

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 11, 2013

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 2:00 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. Jeff Bergosh Vice Chair: Mrs. Linda Moultrie

Board Members: Mr. Gerald W. Boone
Mrs. Patricia Hightower (not present)
Mr. Bill Slayton

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Session Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on June 25, 2013 - Legal No. 1602137

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bergosh called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

– July, August and September 2013 Calendar - Bergosh

Various dates and times were discussed regarding scheduling of Groundbreaking Ceremonies for Ernest Ward Middle School and Suter Elementary School. The consensus was to schedule both events for August 8, 2013 beginning with Ernest Ward Middle School at 9:00 a.m. and Suter Elementary at 1:00 p.m. The Superintendent's Office will confirm the date and times after checking with the schools.

– Economics, Financial Literacy, and Entrepreneurship K-8 Magnet School Concept to Address Impending Growth in Attendance Zones for Beulah Elementary School, Pine Meadow Elementary School and Ransom Middle School - Bergosh

Mr. Bergosh gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the growth in and around Pine Meadow Elementary, Beulah Elementary and Ransom Middle Schools. He stated that schools in that area are currently at/or overcapacity. A new K-8 school would help alleviate that situation and a financial literacy magnet school would serve as an enticement for parents to enroll their children in Escambia County, which in turn would keep taxpayer dollars in

Escambia County. The financial literacy component is in keeping with a need to teach children the skills needed to understand more about how the financial world operates and would enhance math skills that would lead to increased performance/test scores. Mr. Bergosh went on to explain that with the opening of the Navy Federal Credit Union, District schools had already acquired a great partnership. The Superintendent stated that there were some plans already underway in the Pine Meadow Elementary and Beulah Elementary corridors that would address some of the points Mr. Bergosh had expressed. He indicated that he would not recommend a magnet school concept in those areas as one of the reasons for creating a magnet is to attract students and they are already in an overcrowded situation. Staff and the Watchdog Committee are reviewing the need for transferring dollars from a Westside K-8 to the Pine Meadow and Beulah corridors; not for a K-8 school, but a new elementary school. Also, the Superintendent stated that he, the Mayor, local banks and credit unions (including Navy Federal) are in discussion about implementing financial literacy programs in all schools. Mr. Bergosh was happy to learn that some of the ideas and viewpoints he had expressed were already being considered.

- Follow-Up Budget Questions - Bergosh
(Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit "A")

Terry St.Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, handed out information and explained that the Finance Department would be using a new format this year. Instead of the five large books that had been used in the past to keep the Board informed as to the various budget processes, a new simplified document would be used which would make the ongoing budget modifications/changes easier to input and distribute to the Board. Mr. St. Cyr gave an overview of the documents he distributed at the Board table and stated that there would be no request for a tax increase.

- Parental Participation Indexed School by School Concept - Bergosh

Mr. Bergosh deleted this item from discussion stating he would bring it back next month.

- Lincoln Park Elementary School - Moultrie

Mrs. Moultrie expressed her concern that the Hybrid Plan being recommended by the Superintendent was not the plan that had been submitted and approved by the State Department of Education. The Superintendent stated that if the Board approved his recommendation of the Hybrid Plan, he would resubmit to the State Department of Education. He stated that there had been discussion with the representatives from the Department of Education and indication was that the Hybrid Plan would receive approval. Mrs. Moultrie stated her unhappiness in that she did not feel the Board or the Lincoln Park community had been brought into the discussion prior to this item being placed on the July agenda for vote. She did not agree that a K-2 model would be good for Lincoln Park because of the family dynamics within that community.

- Extended Day for Reading - Superintendent

Principals and/or staff gave an update on how last year's extended day benefitted their students and the changes they are planning for the upcoming school year. After reviewing data from their

individual schools, principals had a better idea of what strategies worked and where improvements could be made which included for most, moving the reading program to a morning time slot. Schools reporting were Global Academy, Holm, Montclair, Weis and West Pensacola Elementary Schools.

III. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT
(Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit “B”)

The Superintendent handed out data regarding the first grade retention program that was implemented this past school year. He also listed the changes to the agenda for the July 16, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting that had occurred since the printing of the original agenda.

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

V.a.1. Rule(s) Adoption

- A. Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 7, Students
- B. Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to the School District of Escambia County, Florida Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook
 - No items were discussed

V.a.2. Permission to Advertise

- No items submitted

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

V.b.1.A.4. Contract for Educational Services Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and AMIkids Pensacola, Inc.

Jesse Rigby, Attorney and Member of the AMIkids Pensacola, Inc. Board, thanked the Board for their consideration to renew the contract.

V.b.1.K.1. Workforce Education Fee Schedules for the 2013-2014 School Year

Mr. Slayton asked if there were any changes to the fee schedule. Lesa Morgan, Director of Workforce Education, stated that there is an increase in the local supply fee but that the District’s fees are comparable with surrounding areas. Mr. Slayton requested a fee schedule that listed a comparison with other areas in close proximity. He also stated that the District should find a way to better advertise the programs that we offer.

V.b.1.K.2.-6. Various Middle and High School Academy Applications

Mr. Boone asked if academies were being eliminated at some of the schools and Ms. Morgan stated that based on the needs in the community workforce, her department is always reevaluating the academies. Sometimes it would mean that some academies would be deleted while others would be implemented.

- B. Finance
- V.b.2.A. Finance
 - No items were discussed
- C. Human Resources Services
- V.b.3. Human Resource Services
 - C.2. General Liability Settlement

Mr. Bergosh expressed concern that this was a settlement from last year and should have been presented in a more timely manner. The Superintendent understood the concern but noted that the settlement had been negotiated down from the original amount.

E.1. 2012-2013 Annual Equity Report

In response to Mr. Bergosh's inquiry as to why there isn't a category for "Asian," the Superintendent stated that the format is sent to the District by the State. Mr. Bergosh also noted that there were no "Hispanics" listed in the report and asked what efforts the District was making to recruit in these categories. Dr. Marian Torrence, Coordinator, EEOC, stated that the District is always looking to recruit in all under-represented areas. Mrs. Moultrie asked why the report indicated that there were no "Behavioral Specialists" in the District. Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, stated that they were experiencing some difficulty with inputting all data into Skyward in order to get a complete/accurate report and that this particular category may be one of those areas. The Superintendent stated that, upon looking at the response closer, he too was concerned and that he would have staff review the data and resolve the issue before the Board meeting.

- D. Purchasing
- V.b.2.E. Purchasing
 - 18. Software Hosting: Skyward

Mr. Bergosh asked if this is on-site and if the service is a necessity. Mr. St. Cyr stated that "hosting" is off site, it takes the place of our old mainframe and will be a recurring cost.

20. Professional Development for the Staff at Montclair Elementary School (Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit "C")

Mr. Bergosh asked if the funds for this item could be used to hire additional reading coaches or teachers. It was explained that it is a requirement of the grant to have external consultants at the school. Dr. Janet Pilcher, External Consultant for Montclair, passed out information to the Board, explaining that she too, was not happy with the results from last year and that she took ownership of a plan that did not produce the desired results. She stated that she and her team have evaluated the data, made adjustments where needed and will stay tight and focused for the upcoming year.

28. Architectural/Engineering Services for Track Resurfacing at Pensacola High School, Escambia High School, Bellview Middle School and Warrington Middle School

Mr. Bergosh asked why the District wasn't purchasing "rubberized" tracks

and why some schools were getting new replacement tracks before schools who currently have no tracks. The Superintendent explained that “rubberized” tracks are cost prohibitive and replacement tracks are a safety priority.

30. Discovery Education Assessment Service Contract

The Superintendent introduced Mike Bryant, Director, Education Solutions, Discovery Education, who thanked the Board for their support of the program. The Superintendent stated that after reviewing the data from the schools using the program last year, it was decided that the program would be beneficial to all schools in that it would provide teachers with an assessment tool that could measure progress with a great degree of accuracy.

- E. Operations
- V.b.4. Operations
 - A.2.b. Lincoln Park Reclassification

Mrs. Moultrie asked why the reclassification documents referenced PK-03 instead of PK-02 as being recommended by the Superintendent. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, stated that is the category used by the state to define school facilities. It does not impact the Superintendent’s recommendation.

- F. Student Transfers
 - No items were discussed
- G. Internal Auditing
 - No items were submitted

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Items from the Board
 - No items submitted
- B. Items from the Superintendent
- V.d. Items from the Superintendent
 - 2. Student Discipline

Mr. Bergosh expressed his frustration over several of the Recommended Orders from Hearing Officers. Board Policy mandates a specific expulsion time for certain offenses including possession of drugs. In the cases he is referring to the Hearing Officers disregarded that policy and recommended a less expulsion time frame. Mr. Bergosh stated that he could not support those recommendations. The Superintendent stated that he had to trust the process as long as it is in the best interest of the student. After further discussion, Donna Waters, General Counsel, suggested that her office work with Hearing Officers, Board Members, and the Superintendent to set a meeting/retreat to discuss concerns. All present agreed that a meeting/retreat would be beneficial.

- C. Items from General Counsel
 - No items submitted

VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS (Time Certain - 2:30 p.m.)

- 1. Newpoint Academy Charter School Monthly Report

Mr. John Graham, Director, Newpoint Pensacola Academy, told the Board that Newpoint Academy had restructured staff, is in the process of adding a library, and reviewing the School Improvement Plan. When asked he stated that he felt Newpoint Academy would receive a school grade of a "C," that there are three members of their Board of Directors who live in Escambia County, and that they are seeing some increase in enrollment.

IX. PUBLIC FORUM
(Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit "D")

- 1. Mr. James Nims addressed the Board with questions regarding the purchase of Discovery Education and Lincoln Park Elementary School.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair