

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, AUGUST 15, 2013

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida convened in Special Workshop at 3:00 p.m., in Room 160, at the J. E. Hall 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 (*via teleconference*)  
Mr. Bill Slayton

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

[General discussion among Board Members, the Superintendent and staff occurred throughout this meeting. Note: The minutes below represent a summary of this workshop. Any additional information can be accessed by review of the video in its entirety at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/08152013-570>]

Meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on July 26, 2013 – [Legal No #1604543](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Bergosh called the workshop to order at 3:00 p.m. He informed everyone that Mrs. Hightower was participating in this workshop via teleconference. Mr. Bergosh then asked the Superintendent if he had any announcements. Superintendent indicated he did not, and there were no changes to this agenda.

Mr. Bergosh noted that Public Forum would be moved to the front of the agenda, due to the presence of a member of the public who is deaf, as he had requested an interpreter through the Superintendent's Office.

- Mr. John Stiver – addressed those present, indicating he was there as a representative of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. He indicated he was advocating for interpreters to be made available to parents who are either deaf or hard of hearing, not only during teacher conferences, but also at after school events. He also suggested creating a brochure for distribution to parents, outlining the procedures for requesting interpreter assistance.
- Ms. Debra Allen – addressed those present, indicating she was also deaf, and has been experiencing difficulties in obtaining interpreters. She pointed out that no interpreters are present during Open House events, and expressed frustration with dealing with her son's high school regarding a lack of cooperation.

Superintendent Thomas stated the district has several interpreter services under contract, and that the process requires advance notice, like today's meeting. He asked both parents for their help as well, to let their contacts know this service is readily available. The Superintendent also asked them to communicate with him directly if they continued to have problems with this matter.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- August and September 2013 Calendar (including scheduling Board retreat with hearing officers) – *Bergosh* (5 minutes)

There were only a few changes to the following meetings for September 2013:

*September 6<sup>th</sup>, – Dedication of PFHS Media Center for Mrs. Hazel H. Scales, time to be determined.*  
*September 10<sup>th</sup> – Special Budget Meeting – Approval of Financial Report*  
*September 12<sup>th</sup> – Special Workshop*  
*September 13<sup>th</sup> - Regular Workshop – with a change in time from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*  
*September 17<sup>th</sup> - Special Meeting – Budget and Facilities Five Year plan*  
*September 17<sup>th</sup> – Regular Meeting*

After some discussion, Mrs. Waters suggested delaying the scheduling of the Board Retreat with their Hearing Officers until the month of October 2013, due to the number of individuals involved in this scheduling task. Her suggestion was accepted by consensus of the Board.

- Feasibility of a SEED-Type Boarding School Concept for Escambia County – *Bergosh* (10 minutes)

Mr. Bergosh broached the subject of a possible Boarding School within the district. Discussion among the Board Members and Superintendent ensued with regard to funding restrictions and the staffing and statute requirements.

- Open School Choice Concept to Greater District Efficiencies and to Grow Enrollment – *Bergosh* (10 Minutes)

Mr. Bergosh requested suggestions from fellow Board Members with regard to getting word out to the public about our School Choice Program, to keep families from moving to other counties. Mrs. Moultrie stated education is only one part of the equation, these families have to be sold on the whole community concept. Mr. Slayton suggested working with the local Board of Realtors as well. The Superintendent informed every one of the School Choice Showcase which has been scheduled for November 4, 2013.

- Report on Second Grade Students on Grade Level Reading – *Slayton* (10 minutes)

Mr. Slayton stated the district made a great step for our first graders, and then asked what is being done to ensure the success of our second grade students. The Superintendent stated we are in the fourth year of focused curriculum and our goals have not changed. He further indicated progress was being made, but we want 90% of all first, second and third grade students to go to the next grade level.

- Medical and Prescription Provider Update - *Superintendent* (20-30 minutes)

Mr. Kevin Windham addressed the Board with regard to this update, and introduced Ms. Morgan Dixon, the client representative from Willis Consulting Group. Ms. Dixon provided a synopsis of the recent review of third party administrators, and pharmacy benefit management. She stated the end result was their recommendation to stay with United Health Care, and use a separate pharmacy provider. Mr. Windham informed everyone that the new pharmacy provider is Optum Rx, and new cards will be mailed next week sometime. Mrs. Kathy Breakall addressed those present, complimenting the district's new Health Clinic and the care offered to employees there.

- [Comprehensive Drug Plan Update](#) - *Superintendent* (5-10 minutes)

Mrs. Carolyn Spooner distributed reports regarding the Random Drug Testing of students, and fielded questions from Board Members regarding the information provided. She also stated that law enforcement canine sweeps would be more targeted for specific schools on this list that had shown an increase in the expulsion rates for last year.

- [Student Progression Plan Update](#) – *Superintendent* (5-10 minutes)

Mrs. Carolyn Spooner distributed information regarding the Student Progression Plan, along with the changes made by the Legislature to graduation requirements and diploma options. Discussion ensued regarding the changes to credit requirements, the addition of core course credits and end of course exam requirements. The Superintendent stated this information would be discussed even further during the Regular Workshop being held tomorrow, as this is an item submitted on the agenda for their approval.

Mr. Slayton asked if the additional law enforcement for targeted elementary schools had been secured for the first week of school. Mr. Norm Ross, Deputy Superintendent responded affirmatively.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Bergosh called for Public Forum. There were no additional speakers.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair