

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MAY 10, 2007

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Workshop Meeting at 4:00 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 4:12 p.m.

A. Open Discussion

1. Procedures to be Used in Notifying School Board Members of Emergency Issues/Situations

It was decided that the following procedure would be used in notifying Board Members of emergency issues/situations: The Superintendent's Office staff would contact Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs, who in turn, would notify Board Members; should Mrs. West not be available, then staff would contact the Chair or Vice-Chair instead.

The following issues were also addressed during *Open Discussion*:

- Budget Update & Review of Budget Meeting Schedule
- Legislative Update
 - Pensacola Beach Taxation*
 - 150-minute physical education requirement (proposed legislation)*
- Overcapacity Issues
(*Handout provided to Board Members*)
- Transportation for Adequate Yearly Progress Students – “Express Transportation” Routes
(*Handout provided to Board Members*)
- Status of Modular Supplemental Capacity

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ross listed the additions, deletions, corrections and/or amendments to the May 15, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

-No items submitted

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

A. Rule(s) Adoption

1. Revisions to School District Chapter 3

3.02 OFFICE OF SCHOOL CHOICE

(5) Student Transfer Procedure

(a) Parent/Guardian

The parent(s)/guardian(s) shall submit to the Office of School Choice a ~~detailed~~ written request for their student(s) to be transferred to a school out of their respective school attendance zone. This request for transfer shall be forwarded to the Student Transfer Committee for consideration. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for submitting any additional information that may be needed by the committee.

Mrs. Hightower suggested that if there was a specific form that a parent/guardian would need to complete and submit to the Office of School Choice, then this section of policy should refer to that “form” rather than a “written request” which could be interpreted as simply a written letter.

3.02 OFFICE OF SCHOOL CHOICE

(5) Student Transfer Procedure

(e) Transfer Limitations

4. Duration of Transfer Approval- Applicable to ALL transfers , including AYP

Once granted a transfer under this policy, a student may continue enrollment in the receiving school through the exit year provided the circumstances upon which the transfer was granted remain unchanged. Failure to report to the Office of School Choice within 30-days any change of circumstances in which the transfer was granted may result in revocation of the transfer and the student’s return to the original designated school. Students granted a transfer must maintain passing grades, acceptable behavior, and attendance. If the student fails to maintain passing grades, demonstrates unacceptable behavior, incurs excessive tardies or unexcused absences the principal at any time can request through the Office of School Choice for the student to be returned to their home school; however, no request for return transfer may be considered by the Office of School Choice until the principal demonstrates that a good faith effort has been made to employ parental assistance to rectify the student’s deficiencies. Parents will be notified in writing and given 10-days to withdraw the child(ren).

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Ms. Sandra Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning, advised that this section had been amended based on a new directive issued by the Department of Education, which indicated that the District’s policy regarding “duration of transfers approval” would apply to all transfers, including those related to Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

3.02 OFFICE OF SCHOOL CHOICE

(6) Voluntary School Choice Selection Policy

(d) Application Process

8. Students will only be allowed to enter ~~choice~~ academies/programs, magnet programs and magnet schools ~~at~~ at the beginning of the school year. The only exception is Brown-Barge which may admit students at the end of the last 12 week stream.

It was noted that this section should be corrected to read: *The only exception is Brown-Barge which may admit students in the last 12 week stream.*

3.02 OFFICE OF SCHOOL CHOICE

(6) Voluntary School Choice Selection Policy

(e) Lottery Process

(1) Capacity of the school/program/grade level facility with numbers which ensure that normal attrition will not affect the ability to offer academic programs during the course of the year or maintain class size reduction requirements.

Mrs. Hightower suggested this section be revised to read as follows: *Capacity of the school/program/grade level and/or facility will have numbers which ensure that normal attrition will not affect the ability to offer academic programs during the course of the year or maintain class size reduction requirements.*

3.02 OFFICE OF SCHOOL CHOICE

(6) Voluntary School Choice Selection Policy

(f) Eligibility for Entry into the Lottery System

Individuals seeking admission to magnet schools academies/programs must meet ~~the following~~ individual school criteria before being permitted to participate in the lottery system for the Escambia County School District:

Mrs. Brown-Curry noted that this section would need to be corrected as it referred to, but did not list, the “individual school criteria” that would have to be met before an individual would be permitted to participate in the District lottery system.

3.07 SAFETY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

(14) Animals on Campus

Mr. Ross advised that “Revisions to School District Chapter 3” would be deleted from the May 15, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda after it was discovered that the revised version of “Animals on Campus” (separately adopted at the March 26, 2007 Regular Meeting) had not been reflected in the advertisement of Chapter 3 in its entirety. It was noted that Chapter 3 would need to be re-advertised with the correct version of the “Animals on Campus” section.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

10. Addendum to the Charter School Contract between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Reaching Your Dream, Inc. dba Ruby J. Gainer School for Reaching Your Dream

Mrs. Brown-Curry noted that there was a “rumor” circulating in the community about the possible closing of the Ruby J. Gainer School. Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, stated that she was not aware of any plans for closing the school; however, she noted that District staff would be meeting with the school’s representatives to discuss their continued financial problems.

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

Implementation Plan: The 100 Black Men of Pensacola, Inc. will provide the Alternative to Violence program designed as an alternative to suspension for no more than seven (7) middle

and/or high schools. Schools participating in 2007-2008 are Pensacola High, Escambia High, Washington High, Woodham Middle, Bailey Middle, Warrington Middle, and Bellview Middle.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, stated that each year, all middle and high schools are contacted by the 100 Black Men of Pensacola, to determine whether the school administration wishes to participate in the program. She noted that schools often decline participation as they have other “alternative to violence” programs already in place. At the request of Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Ross indicated that staff would provide Board Members with a listing of which “alternative to violence” programs were being provided at each school.

15. Cooperative Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the Community Drug and Alcohol Council (ALPHA)

Implementation Plan: CDAC will provide academic and counseling services to the following elementary schools that have selected to implement this program: Molino Park, Hallmark, and Oakcrest.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, stated that providing services to additional schools would be a funding issue that would have to be addressed by the Community Drug and Alcohol Council (CDAC); however she did not believe that CDAC would have enough funds to provide services to additional schools with the limited amount of grant funding that they received.

B. Finance

5. Disposal of Capitalized and Non-Capitalized Assets:
 - c. Donation of Surplus Buses

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, explained that in accordance with Section 274.05, Florida Statutes, charter schools essentially had “first right” at requesting surplus property before the District could dispose of it at auction.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional
 - g. Special Requests

11. Approval for James Morgan, teacher to work at the Escambia County Road Prison and Escambia County Detention Center from June 4 through July 26, 2007 for six (6) hours per week and to be paid at his regular hourly rate of pay from Escambia County Sheriff’s Office and the Escambia County Commissioners.
17. Approval for Jim Gulley, teacher, George Stone to work at the Escambia County Road Prison and Escambia County Detention Center during the 2006-07 school year and to be paid at his regular hourly rate of pay from Escambia County Sheriff’s Office and the Escambia County Commissioners.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Carl Leiterman, Director of Workforce Education, clarified that this item (*Item V.C.1.g.17*) was a request for Jim Gulley to work at the Escambia County Road Prison and Escambia County Detention Center when James Morgan (*see Item V.C.1.g.11*) is on leave during the summer of the 2006-2007 school year.

D. Purchasing

16. Dell Computer Lease for West Florida High School of Advanced Technology

Mrs. Hightower questioned whether it was still the best option to lease technology for West Florida High School (WFHSAT); and if so, perhaps the leasing of technology should be expanded to include other technology-driven school programs throughout the District. She requested that the Superintendent have his staff look into the following issues: financial advantage(s)/disadvantage(s) of leasing vs. purchasing of technology for WFHSAT; the need for a three-year vs. five-year technology refresh cycle (leased or purchased) at WFHSAT; the feasibility of leasing technology for other technology-driven school programs throughout the District; and the need for a similar technology refresh cycle (leased or purchased) to that of WFHSAT for other technology-driven school programs in the District.

17. Consulting Services: Business Process Review/Gap Analysis

It was noted that the Contractor would conduct a MUNIS Business Process Review to review the District's current business processes, provide an in-depth review of MUNIS functionality and processes, and develop a 'best practices' approach. The Contractor would then provide a detailed Gap Analysis of the District's current business processes, how and where MUNIS would enable these processes to be accomplished while noting any shortfalls identified with proposed solutions. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, stated that staff planned to provide the Board with a demonstration of MUNIS at the June Regular Workshop.

(Mr. Bergosh left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.)

E. Operations

1. Facilities Planning
 - B. Miscellaneous
 3. Half-Cent Sales Tax Tentative Project List

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

(Mr. Gindl left the meeting at 6:07 p.m.)

2. Protection Services
 - A. Miscellaneous
 2. 2006-2007 Facility Life Safety Inspections

Mrs. Hightower was concerned with the number of citations that the District received for routine maintenance items such as fire extinguisher inspections. Mr. Chuck Peterson, Director of Maintenance, stated that at the time the Facility Life Safety Inspection was conducted, there may have been fire extinguishers that were out of compliance; however, according to his maintenance records, all fire extinguishers in the District had now been inspected. Mrs. Hightower suggested that the Maintenance Department consider coordinating their maintenance schedule with the Facility Life Safety Inspection to reduce the number of citations received on routine maintenance items.

F. Student Transfers

No discussion was held.

G. Internal Auditing

-No items submitted

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

No discussion was held.

B. Items from the Superintendent

No discussion was held.

C. Items from the General Counsel

-No items submitted

VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

1. Paperwork Reduction Findings – Melanie Walrath

Ms. Melanie Walrath, Paperwork and Data Collection Teacher Representative, briefly reviewed information outlined in a handout provided to the Board entitled “Paperwork Reduction Update” (May 10, 2007).

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair