

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MINUTES, DECEMBER 20, 2006

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Workshop Meeting at 8:00 a.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building, 215 West Garden Street, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

Chair: Mrs. Patricia Hightower

Vice Chair: Mr. Pete Gindl, Sr. (*not present*)

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh  
Mr. Gerald Boone  
Mrs. Claudia Brown-Curry

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Ellen Odom

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Jim Paul

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Regular Workshop to order at 8:00 a.m.

A. Open Discussion

1. Discuss Changing Dates for the January 2007 Workshop and Regular Meetings

Due to various conflicts with holiday schedules (i.e., Winter Break, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day), staff availability, and Board Member availability, it was decided that the January Regular Workshop would be eliminated and the January Regular Meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.

Mrs. Hightower requested that the Superintendent consider publishing a schedule of meetings (i.e., Board workshops/meetings, SAZAC meetings, etc.) on the District website, as she believed this information would be helpful to the community.

2. Briefing from the Florida School Boards Association's Joint Conference held in Tampa, Florida, November 28 – December 1, 2006

No briefing was given; however, individual Board Members did note that the information provided at the conference had been very helpful.

3. Discuss Procedures for Retention of E-Mail as it Relates to Public Records

Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Information Technology & Management Information Systems, gave a brief description of the archiving procedure that was available within the GroupWise email system; he noted that this was the current procedure for the retention of e-mail messages. He advised that the problem with the current archiving procedure was that many users did not take advantage of it. Therefore, staff had identified an affordable solution (which would also perform under the GroupWise email system), whereby e-mail messages would be automatically retained on a bank of disk drives. Mr. Bill Bush, Director of Management Information Systems, stated that not only would he provide an “informational sheet” outlining the archiving process (as requested by Mr. Bergosh), but he would also provide tutoring sessions for individual Board Members, if so requested.

The following item was moved forward on the agenda:

Motion to Allow Students Entering Their Senior Year at any Public School in Escambia County, Florida to Choose Their High School (Item VII.B.5 on December 21, 2006 Regular Meeting agenda)

*NOTE: Proposal recommended by Mrs. Hightower, that would allow any students affected by the redistricting of high schools, who had completed the first and second semester of his/her junior year at a high school in Escambia County, Florida during the 2006-2007 school year, to attend the high school of his/her choice for his/her senior year. Student would be responsible for providing his/her own transportation to the choice school. Effective for the 2007-2008 school year only.*

Mrs. Hightower briefly reviewed her proposal to allow students entering their senior year to attend the high school of their choice; she advised of a possible amendment to the proposal that would add a provision for rising seniors presently attending Woodham High School, who could provide their own transportation, to be allowed to elect to attend a school outside the newly assigned district. Mr. Bergosh stated that while he would support Mrs. Hightower’s proposal, he had actually hoped for a more accommodating plan that would have also included rising juniors and rising eighth graders. Mrs. Brown-Curry and Mr. Boone indicated that they would support the proposal presented by Mrs. Hightower; they did not wish to extend the provision to rising juniors or rising eighth graders as suggested by Mr. Bergosh. The Superintendent cautioned that diversions such as “grandfathering” and “choice” provisions (as outlined in the Mrs. Hightower’s proposal) could possibly have an adverse effect on the Board approved re-zoning initiative. On a related note, Mr. Bergosh suggested that any future re-zoning initiatives be carried out in phases in order to give parents and students ample time to make the necessary preparations and adjustments.

(NOTE: Mr. Bergosh left the meeting at 8:45 a.m.)

At the request of the Superintendent, the following issue was also addressed:

FTE Estimates for 2006-07 and FTE Forecast for 2007-08

Mrs. Malinda Jones, Coordinator of Cost Accounting, briefed the Board on the unweighted FTE estimate for 2006-07 and the unweighted FTE forecast for 2007-08. (She noted that the District’s FTE forecast for 2007-08 had been submitted to the Department of Education.)

## II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the additions, deletions, amendments, and/or corrections to the December 21,

2006 Regular Meeting agenda.

### III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

No items submitted.

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

#### Amendments to School Board Rule 6Gx17-7.09 – Pupil Progression Plan

The following discussion referred to a revision under “semester exam exemption” which read as follows: *No semester exam exemptions are permitted for the first either semester. A student in a semester course second semester may be exempt from the semester exam after having earned an “A” average for the two nine weeks of the semester. A student in a year long course may be exempt from the second semester exam if the student has earned at least a “B” average for the first semester grade and an “A” average for each of the two nine weeks of the second semester. A student’s attendance may not be used in whole or in part to provide an exemption from any academic performance requirement.*

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director of High School Education, advised that the decision not to offer semester exam exemptions was made during the re-write of the Pupil Progression Plan that occurred in October 2006. She noted that this policy revision would not begin until January 2007; therefore, students going into a course would be aware that they would be required to take a semester exam at the exit of the course.

### V. CONSENT AGENDA

#### A. Curriculum and Instruction

##### 5. Voluntary Public School Choice Mentee District Project

Mrs. Dawn Ramirez, Coordinator of School Choice, responded to various questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding information outlined in the backup documentation for this item.

##### 9. Innovation Fair Matchmaker Grant

*NOTE: The purpose of the Innovation Fair Matchmaker Grant is to provide funds between O.A.S.I.S. Academy and Florida Virtual Schools which will afford students the opportunity to complete middle school courses and earn high school credits during their year in O.A.S.I.S. Academy by working after the normal school day. This partnership grant will present the opportunity for overage students to regain their level of placement with fellow students of the same approximate age, thus increasing the likelihood of student completing high school.*

Mrs. Brown-Curry questioned whether this grant could be extended to other programs (i.e., Cysis Program, A.V. Clubbs, other alternative school programs) which could possibly benefit from the type of services provided by the grant. Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for

Curriculum & Instruction, advised that changes could not be made to this particular grant, as it had already been submitted to and accepted by the DOE; however, if the services did in fact prove to work well at the O.A.S.I.S. program, then in the future, the District could look into extending those services to other alternative school programs.

B. Finance

11. Proposed 2007-2008 Budget Calendar

Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, briefly reviewed the proposed 2007-2008 budget calendar, as outlined in backup documentation.

12. Adoption Agreement for the Bencor Tax Deferred 403b Annuity Plan

Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, gave a brief description of the Bencor Tax Deferred 403b Annuity Plan, as outlined in backup documentation.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

g. Special Requests

4. Adopt attached Proposed Student Calendar for the 2007-08 school year.

General discussion took place among Board Members and staff regarding various aspects of the proposed student calendar, including:

- 1<sup>st</sup> semester ending in January rather than in December prior to Winter Break  
(1<sup>st</sup> Semester proposed dates of August 20 – January 15)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> semester beginning immediately the day after ending of 1<sup>st</sup> semester with no break  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Semester proposed dates of January 16 – May 30)
- Late start date mandated by the State  
(School Districts cannot start school earlier than 14 days prior to Labor Day)
- 10-Month Teacher Pre-Planning Days (August 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)

5. Approve amendment of the following pages in the 2006-2007 Department Personnel Planning Document to reflect the noted change:

Page 15 – Transportation Services (4108) – Add one Automotive Equipment Mechanic Shop Leader position.

Page 22 – Budgeting, Cost Accounting, FTE Reporting & Property Control (4203) – Delete Accountant II position and add one Financial Analyst position to replace it.

Page 43 – Evaluation Services (4411) – Add one Specialist-Evaluation Services position. (Job description attached)

At the request of Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Malcolm Thomas, Director of Evaluation Services, provided rationale for the request to establish the position of Special-Evaluation Services.

#### D. Purchasing

##### 10. Aruba Wireless Network Equipment for Various Schools

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Information Technology & Management Information Systems, stated that the wireless network equipment provided under this purchase was “quite portable” and could be easily transferred from one school to another, if necessary due to the school closure/consolidation initiative.

##### 19. Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #283422

*NOTE: This item was a request for authorization to issue Change Notice #1 (C/O #1) to Purchase Order #283422 to increase the contract amount by \$8,258.00 to install urethane foam adhesive in lieu of asphalt. (Re-roofing of buildings 1, 2, & 3 at Bellview Elementary School)*

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, explained that the change from asphalt to urethane foam adhesive was made due to complaints from the school principal that the fumes from the asphalt adhesive were bothering staff and students.

#### E. Operations

##### 2. School Food Services

###### A. Miscellaneous

##### 1. Contract for Off-Site Preparation of Meals – University of West Florida (UWF)

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, responded to questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding various aspects of this item, as outlined in the backup documentation.

###### F. Student Transfers

No discussion was held.

###### G. Internal Auditing

No discussion was held.

#### VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items submitted.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Items from the Board

#### 3. Resolution to Join the Florida School Boards Association's Litigation Concerning Florida Schools of Excellence

Mrs. Hightower and Mrs. Odom briefly explained that the purpose of this item was to join, as a plaintiff with other Florida School Boards in authorizing the Florida School Boards Association and its contracted attorneys in litigation challenging Chapter 2006-302, Laws of Florida, which creates the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission.

#### 4. Participation in the Florida School Boards Association's 2007 Master Board Program

After brief discussion, it was decided the Board would not participate in the 2007 Master Board Program; but would consider the next opportunity for program participation in December 2008. It was noted that this item would be deleted from the December 21, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda.

#### 5. Motion to Allow Students Entering Their Senior Year at any Public School in Escambia County, Florida to Choose Their High School

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

### B. Items from the Superintendent

No discussion was held.

### C. Items from the General Counsel

No items submitted.

## VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

### 1. Charter School Quarterly Report

Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, indicated that she had provided Board Members with a copy of the Charter School Quarterly Report (December 2006). She briefly reviewed information pertaining to student enrollment and financial accountability as outlined in the report for each charter school. In addition, she reported that the Ruby J. Gainer School for Reaching Your Dream continued to experience financial problems. She noted that the school's financial audit which was due in August had yet to be received by the District; and the school continued to experience a hold on purchases from the District's Central Warehouse due to misuse of Title I funds. In addition, she had concerns regarding the school's handling of student records based on a recent situation involving student health folders. Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, advised the Board that the school was also responsible for repayment of Title I funds in the amount of \$35,530, which were improperly expended to pay a non-eligible employee's salary

during the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years. The Superintendent advised the Board that he was currently in discussions with the school's administration regarding these issues.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

Chair