

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MINUTES, APRIL 17, 2006

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Workshop Meeting at 9:00 a.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building, 215 West Garden Street, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

Chairman: Mr. Gary L. Bergosh Vice Chairman: Mrs. Patty Hightower

Board Members: Mrs. Cary Stidham

Dr. Charles E. Glover, Sr.

Mr. Pete Gindl, Sr.

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Ellen Odom

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Norm Ross, Deputy Superintendent (*representing Mr. Jim Paul*)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bergosh called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:05 a.m.

A. Open Discussion

The following issues were addressed during open discussion:

- Passing of former School Board Member, Arthur P. Bell, Sr. on April 15, 2006
- Youth Leadership Program
- Naming individual rooms or halls in school centers or facilities

(Ellen Odom to draft a policy regarding this issue)

- Executive Session requested for the purpose of reviewing the financial impact of increasing beginning teacher salaries
- Budget Update (*Handout provided to Board Members*)
- Update from Substitute Teacher Committee (*Handout provided to Board Members*)
- Request for research into an incentive program to help reduce teacher absenteeism

- Update on “appeals process” of the Educational Support Personnel Job Study
- Audit of Title I

## II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ross (representing the Superintendent) had no comments on the agenda as presented.

## III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

-No items submitted

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

### Notice of Intent to Advertise Revisions to School District Chapter 1

*(Item II.B.2 on April 18, 2006 Regular Meeting agenda)*

#### *1.19 School Improvement and Education Accountability*

##### *(5) Opportunity Scholarships*

*The School Board shall provide opportunity scholarships to students attending schools that have been designated an “F” two out of four years to attend higher performing schools in the district or an adjourning district or, if permitted by law, be granted a state opportunity scholarship to a private school, in conformance with Section 1002.38, Florida Statutes (2004), and State Board of Education Rule.*

Discussion took place between Mrs. Hightower and Mrs. Odom on whether or not to delete the language under “opportunity scholarships” as the Florida Supreme Court had ruled the Opportunity Scholarship Program unconstitutional. Ultimately, it was decided that the language would remain since it was quite possible that a constitutional amendment to reinstate those scholarships may come forth in the future.

### Notice of Intent to Advertise Revisions to School District Chapter 2

*(Item II.B.3 on April 18, 2006 Regular Meeting agenda)*

Mr. Bergosh requested that Section 2.22, “Military Leave” be pulled for further review to ensure that the language in that section aligned with the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Act.

## V. CONSENT AGENDA

### A. Curriculum and Instruction

For future agenda items from Curriculum & Instruction, Mrs. Hightower requested that the “Strategic Alignment” section of the “Executive Summary” sheet include references to measurable goals (i.e., specific percentage) that the District hoped to achieve.

1. Licensing Agreement Combination LearnerLink Language Arts & Math 2006

In response to questions posed by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, clarified information outlined in the backup documentation for this item.

2. Summer Voluntary PreKindergarten 2006

Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, indicated that corrected backup documentation for this item was forthcoming.

8. Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Part II Competitive Title II, Part D Laptops for Literacy

Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Information Technology, noted that the schools selected to participate in this grant had demonstrated a need based on an analysis of data from the System for Technology Accountability and Rigor (STAR). The schools selected also represented the demographics of the District (one school with a very high free/reduced lunch rate; two schools with a mid-level free/reduced lunch rate; and two schools with a low level free/reduced lunch rate). Mrs. Stidham requested a listing of schools with the lowest student-to-computer ration.

10. Escambia School District Supplemental Education Services Addendum

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Stidham, Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, explained that this item would extend the timeline for tutoring services for students in Title I schools that not meet AYP for the third consecutive year. Mrs. Nowlin then responded to general questions posed by Mrs. Stidham regarding the information outlined in the backup documentation.

18. Contract between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and 100 Black Men of Pensacola, Inc.

Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, responded to questions posed by Mr. Bergosh regarding the implementation of the Alternative to Violence program (provided by the 100 Black Men of Pensacola). She also reviewed other information outlined in the backup documentation.

21. Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Patricia Davenport, LLC

In response to questions posed by Mrs. Stidham, Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction and Ms. Linda Longacre, Director of Staff Development and Curriculum Training, clarified information outlined in the backup documentation for this item.

22. Relocation of Adult Education and Second Chance Programs from Dixon Educational Center to Judy Andrews and Closure of the Alternative High School

At the request of the Board, Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director of High School Education, briefly review the proposal for the relocation of adult education and Second Chance programs from Dixon Educational Center to Judy Andrews and the closure of the alternative high school.

She noted that with the closure of the alternative high school, eligible students would be sent back to their home schools or to other educational opportunities, including charter schools. The purpose of this proposal was to realign District resources to serve the adult program and the Second Chance Program at Judy Andrews and to develop additional adult opportunities in technical training. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, responded to questions posed by Mrs. Stidham regarding costs associated with preparing the Judy Andrews facility to accommodate the adult education and Second Change programs. He noted that costs associated with plumbing requirements (due to undersize lavatories) were under \$2,000 and costs associated structured cabling and network connectivity (to address the number of computer laboratories) were approximately \$22,000. Mrs. Spooner noted that this proposal was “not a money savings strategy, but rather a strategy to provide better services” to students. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Stidham, Mr. Ross indicated that at that point, he was not prepared to say what the plan for the Dixon facility would be once vacated. Mrs. Stidham requested an overview the costs and/or cost savings associated for this proposal.

#### B. Finance

No discussion was held.

#### C. Human Resource Services

##### 1. Instructional/Professional

##### g. Special Requests

##### 6. Approve job description for Teacher on Special Assignment – Instructional Materials and Educational Media

At the request of Mrs. Stidham, Mr. Malcolm Thomas, Director of Evaluation Services, provided the rationale behind the request to create this position.

##### 7. Approve adoption of the attached Department Personnel Planning Document for 2006-2007

At the request of Mrs. Stidham, Mr. Steve Sharp, Division Chief, provided the rationale behind the following requests from the Security, Safety & Emergency Operations department (*see Page 19 of Personnel Planning Document for 2006-2007*): delete one (1) Administrative Secretary I position; add one (1) Administrative Secretary II position; and add one (1) Safety Specialist.

#### D. Purchasing

##### 1. Bid Award: District Calendar and Parent Guide, Bid #063002

It was noted that the purpose of the District Calendar and Parent Guide was to inform parents about community and District events.

##### 4. Purchasing Card Service Agreement

Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, explained that this agreement with AmSouth Bank would replace the current Purchasing Card Service agreement with SunTrust Bank. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Dombroskie confirmed that the annual fees for the Purchasing Card Service agreement would be waived.

10. Video Surveillance Equipment for Transportation Department

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, confirmed that these cameras would be mounted in school buses and configured for student observation.

14. Bid Award: Escambia County School District Safety Repairs

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Stidham, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, stated that because there was such a multitude of safety repairs, each repair was not individually listed in the backup documentation.

At this time, Mr. Steve Sharp, Division Chief, gave a report on the major School Life Safety Corrections.

E. Operations

1. Facilities Planning

B. Miscellaneous

1. Interlocal Agreement between the Board of County Commissioners and the Escambia County School Board for Shared Use Area for Athletic and Recreational Purposes at Wedgewood Middle School

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Stidham, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, stated that the Board of County Commissioners was “comfortable” with this agreement.

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

Discussion of recommendations from the Audit Committee as set forth in their March 30, 2006 correspondence:

- a. Request advertisement of the position of Auditor in the Internal Auditing Department
- b. Direct Internal Auditor to fill the Auditor position once advertised
- c. Comply with language in Auditing Department Charter, Audit Committee Charter, Standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors and State Board of Education Administrative Rules

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Recommendations from the Audit Committee (listed above)
- Request for Proposal (RFP) for outsourcing of Internal Fund Audits
- Audit Committee and Audit Committee Charter

Ultimately, it was decided that items (a) and (b) would be deleted from the April 18, 2006 Regular Meeting agenda and an item would need to be added regarding the advertisement of the position of Director of Internal Auditing.

NOTE: *Mrs. Stidham left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.*

#### B. Items from the Superintendent

2. Reappointment of Administrative and Professional Personnel (School Term 2006-2007)

Mrs. Hightower requested that in the future, the Superintendent alert Board Members as to which individuals (from schools within the individual Board Members district) would not be recommended for reappointment.

#### C. Items from the General Counsel

No items submitted.

### VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Report on Major School Life Safety Corrections – Steve Sharp

This report was given earlier in the meeting.

NOTE: *Mrs. Odom left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.*

2. Report from Career/Technical/Adult Education Department – Carl Leiterman

Mr. Carl Leiterman, Director of Career, Technical & Adult Education, briefly reviewed information outlined in a handout provided to the Board regarding the services provided by the Career, Technical & Adult Education department.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

Chairman