

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JUNE 12, 2007

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Meeting at 3:30 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/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Motion by Mrs. Brown-Curry, seconded by Mr. Boone, to adopt the agenda (as outlined), carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Gindl absent for vote.

II. BUDGET PROCESS
(Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit "A")

NOTE: *General discussion regarding the budget situation took place amongst Board Members and staff throughout this meeting.*

Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, reviewed information outlined in the following handouts provided to the Board:

- *School District of Escambia County - Impact of Funding Changes
FY2006-07 4th FEFP Calculation Comparison to FY2007-08 Final Conference Report*
- *School District of Escambia County - 2007-2008 Budget
Budget Reductions and Increases to Book I – Departmental*
- *School District of Escambia County - 2007-2008 Capital Outlay Budget Requests*

Mrs. Hightower stated that upon her review of Book I and Book II of the 2007-2008 Proposed Budget, it was very evident that staff had made a significant effort at reducing costs. However, she noted that it was very likely that staff would have to "dig even deeper" to identify areas where additional budget cuts could be made in order to acquire the funds necessary to increase employee salaries.

Mr. Bergosh moved to request that staff review the budget again and develop a list of budget cuts based on the following percentage factors: 0.5%, 1%, and/or 3%. Motion was seconded by Mr. Boone.

Mrs. Shaud advised that additional budgetary information was forthcoming; she believed that the District would have a better idea of the financial situation once that information had been received. It was suggested that this discussion be deferred to the June 28, 2007 Special Meeting at which time additional budgetary information would be available. After discussion, Mr. Bergosh withdrew his motion and Mr. Boone withdrew his second.

Review of Budget Meeting Dates

- 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 and Millage), 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
- Special Meeting (Re: Approval of Annual Financial Report), September 11, 2007, at 8:30 a.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building
- Special Meeting (Re: Public Hearing and Adoption of Final Budget and Millage), September 13, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building

III. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

(Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit "B")

1. Request approval to enter into Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Donna Sessions Waters, Esquire.

Motion by Mrs. Brown-Curry, seconded by Mr. Boone, to approve an Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Donna Sessions Waters, Esquire, carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Gindl absent for vote.

ADD 2. Discussion of Regular Board Meeting set for June 19, 2007

It was noted that there was a possibility that neither Mrs. Hightower (Chair) nor Mr. Gindl (Vice-Chair) would be physically present for the June 14, 2007 Regular Workshop or the June 19, 2007 Regular Meeting; and therefore, it was necessary to designate a Chairman pro tem to preside over those meetings. There being no objection, it was determined that Mrs. Brown-Curry would preside as Chairman pro tem at the June 14, 2007 Regular Workshop and Mr. Bergosh would serve as Chairman pro tem at the June 19, 2007 Regular Meeting.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

(Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit "C")

ADD 1. Reappointment of Administrative and Professional Personnel (School Term 2007-2008)

Motion was made by Mr. Bergosh, seconded by Mrs. Brown-Curry, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation (*as outlined in backup documentation*) for the reappointment of Administrative and Professional Personnel, School Term 2007-2008. Board Members posed various questions regarding Rebecca Hewitt's retirement from Principal of Bellview Elementary School, effective April 30, 2007, and her subsequent reappointment to Principal of Bellview Elementary School, effective July 1, 2007. In response to those questions, Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, agreed to provide the Board with the following items: 1) information regarding the advertisement of the Principal vacancy at Bellview

Elementary School; 2) explanation as to why an interview for the Principal position at Bellview Elementary School was not conducted; 3) copy of District policy outlining that an interview for the Principal vacancy at Bellview Elementary School was not required; 4) confirmation as to whether Rebecca Hewitt applied for the position of Principal of Bellview Elementary School before or after her retirement; and 5) information regarding Rebecca Hewitt's step placement on the Administrative Salary Schedule. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Gindl absent for vote.

V. ITEMS FROM THE GENERAL COUNSEL
(Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit "D")

ADD 1. Recommend Settlement of Brown & Brown Investigation by Attorney General

Motion was made by Mrs. Hightower, seconded by Mr. Bergosh, to approve a settlement of the Brown & Brown investigation by the Attorney General (*details of settlement outlined in backup documentation*). Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Gindl absent for vote.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair