

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, NOVEMBER 12, 2010

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Regular Workshop at 8:00 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. Jeff Bergosh

Board Members: Mrs. Linda Moultrie  
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 October 27, 2010 - Legal No. 1493843*

[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 8:05 a.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

*(Topics listed in order as presented on published agenda; not necessarily in order of discussion occurrence.)*

- Class Size – topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent confirmed that the School District remained in full compliance with the class level, hard-cap class size count.

- District Walk-In Wellness Health Clinics – topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh  
[Handout(s) provided to Board Members]

Mr. Bergosh shared information that he had compiled on the topic of on-site wellness clinics. He noted that government agencies across the country, including several school districts in Florida, were establishing their own health clinics for use by their employees, retirees, and dependents. Mr. Bergosh questioned whether the Board would be interested in further research on this topic. Mrs. Hightower advised that this topic was actually scheduled for discussion at the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) Annual Joint Conference in December. Several Board Members expressed an interest in researching the concept of on-site wellness clinics. The Superintendent was to refer this topic to the Director of Risk Management and the Insurance Committee for further research.

- Board Organization Structure - topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh  
[Handout(s) provided to Board Members]

Mr. Bergosh initiated a discussion regarding the “organization of the Board” which would be decided by formal vote during the “organizational session” of the November 16, 2010 Regular Meeting. Mr. Bergosh wanted to know whether the Board was interested in establishing a procedure for rotation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions. Mr. Slayton and Mr. Boone opposed the

idea of a rotation, noting that under such a procedure, it was quite possible that a newly-elected Board Member could be expected to assume the position of Chairman. They both believed that some experience on the Board was necessary before an individual should be expected to assume such a duty. Mrs. Hightower also opposed the idea of a rotation, as she believed it was important for the Board to specifically select one of its members who would well represent the Board, who understood the role of a Chairman (and Vice Chairman), and who could be trusted not to use their position to further a personal agenda. She believed that Mr. Boone had done an exemplary job as Chairman and said she would have no objection to him continuing as Chairman for another year. There being no support for the idea of a rotation procedure, it was noted that the Board would continue with their current process for selecting a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Mr. Bergosh advised that he would nominate Mr. Boone for Chairman and Mrs. Hightower advised that she would nominate Mr. Slayton for Vice-Chairman.

- School Board Members Travel Budget – *topic submitted by Bill Slayton*

Mr. Slayton initiated a discussion regarding individual Board Member’s travel plans for the remainder of the year.

- District Recycling Program Presentation – *topic submitted by the Superintendent*  
[Information packet provided to Board Members]

Mr. Chuck Peterson, Director of Maintenance, provided information about the new recycling program that would be introduced into the School District beginning in January 2011. He noted that this service, available through West Florida Recycling, would be provided at no-cost to the School District.

- Legislative Review with Jim Hamilton\* – *topic submitted by the Superintendent*  
[Handout provided to Board Members]

The Superintendent presented the School District’s priorities for the 2011 Legislative Session:  
*Budget:*

- *Replacement funds for State Stabilization Stimulus*
- *Allow local School Boards to approve the 0.25 millage swap without a referendum*
- *Enhance per pupil funding for Escambia County*
- *Support budgeting at 95% of tax collections*

*Curriculum Related:*

- *Adjustments for implementation of Senate Bill 4*
- *Relief for proposed ESE Certifications in Course Code Directory*
- *Maintain Post-Secondary Programs (George Stone)*
- *Request funding support for End-of-Course Infrastructure*

*Other:*

- *Support Legislation to prohibit sale of synthetic Cannabis*
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It was noted that these priorities were shared with Mixon and Associates, the firm that provides legislative consulting/lobbying services on behalf of the Superintendent, the School District, and the School Board. Mrs. Hightower and Mr. Boone both requested that the following topic be added to the School District’s priority list: *Allow local School Boards to set school year calendar*. Individual Board Members also addressed their concerns with regard to various legislative topics including: pre-kindergarten, career and technical education, and the Florida Retirement System (FRS).

*\*Mr. Jim Hamilton of Mixon & Associates, was present for this portion of the “Open Discussion” segment.*

- Schedule of Board Workshops and Meetings for 2011\*

The following schedule was suggested for 2011:

- Regular Meetings  
Third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- Special Workshops (*Purpose: Open Discussion and Presentations*)  
Thursday prior to the Regular Meeting, beginning at 3:00 p.m.
- Regular Workshops (*Purpose: Review of agenda items for each month's Regular Meeting*)  
Friday prior to the Regular Meeting, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

It was further suggested that all workshops and meetings be held in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center. (Official vote on this schedule was to occur at the November 16, 2010 Regular Meeting.) \*All dates/times/locations subject to change as determined by the Board.

- Appointments for Legislative Liaison and Legislative Liaison Alternate to the Florida School Boards Association, November 2010 to November 2011

There being no objection from any Board Member, it was agreed that Mrs. Hightower would serve as the Legislative Liaison to the Florida School Boards Association and Mr. Bergosh would serve as the Legislative Liaison Alternate.

- Charter School Applications

The Superintendent advised that the district's Charter School Review Panel had completed an evaluation of all charter school applications. Mrs. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education was to coordinate with Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs, a meeting with each School Board Member to review the applications and the feedback provided by the Charter School Review Panel. It was noted that the applications would be submitted as agenda items for the December 14, 2010 Regular Meeting.

### III. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the November 16, 2010 Regular Meeting agenda since its initial publication.

### IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

#### A. Rule(s) Adoption

1. Notice of Intent to Adopt Revisions and Amendments to the District School Board Rule – 6Gx17-7.09, Student Progression Plan

Mr. Slayton initiated a discussion regarding the following verbiage included under the section entitled Grades 9-12 Student Progression, Additional Strategies for Meeting Graduation Requirements:

*Students enrolled in dual enrollment/early admission may not withdraw from a class without the permission of both the college and the high school. Students who withdraw without permission will forfeit their opportunity to participate in the dual enrollment program. A senior who withdraws without approval will forfeit participation and the graduation ceremony. ~~Have the course grade reflected in their academic history.~~*

There was much discussion as to the clarity of the proposed verbiage. There was agreement that the proposed revision was poorly worded, yet there were no changes recommended. Mrs. Hightower noted for the record, that she was opposed to the graduation ceremony "penalty" specified in this verbiage.

2. Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 1

Mrs. Hightower advised that at the November 16, 2010 Regular Meeting, if the Board approved a motion to adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 1, she would subsequently offer a motion that would authorize the Superintendent, in his capacity as Executive Secretary of the School Board, to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross-references and to make other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Board in connection with the policy adopted. Mrs. Hightower suggested that such a motion be made following the adoption of any School Board policy revision/amendment. She clarified that such authorization would allow for only non-substantial changes; any substantial changes would still require advertisement and adoption by the Board. Mrs. Waters asked that the Superintendent and his staff continue to confer with her regarding whether or not a change would be considered substantial.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

1. Establishment of Northview High School Graphic Arts Academy

Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, responded to general questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding the "Career Academy Course Sequence" as outlined in the backup documentation. *No additional information was required.*

B. Finance

6. Scrap Lists I and II for November 2010

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, confirmed that all computers recommended for disposal by scrap had been thoroughly assessed by the Management Information Systems (MIS) division. *No additional information was required.*

7. Auction Lists I and II for November 2010

Mrs. Hightower noticed that there were many televisions included on the auction lists for November. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, advised that the large number of television sets recommended for auction, was due mostly to the migration from CRT (Cathode-ray tube) television models to flat-screen models. *No additional information was required.*

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

g. Special Requests

4. Request approval of the following job description on the Administrative Salary Schedule, effective November 16, 2010: *Coordinator I – Race To The Top*
5. Amend the following page in the 2010-2011 Department Personnel Planning Document: Page 36 – Comprehensive Planning, School Improvement & Grants Management (4406)

The Superintendent that he was requesting Board approval for the addition of the following positions: Coordinator I-Race To The Top, Financial Analyst, Network Systems Analyst and Teacher on Special Assignment (TSA)-Instructional Technology Mentor. All positions would be paid from the Race To The Top grant and all positions would be eliminated when the grant ended. In response to questions posed and comments made by several Board Members, the Superintendent offered to send each Board Member a copy of the grant and the timeline for implementation. Mrs. Sandy Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning, offered to meet with each Board Member

individually, if necessary, to address any questions or concerns. The Superintendent advised that the Board would receive an in-depth presentation from the Race to the Top Committee at the December 9, 2010 Special Workshop.

3. Risk Management
  - a. Workers Compensation Medical Bill
  - b. Workers Compensation Medical Bill
  - c. Workers Compensation Medical Bill

Mr. Bergosh requested additional information regarding one of the Workers Compensation medical bills (Item b). Mr. Kevin Windham, Director of Risk Management, advised that before the end of day, he would send the Board additional information on each of the medical bills listed (Items a through c).

- D. Purchasing
  3. School Buses

Mr. Bergosh questioned whether this purchase of six (6) school buses would put the School District “back on track” with its replacement cycle. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, responded by explaining that in the past, the School District had tried to maintain the same level of purchase (approximately 10% of the operating fleet) each year in order to keep the replacement cycle going. He noted however, that last year due to budget constraints, purchases of school buses reflected only a portion (one-third) of that purchase level. While this purchase of six (6) school buses would not put the School District completely “back on track” with its replacement cycle, it would contribute significantly.

7. Apple MacBook Learning Lab and iPads for Warrington Elementary School

Mr. Bergosh pointed out that the Half-Cent Sales Tax fund was listed as the funding source for this technology purchase. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, confirmed that the current Half-Cent Sales Tax Referendum did include technology enhancements as an eligible expenditure. *No additional information was required.*

- E. Operations
  1. Facilities Planning
    - B. Miscellaneous
      1. Renewal of Pre-Qualified Contractor

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, responded to questions posed by Mr. Bergosh regarding the contractor, Williams-Scotsman, Inc. *No additional information was required.*

- F. Student Transfers  
-No items discussed

- G. Internal Auditing  
-No items submitted

- VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
-No items submitted

VII. 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 submitted

VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items submitted

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair