

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, APRIL 4, 2007

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Meeting at 3:30 p.m., in Conference Room B, 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/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Motion by Mr. Bergosh, seconded by Mrs. Brown-Curry, to adopt the agenda, was approved 4 to 0, with Mr. Gindl absent for vote.

II. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

1. Procedure for Development of Policy

(NOTE: *Examples of policy development information from other School Districts were provided to Board Members for reference.*)

Discussion took place regarding the need to establish a procedure for policy development.

It was noted that policy should be a guide for action and tell what the Board wants to happen and why; whereas, procedure should set forth specific requirements and describe how something would be done, who would do it, and/or when it would be done.

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS MOVED FORWARD: Request for Executive Session [Item III.1]

At the request of Mrs. Odom, the Special Meeting was recessed at 4:00 p.m. for an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation in re: Escambia Education Association v. The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, PERC Case No. CA-2006-079.

The Special Meeting reconvened at 4:55 p.m., with the following present: Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Boone, Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Ross, and Mrs. Odom present.

Procedure for Development of Policy (CONTINUED)

Motion was made by Mrs. Hightower, seconded by Mrs. Brown-Curry, to request General Counsel to develop a policy that outlined the current procedures followed for policy development. Motion was approved 4 to 0, with Mr. Gindl absent for vote.

2. Proposed Additions and Revisions to School Board Rules, Chapter 1

Mrs. Hightower noted that the Board had been noticed by the Superintendent that Chapter 1 was to be presented for advertisement on the April Regular Meeting agenda. Realizing that additional revisions might be necessary in order to establish a procedure for development of policy (as discussed earlier in the meeting), she questioned whether the submission of Chapter 1 should be delayed. It was later determined that the Superintendent would decide whether or not to submit Chapter 1 in April and ultimately the Board would vote on whether or not to proceed with its advertisement.

3. Procedure for Securing General Counsel for the School Board

(NOTE: *The following information was provided to Board Members for reference: current job description for the position of General Counsel; 12-Month Administrative Salary Schedule; and School Board Rule 1.11 - Legal Services.*) Mrs. Hightower announced that Mrs. Odom had tendered her resignation as General Counsel. Discussion took place regarding the need to secure an attorney to serve as General Counsel prior to the expiration of Mrs. Odom’s contract on June 30, 2007. It was decided that the Chair would issue a memorandum to the Human Resource Services department requesting that the job description and salary range for the General Counsel position be advertised for a two-week period; once the advertising period had ended, the Board would then determine whether or not the amount of applications received was sufficient to move forward with the interviewing process. It was noted that the interviews would be conducted during an “open meeting” of the School Board. Mrs. Odom requested to be included in the interviewing process.

III. ITEMS FROM THE GENERAL COUNSEL

- 1. Request for Executive Session to discuss pending litigation in re: Escambia Education Association v. The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, PERC Case No. CA-2006-079 – (*Time Certain - 4:00 p.m.*)

This item was handled earlier in the meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Bergosh, seconded by Mr. Boone, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 5:50 p.m., was approved 4 to 0, with Mr. Gindl absent for vote.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair