop, a presentation by staff on a possible solution for a district-wide master calendar.

- Promotion Requirements - Slayton

The Superintendent advised the School Board that a task force had been formed to look at the possibility of increasing the promotion requirements for 1st grade students. Ms. Linda Maletsidis, Director of Elementary Education, said the task force, which was currently in the research phase, was comprised of principals, assistant principals, 1st grade teachers, 2nd grade teachers, and parents. She provided information on the current retention rates for each elementary grade level: kindergarten 9.3%, 1st grade 5.7%, 2nd grade 3.6 %, 3rd grade 7.8%; 4th grade approximately 1%; and 5th grade approximately 0.5%. Mr. Bergosh requested the retention rates for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade and noted his particular interest in the retention rate for 8th grade. He was of course in favor of increasing promotion requirements at the elementary level, but he was also particularly interested in increasing the promotion requirements for students progressing from middle to high school. [NOTE: Mr. Bergosh previously addressed his concerns at the March 15, 2012 Special Workshop and the February 16, 2012 Special Workshop.] Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent stated that the School District was not currently looking at any type of “assessment gate” at the middle school level.

- Overcrowding at Global Academy - Boone

Mr. Boone questioned what was being done to address the overcrowding situation at Global Learning Academy (GLA), while keeping in mind there was a possibility that A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence could be closed at the end of the 2011-2012 school year and many of those students were zoned for GLA. The Superintendent said that staff was actually projecting the school with a reduction of 75 students to begin the 2012-2013 school year. He also said that one pre-k classroom would be eliminated to free up classroom space and the School District would no longer allow any student transfers into GLA until such time as the student population was back under control. With regard to the students from A.A. Dixon, the Superintendent said that the only students who would be allowed to attend GLA would be the approximately 40 students who actually resided in GLA’s attendance zone.

- Televising Workshops* - Moultrie

NOTE: At both the July 14, 2011 Regular Workshop and the October 13, 2011, Mr. Bergosh had requested that video from every session of the School Board be archived on the School District’s website. Staff was already archiving video from each “regular meeting” but Mr. Bergosh believed that the video archiving should be expanded to include every session of the School Board. At the request of Mrs. Moultrie, the Superintendent provided a brief update on status of Mr. Bergosh’s request. He said that by June 2012 upgrades to the recording equipment in the School Board’s meeting room (Room 160, Hall Center) would have been completed and staff would then be prepared to record the School Board’s

workshop sessions and stream those video recordings online via the School District's website. Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent said that the number of sessions that would be archived on the website had yet to be determined as that number would be dependent upon the amount of "space" available. *For clarification, the Superintendent noted that only the School Board's regular meetings were televised.

- Proper Time-line and Communication with Board Regarding Disciplinary Items and Late Adds to Agenda
- *Slayton*

The Superintendent briefed the School Board on the process and timeline for employee discipline recommendations. The Superintendent said the following timeline had been established for the Human Resource Services department with regard to employee disciplinary items:

- On the last Tuesday of each month, there would be a standing meeting of the Superintendent's employee discipline committee. Any case under investigation, which staff anticipated to be submitted on the School Board's agenda the following month, would be presented at that meeting.

- The Human Resource Services department would then be given 7 to 10 working days to attempt to locate the employee and to prepare and deliver the employee notice letter.

- The deadline for submissions on the School Board's monthly agenda would be the 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the School Board's Thursday Special "Discussion" Workshop.

Mr. Bergosh reiterated his previous requests to have access to all information pertaining to each employee discipline recommendation prior to the meeting at which such recommendation was presented for the School Board's consideration. He noted that School Board Members should always have access to everything they require to make a decision on an employee discipline recommendation. The Superintendent asked that School Board Members contact either him or Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, should they ever need any additional information to make a decision on an employee discipline recommendation.

- Update on Meeting with District Staff and the Mayor's Office as Proposed at the February 21, 2012 Board Meeting
- *Moultrie*

NOTE: At the February 21, 2012 Regular Meeting, Mr. Brian Spencer, member of the Pensacola City Council, addressed the School Board regarding the need to repurpose the School District's vacant properties. In response, the Superintendent suggested that Mr. Spencer contact his office to schedule a meeting with School District staff and from the City of Pensacola to begin a discussion regarding possible solutions for the School District's vacant properties. Mrs. Moultrie requested an update on a request made by Councilman Brian Spencer at the February 21, 2012 Regular Meeting. The Superintendent said that a meeting was scheduled with both Councilman Spencer and the Mayor; however, about 10 minutes before that meeting was to occur, the Superintendent's Office received a call from the Mayor's Office advising that there was a conflict and neither the Mayor, nor Councilman Spencer would be able to attend but would call the Superintendent's Office back to reschedule for another time; at this point the meeting had not been rescheduled as the Superintendent's Office had not heard back from the Mayor's Office.

- Update on Back File Conversion - *Superintendent*

Mr. Jerry Caine, Manager-Educational Support Personnel, gave a brief update on the status of the back file conversion project. He said that of the approximate 4 million human resource records, nearly 1.3 million had been processed. It was projected that the project would be completed in approximately 60 to 70 days.

- Compass Learning Presentation - *Superintendent*

Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director of High School Education and Ms. Christine Kirk, representative of Compass Learning, Inc., narrated a brief PowerPoint® presentation regarding the Compass Learning® software program. It was noted that the contract for the purchase of this software appeared as Item V.D.4

on the April 17, 2012 Regular Meeting agenda. *Compass Learning® software to be used by all middle and high schools to provide an opportunity for students to take their required online course for graduation; to provide opportunities for course recovery; to provide remediation for students who have not been successful on either the FCAT or end-of-course exams; to deliver instruction to students on-campus in lieu of programs; to deliver instruction at home to students who may be out of school for an extended period of time; to provide opportunities for advanced rigorous courses; and to provide opportunities for over-age students to catch up to their grade-level peers.*

- Local Instructional Improvement Systems (LIIS) Presentation - Superintendent

Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, narrated a brief PowerPoint® presentation regarding Local Instructional Improvement Systems (LIIS). The Superintendent advised that a contract with Pearson Schoolnet, Inc. would be submitted for the School Board's consideration on the May 15, 2012 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL