

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, OCTOBER 11, 2013

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Meeting at 8:45 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. 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 September 27, 2013 – Legal No. 1609516

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bergosh welcomed everyone in attendance for the October 11, 2013 Special Meeting of the Escambia County School Board. He mentioned that he had received word that Ms. Kim Sims, a school bus driver for the School District had passed away earlier that morning. Before beginning any business, Mr. Bergosh asked everyone to join him in observing a “moment of silence” in honor of Ms. Sims.

Mr. Bergosh noted that the purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the School District’s out-of-field teachers. He called the Special Meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. There being no objection, the agenda as outlined was followed.

AMENDED

II. APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHERS

The Superintendent recommended that the School Board approve the list of out-of-field teachers as outlined in the agenda backup documentation. Motion was made by Mr. Slayton and seconded by Mr. Boone, to approve Item II, *Approval of Out-of-Field Teachers*. Mr. Bergosh called for discussion. Mrs. Hightower recalled that the School Board had already approved several out-of-field teachers and therefore, wondered about the total number of out-of-field teachers that were now in the School District. At this point, Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, distributed a handout to the Superintendent and the School Board Members outlining the total number of out-of-field teachers in the School District each year beginning with the 1995-96 school year. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent said that according to the historical data, the current total number of out-of-field teachers was better than it was in 2006, but worse than it was in 2010. Mrs. Hightower wanted to know which subject areas were in most demand. The Superintendent said he believed that one of the top areas was probably ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages), which was an endorsement that a teacher would be required to have if they had an ESOL student in their regular class. He said the School District was trying to move towards every teacher

having that endorsement but it was just not possible to get that overnight; however, all new teachers come in with that endorsement. He also believed that the gifted program was another issue, in that in order to teach a gifted class, a teacher would be required to have the gifted endorsement. He also noted that reading was another area that was problematic for the School District in that not enough teachers had the reading endorsement. At the request of Mrs. Hightower, Ms. Dawn Ramirez, Coordinator-Educator Certification, briefly explained the categories of *appointments, reappointments, transfers, and other* as they related to out-of-field teacher recommendations. Mr. Bergosh was curious as to whether staff kept track of the number of out-of-field teachers per school because in looking at the list, he noticed that many of the out-of-field teachers were at Ransom and Bailey middle schools. He wondered if at some of the schools that really struggle is there any kind of a difference in the percentage of teachers who are teaching out-of-field in those schools. Ms. Ramirez said she could get that statistic once we have run through our survey. The Superintendent said he believed there were probably a larger number of out-of-field teachers at schools with heavy volume such as Ransom and Bailey; however, he noted that to put it in perspective, there were only 144 out-of-field teachers out of approximately 3300 teachers in the School District.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

