

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 14, 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 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
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 January 31, 2013 - Legal No. 1589694

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bergosh called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m. He took a moment to wish everyone in the audience a "Happy Valentine's Day." Mr. Bergosh said his intent was to make this a quick meeting so that everyone could get on with their Valentine's Day.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- March and April 2013 Calendar - *Bergosh*

March 2013 – The Superintendent said that he had spoken to most of the School Board Members about a personal conflict that he would have in March with regard to the March 14th Special Workshop and the March 15th Regular Workshop. The Superintendent said that during that time, district school superintendents from across the state of Florida would be gathering together for a couple of sessions with the new Commissioner of Education. He said that there were several important items that he wanted to bring to the March Special Workshop and therefore, he would ask that the School Board consider rescheduling that session to March 13, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. There was no objection from any School Board Member to the Superintendent's request. The Superintendent confirmed that Room 160 (Hall Center) was available for that date and time.

April 2013 - Mr. Bergosh said the School Board would need to consider rescheduling the April workshops and meetings because several of the School Board Members would be in San Diego, California for the National School Boards Association (NSBA) conference. He suggested that the entire April schedule be moved back one week so that the Special Workshop would be held on April 18th, the Regular Workshop would be held on April 19th, and the Regular Meeting on April 23rd. School Board Members agreed to hold the Special Workshop on April 18th beginning at 3:00 p.m., the Regular Workshop on April 19th beginning at 9:00 a.m., and the Regular Meeting on April 23rd beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Superintendent said he would need to make sure that Room 160 was available to accommodate the change in the meeting schedule.

Mrs. Hightower requested that at the March Special Workshop, that the School Board review their entire summer schedule.

- Strategies for Setting Appointments with Legislators for FSBA Day in the Legislature – March 21, 2013 – Bergosh

Mr. Bergosh said that being that Mrs. Hightower was the incoming president of the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) he thought perhaps that might help School Board Members facilitate appointments with legislators for FSBA Day in the Legislature on March 21, 2013. Mrs. Hightower believed it was better for the School Board to “go as a front” noting that they would not be discussing issues that would be voted on here but rather discussing issues there were of state-wide concern. School Board Members discussed their schedules for the day of March 21st. Mrs. Hightower suggested that Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs could make the appointments with the legislators on behalf of the School Board.

- Establishment of an Order of Precedence for Programs, Meetings, Banquets, Graduation, etc. – Bergosh

Mr. Bergosh said he had an opportunity to discuss this topic with the Superintendent. He noted that was about to be that time of the year when School Board Members would be attending a lot of formal events (i.e., banquets, luncheons, graduations). Mr. Bergosh said that one of the things that had been on his mind was there was no one central repository of the decorum that should be afforded to various officials (i.e., city, county, state, federal) attending those formal events. In doing research on-line, Mr. Bergosh said he had found several school district that had established a protocol for orders of precedence and he wanted to know if his fellow School Board Members would be interested in establishing something similar to ensure that officials attending formal School District events were properly recognized and introduced. Mr. Bergosh said that he had compiled a list of different policies that he would leave in the School Board office for School Board Members to review if they wished to do so. Mr. Slayton said he was not sure what events the School District would actually sponsor noting that most events that School Board Members were invited to were actually hosted by an entity other than the School District. Mr. Bergosh said that high school graduations were an example. Mrs. Hightower said she was not sure that a policy was necessary or whether it was simply that School District personnel needed to be made aware of the proper protocol for introduction of guests. Mr. Bergosh said he would like to spearhead the effort of establishing a protocol if that was something that his fellow School Board Members thought would be helpful. The Superintendent said he was always in favor of standardization and improving processes; however, he wanted School Board Members to understand that most of the events that they were invited to were not under the control of the School District as they were typically hosted by an outside entity. He noted that the School District itself sponsored very few events and there were very few occasions when a protocol for officials would be necessary; however, he said he would be happy to work with the School Board to standardize a proper but simple protocol for the recognition and introduction of guests. Mrs. Hightower suggested that introductions at high school graduations could be standardized. The Superintendent said that he and his staff along with high school principals could work on that issue with Mr. Bergosh and then bring a proposal to the School Board.

- Parent/Student Portal – Moultrie

Mrs. Moultrie wanted to know how often the data in the parent/student portal was updated as she had received a complaint from a parent who said that when they log-in to the portal to get information it's not always there. The Superintendent said that teachers had been instructed to update the grades in the portal at least once a week. He said that at least once a week, the District expects a teacher to have entered student grades in the portal. If a School Board Member received a complaint from a parent that a teacher was not updating at least once a week, the Superintendent suggested that the parent be told to contact the school principal to make him/her aware that the updates were not occurring.

- Update on Vacant District Property – Moultrie

Mrs. Moultrie requested a listing and status of vacant district property. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, was to provide that information to School Board Members the following day.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Bergosh called for Public Forum; however, there were no speakers.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL