

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, APRIL 13, 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
Mrs. Linda Moultrie
Mrs. Patricia Hightower

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Primary Purpose: Discussion of items appearing on the April 17, 2012 Regular Meeting agenda

Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on March 28, 2012 – Legal No. 1558265

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent made the following announcements:

- School Choice Open Enrollment: School Choice Option Letters (formerly referred to as AYP Letters) would be sent out to the parents of all eligible students next week. In the absence of guidance from the Department of Education, choice options for the 2012-2013 school year would remain the same as those for the 2011-2012 school year.
- School Nurses: After reviewing their final budget, the Escambia County Health Department had determined that they would not be “hit quite as hard” as originally thought. The Health Department was now in the process of restoring some of the cuts that were planned for the school nursing program.
- Roundtable Discussion on Educational Issues: Parents, community members, and educators would be invited to attend a Roundtable Discussion with Florida Department of Education Representatives on April 23, 2012, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., at the Washington High School Auditorium. The purpose of the session would be to provide information on recent educational changes in policy, rules, and statutes leading to higher standards of achievement for Florida’s students. This event would be properly advertised so that School Board Members could also attend.

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the April 17, 2012 Regular Meeting agenda since initial publication.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

-No items submitted

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Several Board Members thanked staff for taking the time to address questions and/or concerns about various agenda items prior to this workshop.

A. Curriculum and Instruction

-No items discussed

B. Finance

9. Financial Status Report: Employee Benefit Trust Fund

Mr. Bergosh noted that there was no information in the backup document referencing the financial status of the Employee Benefit Trust Fund for the month of March 2012. Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, said that March 2012 expenditures were quite a bit more than those of previous months, but would hopefully break-even in the next few months. The Superintendent said he planned to submit as a discussion item for the May 10, 2012 Special Workshop, the topic of insurance that would include an update on projections as well as an update on the establishment of a health clinic.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

g. Special Requests

1. Approve 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 January 19, 2012 to April 12, 2012, as the second installment of two, funded by monies received from SES providers in conjunction with paragraphs 20 of the SES Transportation Services Addendum:

Drew, Patricia L. - 4 schools (Bellview, Lincoln Park, Montclair, and Sherwood Elementary Schools)

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

Walker, Janine - 3 schools (Brentwood, Ensley, and Holm Elementary Schools)

Mr. Bergosh said he intended to pull Item V.C.1.g.1 for separate vote at the April 17, 2012 Regular Meeting.

17. Approve adoption of the 2012-2013 Department Personnel Planning Document

Mr. Bergosh was pleased that the proposed changes to the Department Personnel Planning Document had resulted in a net savings in expenditures to the General Fund. The Superintendent said an amendment to the backup documentation for this item was forthcoming; the amendment would simply rephrase wording to clarify that the "summary document" was intended to serve as additional information on the changes in the PPD and not meant for Board-approval.

D. Purchasing

3. Bid Extension: As Needed Real Estate Services, Bid #122304

Mr. Bergosh asked if an RFP (Request for Proposals) would be issued to solicit bids from real estate companies for real estate services. Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, advised

that an RFI (Request for Information), not an RFP, would be issued in the next several weeks. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, said that since the RFP in 2006, the District now knew about services that are offered; therefore, an RFI would allow to move into a Professional Services type of agreement similar to what is done with various contractors, architects, etc. in that the company would be issued a contract to be utilized when a specific service was needed. Mrs. Moultrie asked that the Superintendent have staff provide a summary of the commissions and fees paid to the current providers for services rendered over the past several years.

6. Dell Blade Servers and Switches for Information Technology Department
7. Dell Compellent Enterprise Storage Network for Information Technology Department

Mr. Bergosh questioned whether this additional storage would allow for enough capacity to archive videos of the School Board's workshop sessions; however, no direct answer to his inquiry was provided. The Superintendent restated his request from the April 12, 2012 Special Workshop that Information Technology (IT) staff be given the opportunity to get things setup first, before becoming alarmed that certain things might not be accomplished.

E. Operations
-No items discussed

F. Student Transfers
-No items discussed

G. Internal Auditing
-No items discussed

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
-No discussion

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board
-No items submitted

B. Items from the Superintendent
-No items discussed

C. Items from the General Counsel
-No items submitted

The Regular Workshop was recessed at 9:23 a.m. and reconvened at 9:30 a.m., with all Board Members, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters present.

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

Ms. Kathy Colbert, principal of A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence and Mr. Robert Williams, Dixon's accountant, were in attendance for this meeting.

Academic Report (April 2012): Mr. Slayton asked Ms. Colbert what type of training her staff had received on the administration of the FCAT. Ms. Colbert said she had attended several of the training sessions offered by the School District and had then provided that same type of training to her own staff (teachers, proctors, and coaches).

Dixon Financial Status as of February 2012: Mr. Bergosh understood that the information provided only reflected Dixon's financial status as of February 2012; yet he questioned whether Mr. Williams had an idea of Dixon's financial status for March 2012. Mr. Williamson responded that there would most likely be a \$3,000 loss still showing in March 2012, but with cash flow Dixon was now doing pretty well. Mr. Bergosh asked about the balance on the school's \$50,000 line-of-credit. Mr. Williams said that the line-of-credit was currently paid off; he explained that the school would typically access the line-of-credit at the beginning of a month in order to meet the first payroll but would pay off the line-of-credit once the school's FTE check had arrived. Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Williams said the schools' \$100,000 deficit from last year should be reduced to about \$40,000 as a result of donations and negotiations. The Superintendent stated there were some differences in Title I expenditures from District as reported by Dixon. Mr. Williams stated he had just talked with Mr. St. Cyr and information on expenditures that were paid direct by District had not been sent to him but would be forwarded so March would be reconciled and School Board would have information next month. Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Williams said he could be present for Dixon's monthly update at the May 11, 2012 Regular Workshop.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Carissa Bergosh, School Liaison Officer (SLO) for Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, reminded everyone to wear purple at the April 17, 2012 Regular Meeting to show support for military children. *April is the month set aside to support children who have parents or other family members in the military.*

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair