

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, APRIL 12, 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.

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 3:12 p.m.

A. Open Discussion

1. Staff Update on Watson Study – Claudia Brown-Curry

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, indicated that a tentative project list for years 1 through 4 of the 2008 Half-Cent Sales Tax Plan would be presented to the Board in May 2007. He noted that the first four years of the plan was essentially comprised of the following projects:

- New downtown elementary school (replacement facility for Hallmark & Yniestra)
- New west-side K-8 school
(overcrowding relief for Bailey Middle and 3 west-side elementary schools)
- Ten (10) Additional Classrooms (intermediate & skills labs) at Ransom Middle School
- Reserves to meet Amendment 9 Class Size Reduction permanent capacity requirements
- District-Wide Roofing Program
- District-Wide Major Mechanical & Life Safety Systems Programs

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Dennis stated that a comprehensive realty assessment was currently in process to develop recommendations regarding the disposition of District properties.

2. Staff Update on Report from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Claudia Brown-Curry

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mrs. Sandra Edwards, Director-Comprehensive Planning, advised that representatives of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) were very apologetic that the District had not received the report that was supposed to have been sent in March. They also confirmed that the report had now been sent and advised that the District should receive the information within the next ten (10) days. Mrs. Edwards indicated that staff would forward that information to the Board upon receipt.

The following issue was also discussed during *Open Discussion*:

Budget Meeting Dates

The Board agreed to schedule the following meetings:

- Special Meeting (Re: Budget Process), June 12, 2007, at 3:30 p.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building
- Special Meeting (Re: Budget Process), June 28, 2007, at 3:30 p.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building
- Special Meeting (Re: Presentation and Advertisement of Tentative Budget), July 23, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building
- Special Meeting (Re: Public Hearing and Adoption of Tentative Budget and Millage), July 31, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ross listed the additions, deletions, corrections and/or amendments to the April 24, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

-No items submitted

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

No discussion was held.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

1. Contractual Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida & Silvio Fina, LMHC

Dr. Garth Grove, Director-Guidance Services, explained that the purpose of this agreement was to contract a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) to provide mental health counseling services to students at participating high schools on a rotating schedule. Mrs. Brown-Curry asked that Dr. Grove look into the feasibility of adding students from the Sid Nelson Center (Cysis Teenage Parent Program) to the Counselor's rotation.

2. Contractual Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Lakeview Center, Inc.

Dr. Garth Grove, Director-Guidance Services, responded to general questions posed by Mrs. Brown-Curry regarding various aspects of this item as outlined in the backup documentation.

9. Policies and Procedures for Implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Handbook (Revised August 2006)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mrs. Odom confirmed that she had reviewed the handbook that outlined the policies and procedures for implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

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

Purpose: To provide training and follow-up support in the knowledge and skills of the Continuous Improvement Model (CIM) which includes correlates of effective schools research, the Total Quality Management tools and building an action plan for implementation.

At the request of Mrs. Hightower, the following staff members briefly shared with Board Members how the Continuous Improvement Model (CIM) had enhanced student achievement at each school level within the District: Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director-High School Education; Mrs. Nettie Eaton, Director-Middle School Education; Mr. Wayne Odom, Director-Elementary Education; Dr. Deborah Malishan, Director-Elementary Education. Mrs. Hightower requested that once received, the Superintendent provide FCAT data from those schools that had been using the Continuous Improvement Model (CIM).

15. Contract between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the Florida Department of Health Escambia County Health Department for the Exceptional Student Education Program

Mr. Bergosh requested a “break-down” of the “cost for services” listed, specifically regarding the amount of money actually going to the employee (i.e., supervisor, nurse) and the amount of “pass-through” money (administration fees) if any, that the Escambia County Health Department would collect.

B. Finance

5. Disposal of Capitalized and Non-Capitalized Assets:
 - b) Auction Lists I and II for April 2007

In response to questions posed by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director-Budgeting, reviewed information outlined in the backup documentation for this item; specifically, she explained that the District would periodically hold auctions in order to sell (to the highest bidder) items that were obsolete, uneconomical or inefficient to use, or that served no useful function to District operations.

7. Financial Status Report on Projects and Grants

In response to questions posed by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director-Budgeting, reviewed the information outlined in the backup documentation for this item; specifically, she explained the differences between the three (3) schedules provided: Schedule A: 2006-2007

Projects and Grants which roll forward; Schedule B: 2006-2007 Projects and Grants which do not roll forward; and Schedule C: 2005-2006 Projects and Grants which do not roll forward.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

g. Special Requests

2. Approve to employ two college students working year-round up to 30 hours per week from July, 2007 through November, 2007 and three college students up to 30 hours per week from December, 2007 through June, 2008 in Evaluation Services.

At the request of Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Malcolm Thomas, Director-Evaluation Services, gave a brief review of the type of responsibilities that these college student positions would handle including, but not limited to, the scanning and scoring of large volumes of various tests; the packaging of various test reports; the review of large volumes of test booklets; and the printing, sorting, and packaging of large volumes of pre-identifying labels for test answer documents. He noted that employing several college students for these tasks was the most economical way to gain assistance for the Evaluation Services department.

4. Approval for Christopher Gayo, Guidance Counselor, OASIS to work the month of June, 2007 and to be at his regular hourly rate of pay from SAI funds to complete students paperwork.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, explained that this employee would be developing an individual education plan for each student coming into the OASIS program.

Although not directly related to this particular item, Mrs. Hightower requested that the Superintendent provide justification for continuing to have a separate administration to run the OASIS program. Mr. Ross indicated that staff would provide that information by the next meeting.

7. Approve revision of attached job descriptions:
 - b. Division Chief-Security Safety & Emergency Operations to read Division Chief-Protection Services

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, provided rationale behind the request to change the name of the Security, Safety & Emergency Operations department to the Protection Services department.

3. Risk Management

a. Data Release and Indemnification Agreement – United Health Care

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Kevin Windham, Director-Risk Management, explained that this data release and indemnification agreement was required by United Health Care in order for them to release confidential data information on District employees and dependents covered under the District's medical benefits plan.

D. Purchasing

No discussion was held.

E. Operations

No discussion was held.

F. Student Transfers

No discussion was held; however, Mrs. Dawn Ramirez, Coordinator-School Choice, did provide a handout to Board Members entitled “*Out-of-District Choice Academy/Program Data for 2007-2008 School Year*” which outlined information that had been requested by Mrs. Hightower.

G. Internal Auditing

No discussion was held.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NE 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

-No items submitted

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair