

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MAY 29, 2014

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 3:30 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

Chair: Mrs. Linda Moultrie Vice Chair: Mrs. Patricia Hightower

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh
Mr. Gerald W. Boone
Mr. Bill Slayton

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on May 24, 2014 - Legal No. [1624388](#)

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Moultrie called the Special Workshop to order at 3:33 p.m.

II. DISCUSSION RE: 2014-2015 BUDGET

At the request of the Superintendent, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, reviewed information related to the 2014-2015 budget as outlined in a handout he provided to School Board Members at the beginning of the workshop.

Summary of Department Cost Centers (2014-15 Budgets)

Mr. St. Cyr advised that the 2014-15 budget requests for each cost center would equal the 2014-15 proposed budgets only because adjustments had yet to be made.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent explained that the reason for the requested \$12,400 increase in the budget for his office (Cost Center 4001) was primarily due to the costs associated with the recently established Coordinator II-Public Relations position.

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent explained that the reason for the requested \$499,370 increase in the budget for Human Resource Services (Cost Center 4301) was for costs associated with the Educational Support Personnel (ESP) job study. The Superintendent said staff was estimating that the job study would cost around \$500,000 but the actual cost would be unknown until such time as a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued.

Mr. Bergosh questioned the reason for the requested \$119,654 increase in the budget for Transportation Services (Cost Center 4108). Mr. Rob Doss, Director of Transportation, explained that the requested increase was due primarily to an increase in the costs associated with repairs, maintenance, parts and diesel.

Mrs. Moultrie questioned the reason for the requested \$3,000 decrease in the budget for Affirmative Action & Recruiting (Cost Center 4014). Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, confirmed that the School District's recruiting efforts were not being reduced; in fact, the number of school visits had actually increased. Dr. Scott said Dr. Marian Torrence, Coordinator II-EECO/Teacher Recruitment, had recently used funds from the current fiscal year's budget to order a large enough supply of recruiting materials to be used next year and therefore had determined that \$3,000 of that budget was unnecessary for next year.

Summary of Discretionary Local Projects (2014-15 Budgets)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Tom Ingram, Director of Information Technology, explained that the requested \$185,700 increase in the budget for Computer Assisted Instruction (Project Number 11040) was due primarily to the shift in cost for Schoolnet from the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant to the Computer Assisted Instruction project. He noted that Schoolnet was essential for delivery of local assessments as well as curriculum resources.

Mrs. Hightower questioned the reason for the requested \$154,449 decrease in the budget for Health (Project Number 12030). Ms. Martha Hanna, Coordinator II-Health Services, confirmed that the decrease was not due to a reduction in staff; in fact, an additional staff member (nurse) had been added. She explained that the decrease was simply a result of "creatively saving money" in the contract with PSA.

Mr. Bergosh questioned the 2014-15 proposed budget of only \$200,000 for Minor Self-Insured Loss-Property (Project 06100) when actual expenditures for the past few years (2011-12, 2012,13, and the 2013-14 to date) had exceeded that amount. The Superintendent indicated that staff would determine whether an increase to the proposed budget for 2014-15 was appropriate.

Mrs. Moultrie referred to Curriculum Development (Project 12010); she wondered why the requested/proposed budget for 2014-15 was \$35,200 when only about half of that amount had been spent in previous years (\$15,283 in 2011-12 and \$16,668 in 2012-13) and only \$6,120 had been spent (to date) for 2013-14. The Superintendent indicated that staff would provide an explanation to the School Board regarding the requested/proposed budget for 2014-15.

Summary of Categorical Projects (2014-15 Budgets)

Mr. Boone remarked on the "interesting figures" in the budget for Technology Fees (Project 09100). He pointed out that the actual expenditures to date for 2013-14 were \$60,064 yet the budget was only for \$12,000; and the requested budget for the next fiscal year 2014-15 was only \$12,000. The Superintendent was unsure why the actual expenditures were so high but said he would research the matter and then inform the School Board.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, advised that Digital Classrooms was a new categorical project with a proposed budget of \$574,709

for 2014-15. It was noted that the funds from that project could be used to purchase digital instructional materials and electronic delivery devices.

Mrs. Hightower pointed out that the budget for Head Start/Title I Pre-K Program (Project 53090) for 2013-14 had been \$0 yet actual expenditures for 2013-14 to date had been \$323,373. She noted that the proposed budget for 2014-15 was also \$0. The Superintendent was unsure as to why the budgets for both 2013-14 and 2014-15 were listed as \$0 but said he would research the matter and then inform the School Board.

Summary of Salaries & Benefits (2014-15 Budgets)

Mr. Bergosh noticed that the 2013-14 actual expenditures of \$818,764 for Overtime & Extra Pay (Project 01040) were more than double the amount of \$397,335 that had been budgeted for 2013-14. Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, said that Mrs. Linda Lewis, Director of Payroll Services, was currently working on an analysis of this project; until that analysis was complete, he did not have any other information to provide other than the cost of the actual expenditures to date. Mr. St. Cyr said Ms. Lewis had been working on the analysis in an effort to eliminate any unnecessary overtime.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Moultrie called for public forum; however, there were no speakers.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL