

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MARCH 15, 2007

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Workshop Meeting at 3:00 p.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. Norm Ross, Deputy Superintendent (*represented Mr. Jim Paul*)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Regular Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

A. Open Discussion

The following issues were addressed during open discussion:

- Budget Update – Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting
(*Handout provided to Board Members*)
- Legislative Update – Ronnie Arnold, Associate Superintendent for Public & Interagency Affairs
 - *STAR Performance Pay Plan becomes Merit Award Program (MAP)*
 - *Pensacola Beach Taxation*
- Teacher Salaries
(*Handout provided to Board Members by Mrs. Hightower*)
- Resignation of Lee Roy Wiggins from the One-Half Cent Sales Tax Watchdog Committee
(*It was noted that recognition of Mr. Wiggins would occur at the April Regular Meeting*)

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ross listed the additions, deletions, corrections and/or amendments to the March 26, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

1. Presentation by Foundation for Excellence

Mr. Gary Sammons, Vice Chairman of the Foundation for Excellence in Education, Inc., gave a brief PowerPoint® presentation regarding the history, mission, vision, and programs of the Foundation for Excellence. *The Foundation for Excellence in Education, Inc., is a non-profit corporation that was established in 1986 as a direct support organization for the Escambia County School District and partners with the private sector to positively impact the school district's students and teachers.*

ADD

2. Communication Update

It was noted that upgrades to the telephone system at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building & J.E. Hall Educational Services Center were currently underway to reduce the time duration of the main menu and to add a dial-by-name feature. It was also noted that an upgrade of the District website situation would begin with a design template that would be assimilated throughout the District to provide consistent formatting among all department and all school webpages.

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Notice of Policy Development and Policy Development Workshop – Renaming of School Facilities

Mrs. Hightower noted that the backup documentation provided for this item indicated that the Board would consider and receive public input at their March 15, 2007 Regular Workshop and March 26, 2007 Regular Meeting regarding the renaming of the following facilities: Brentwood Middle School; Brown Barge Middle School; and Woodham High School. She also noted that the Board had yet to receive an actual recommendation from the Superintendent as to what the facilities should be renamed. Mr. Ross responded that a recommendation from the Superintendent was forthcoming. Mrs. Hightower inquired as to whether the school faculties from each of those three schools had been notified about the renaming of those facilities. She was concerned that although the “Notice of Policy Development and Policy Development Workshop” was advertised in the local newspaper, perhaps the faculties from those schools were still not aware that the renaming of those facilities was being considered, as not everyone actually reads the newspaper. Mr. Ross assured Mrs. Hightower that the faculties of each of those schools would be properly notified. He also noted that to date, no one from the public had submitted any suggestions with regard to the renaming of any of those three facilities.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

4. The School District of Escambia County, Florida, Summer School Programs – 2007

Amount of Funding Request: *\$1,140,445*
(\$602,196 more than last year as additional programs at all levels are now included in the total)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director-High School Education, explained that the reason the amount of funding appeared to be \$602,196 more than last year's amount was because this year all summer school programs* were compiled into one document, whereas last year only elementary summer reading camp was included. She noted that it was basically just a change in how the document was presented; not an actual increase in cost.

**Including middle school math summer school, high school summer school, extended school year for students with disabilities, and summer voluntary pre-kindergarten.*

5. User Agreement/Contract Summary Pensacola Civic Center and School District of Escambia County, Florida

Purpose: To provide facilities for the 2006-2007 high school graduations
Pensacola Civic Center (owned by Escambia County, Florida)

Amount of funding request: \$39,536.13

(\$6,553.93 more than 2005-2006 due to increase in rental of Civic Center and cost of security)

Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director-High School Education, responded to concerns expressed by several Board Members regarding the high rental costs of the Pensacola Civic Center; she noted that the rental fee for this year was \$6,553.93 more than that of last year. Mr. Bergosh suggested that staff look for a less expensive local facility that could accommodate the District's high school graduation ceremonies; however, Mrs. Spooner noted that staff would be hard-pressed to find another facility in Escambia County that could accommodate the large number of graduating students and their anticipated large number of guests. Mrs. Spooner believed that "something" should be done about the location for future ceremonies, but noted that because senior high school students had already ordered their graduation announcements (naming the Civic Center as the location), it was too late to change location for this year's ceremonies. Mr. Ross indicated that this issue had been an on-going discussion amongst staff and that there was a "plan of action" to discuss the rising rental fees with the owners' of the Civic Center.

B. Finance

No discussion was held.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

c. Transfers

NAME	FROM	TO	DATE
Chapman, Denise	Warrington Mid	Reading/Hall Ctr	03/01/07
Gomolka, Vivianne	Warrington Elem	ESOL/Hall Ctr	03/27/07 (PT)
Granade, Sandra	Oakcrest	ESOL/Hall Ctr	03/01/07
Pascucci, Amy	Pensacola	ESOL/Hall Ctr	03/01/07
Smith, Gay	Montclair	Oakcrest	03/05/07
Wright, Ramona D	Scenic Heights	ESOL/Hall Ctr	03/26/07

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, explained that the request to transfer four (4) instructional positions from various school sites to the ESOL department at the Hall Center was basically for tracking purposes. He noted that each of those individuals had been working in the ESOL program at an individual school site; however, because the District was now expanding ESOL services, those individuals would now serve multiple schools sites and therefore, for tracking purposes they were now being assigned to the Hall Center. He noted that having these individuals assigned as an instructional unit at the Hall Center was an easier and cleaner method than trying to attach a portion of each instructional unit at the multiple schools sites that they will serve.

g. Special Requests

5. Approval to revise the job description of Director I-Human Resource Services. (Job description attached)
6. Approval to amend the following page in the 2006-2007 Department Personnel Planning Document to reflect the noted changes:

Page 10 – Employee Services (4102) – Delete Chief Negotiator position. Transfer Executive Secretary position to Human Resource Management-General Department (4304). Both changes are effective May 1, 2007.

Mrs. Hightower noted that the only administrator positions that were allotted an executive secretary were Assistant Superintendents and the Chief Negotiator; therefore, she had concern with the recommendation to transfer an Executive Secretary position from the Employees Services department to the Human Resource Management-General Department. She pointed out that if the Chief Negotiator position was deleted and the Executive Secretary position that was assigned to the Chief Negotiator was transferred to the Director I-Human Resource Services, then the Executive Secretary title would have to change as coordinators, managers, and directors were not entitled to a secretary position with that particular title.

7. Approval to amend the following page in the 2006-2007 Department Personnel Planning Document to reflect the noted changes:

Page 33 – Human Resource Management-General (4304) – Upgrade one Human Resources Specialist position to Coordinator VI-Human Resources (job description attached). Add one Manager V-Human Resources position (job description attached). Transfer Executive Secretary position from Employee Services Department (4102). All changes are effective May 1, 2007.

Mrs. Hightower did not believe that the current recommendation for this item was clear, in that two new positions, Coordinator VI-Human Resources and Manager V-Human Resources, were being created. She requested that the Superintendent resubmit this item with a clear recommendation to eliminate one Human Resource Specialist position and to create a Coordinator VI-Human Resources and a Manager V-Human Resources position.

D. Purchasing

1. Bid Award: Food Processing: USDA Commodities, Bid #072603

Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, responded to general questions posed by Mr. Bergosh regarding various aspects of this item as outlined in backup documentation.

9. Document Cameras for Various Schools

Description of Purchase: *(196) AVerMedia AVerVision 150 document cameras, these cameras will be used along with multimedia projectors (already in place) to provide whole-class, interactive instruction with technology resources.*

Funding Source: *Capital Improvements Tax Construction Fund (3717) – School Multimedia Projectors (1552) - \$65,110.00; and Other Special Revenue Fund (4210) – Title I, Part A, Basic – Technology (5308) - \$9,958.00*

Mrs. Hightower noted that Title I funds were being used to purchase these cameras and that Pensacola High School was listed as one of the schools that would receive these cameras; she questioned what would happen with that purchase if Pensacola High School was no longer a Title I school next year. Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Information Technology & Management Information Systems, explained that at the time of this purchase, Pensacola High School remained a Title I school; however, should that not be the case next year, then an adjustment would be made with regard to funds used to purchase those items.

13. TRANSMAN Software System and Dell Computers for Transportation

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, responded to general questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding various aspects of this item (i.e., training, support calls) as outlined in the backup documentation.

24. Change Notice #2 to Purchase Order #263878A

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boone, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, explained that this change order (#2) actually represented a decrease to the purchase order (#263878A) that would decrease the contract with Larry Hall Construction by \$228,548.41 for cost savings to the District.

27. Bid Award: Suter Elementary School HVAC Renovation

Recommendation: To award bid to Air Design Systems, Inc., low bidder, with a total base bid in the amount of \$379,000.00

Funding Source: Half-Cent Sales Tax (3943) – AC Window Units Replacement (3209)

Mr. Bergosh believed that \$379,000 was too much money to spend on Suter Elementary, a school which was slated for closure under the Superintendent's closure and consolidation plan. Instead of installing a costly central heating and air conditioning system, he suggested that staff look for other less costly means of upgrading the current HVAC system.

E. Operations

No discussion was held.

F. Student Transfers

Staff members responded to various questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding the general student transfer issues, though not necessarily related to any particular agenda item.

G. Internal Auditing

No discussion was held.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

-No items submitted

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. Vicki Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, indicated that she had provided Board Members with a copy of the Charter School Quarterly Report (March 2007).

2. Title I Funding for 2007-2008 School Year

Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, provided and reviewed a listing of schools that would receive Title I funding for the 2007-2008 school year.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair