

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MARCH 11, 2011

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. Gerald W. Boone Vice Chair: Mr. Bill Slayton

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh
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 February 26, 2011 - Legal No. 1512633

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Boone called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:02 a.m. He then called for a “moment of silence” in honor of those affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Due to time constraints, the following item was postponed from the March 10, 2011 Special Workshop:

State of Division Reports – Superintendent

Staff briefly reviewed “highlights” from the 2010-2011 State of Division Reports.

The following item was moved forward on the agenda:

Item VII.1, Charter School Quarterly Report

NOTE: Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, provided the Board with a quarterly report (March 2011) on charter schools prior to this meeting. Representatives from the following charter schools were in attendance for this meeting: Capstone Academy, Byrnesville Elementary, Pensacola Beach Elementary, Escambia Charter, Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy, and Beulah Academy of Science and A.A. Dixon Charter School of Excellence.

Ms. Mathis briefly reviewed some of the information outlined in the quarterly report. No additional information was requested by the School Board.

The following items were also addressed:

▪ Special Board Meeting

At the request of the Superintendent, the Board agreed to schedule a Special Meeting for May 19, 2011, beginning at 5:01 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Service Center for the purpose of considering the adoption of revisions to Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Chapter 7 of School Board policy.

- Special Board Meeting/Executive Session

At the request of Mrs. Waters, the Board agreed to schedule a Special Meeting/Executive Session (re: pending litigation), for April 14, 2011, beginning at 5:01 p.m. *Location was to be determined.*

- Walk-Through of New Downtown Elementary School (Global Learning Academy)

The Superintendent and his staff were to coordinate with Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs, on an appropriate date/time for the School Board to participate in a walk-through tour of the new downtown elementary school, Global Learning Academy, located at 100 North P Street, Pensacola, FL 32575.

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the March 15, 2011 Regular Meeting agenda since its initial publication.

III. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida Notice of Intent to Advertise to Modify, Change, and/or Delete School Attendance Zone Boundaries

It was noted that the backup documentation for this item was forthcoming.

Chapter 3, Sections 3.01 through 3.18

Discussion on this item was held later in the meeting.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

1. The School District of Escambia County, Florida, Summer School Programs – 2011

Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director of High School Education, responded to questions posed by Mr. Slayton regarding the registration process for the summer school driver's education program for high school students. Mr. Steve Marcanio, Director of Middle School Education, responded to questions posed by Mr. Slayton regarding staffing and teacher training/pre-planning for the course recovery summer school program for middle school students.

2. Addendum to the Cooperative Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the Department of Juvenile Justice

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, clarified the various dates outlined in the addendum to the cooperative agreement and listed on the executive summary sheet.

3. Approval of Textbook Adoptions

The Superintendent said that the backup documentation for this item would be amended to reflect the correct date of the March Regular Meeting.

5. Building an Adult Education Career Pathways System for Transitioning to Postsecondary Education

Mr. Slayton advised that he would abstain from voting on this item as he was an active member of the deacon board at East Brent Baptist Church, one of the agencies participating in this initiative.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:37 a.m. and reconvened at 10:53 a.m. with all Board Members, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters present.

At this time, the School Board reviewed and discussed the following item from Section IV, *Proposed Additions or Revisions to School District Rules*:

Chapter 3, Sections 3.01 through 3.18

Section 3.07 - Safety Regulations and Procedures

(11) Fire Prevention

(E) Each school shall hold a fire drill during the first ten (10) days of school.

(H) The first drill of the school year shall be conducted within the first ten (10) school days.

Mrs. Hightower believed that (E) and (H) were redundant. The Superintendent said an amendment to delete (H) would be provided.

Section 3.07 - Safety Regulations and Procedures

(12) Student Accident Insurance

(A) Voluntary Student Accident Insurance Program:

Principals shall distribute a brochure or application from the Board approved student accident insurance provider to all students during the first week of the school year.

Principals shall maintain a supply of student accident brochures or applications at their school and provide them to new students during the year and to any other parents or students upon request.

(B) Athletic Activities Student Accident Insurance Program:

Principals shall ensure that all students who participate in athletic activities, including cheerleading, are covered by the blanket student accident insurance policy prior to trying out for such athletic activity. Principals shall call the Risk Management Department immediately following any student injury that results in hospitalization.

Mrs. Hightower believed that (A) and (B) referred to procedure and should be deleted from policy. The Superintendent said that an amendment to delete (A) and (B) would be provided.

Section 3.07 - Safety Regulations and Procedures

(14) Animals on Campus

(A) The district recognizes the educational benefits derived from utilizing animals, such as insects, and aquatic life in the classroom. To that extent, live animals will be permitted on campus subject to the following restrictions:

- 1. Live animals must have direct relevance to the objectives of the science or agricultural program.*

Mrs. Hightower requested that "science or agricultural" program be changed to "instructional" program. She noted that there could be a time when a teacher wished to bring an animal on campus for an educational reason that may or may not relate to a specific science or agricultural program. After brief discussion, it was decided that this would be amended to simply say "instructional" program.

Section 3.18 Charter School Reporting

Mrs. Hightower noted that references to the title of Assistant Superintendent were inconsistent in that some areas referenced "Assistant Superintendent - Operations" and some "Assistant Superintendent of Operations."

B. Finance

10. Statement from Florida School Boards Association for 2011-2012 annual dues

It was noted that the 2011-2012 dues (\$21,766.00) were the same amount as the previous four years. There was brief discussion among the Board and the Superintendent regarding the valuable services provided by both the Florida School Boards Association and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents.

C. Human Resource Services

2. Educational Support Personnel

f. Special Requests

1. Request approval of the following job description:
Shop Leader – Electricians

D. Purchasing

8. Annual Agreement: Telecommunications Services

Description of Purchase: *Replaces the current contract with an annual agreement renewable annually to provide radio/cellular phone services. Includes (739) radio/cell phones with most operational departments using only the radio feature for continuous communications with services/maintenance crews throughout the District. This service also provides emergency telecommunications backup during a natural disaster. Additional services include GPS for selected units. Services are eligible for E-Rate grants, which will be pursued. Effective dates: July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Amount of Purchase: \$183,517.250*

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, clarified that this agreement for telecommunications services included all cellular radio/phones and/or personal digital assistants issued to School District personnel. At the request of Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Dombroskie was to provide the specific number of radio/cell phones and/or personal digital assistants that had been issued to administrative personnel. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, advised that School Board Policy did outline the specific criteria required for the issuance and use of cellular radio/phone cellular devices.

E. Operations

-No items discussed

F. Student Transfers

-No items discussed

G. Internal Auditing

-No items submitted

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-None

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 discussed

VII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Charter School Quarterly Report

This item was handled earlier in the meeting.

2. IPAD Training

Board Members participated in an IPAD training session for the remainder of this workshop.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Boone called for public forum; however, there were no speakers.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL