

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JUNE 14, 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 (*not present*)

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*)

**Mrs. Brown-Curry presided as Chairman pro tem over this session, as neither Mrs. Hightower (Chair) nor Mr. Gindl (Vice-Chair) was present.*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Brown-Curry called the Regular Workshop to order at 4:00 p.m.

A. Open Discussion

Mr. Boone and Mr. Bergosh expressed concern with the number of amendments, corrections, and late additions to the Regular Meeting agendas over the past several months; they requested that staff, in the future, be more diligent in getting agenda items to Board Members in a timely fashion and ensuring that the information was correct before it was submitted.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Ross listed the additions, deletions, amendments, and/or corrections to the June 19, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

1. MUNIS WebEx Demonstration (*4:15 p.m.*)

A brief PowerPoint® presentation was given detailing the progress of the IT Migration Project; a brief demonstration was provided comparing the District's current mainframe system, TERMS, with a newer and much more efficient windows-based system, MUNIS.

2. Charter School Quarterly Report (4:30 p.m.)

Mrs. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, introduced representatives of area charter schools who were in attendance at this meeting. She advised that the Board Members had received a copy of the Charter School Quarterly Report for June 2007, which included the following information for each charter school: Charter School Compliance Summary; Academic Accountability; and Accountability 2005-2006 State Report (NOTE: *An Accountability 2005-2006 State Report for Life Skills Center was not available as the school was not in operation at that time*).

Beulah Academy of Science

No discussion was held.

Byrneville Elementary

No discussion was held.

Capstone Academy

No discussion was held.

Escambia Charter

No discussion was held.

Ruby J. Gainer School

In response to questions posed by Board Members, representatives of the Ruby J. Gainer School, addressed the school's plans to address financial, academic, and transportation (bus driver) issues.

Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy

Representatives of the Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy addressed information outlined in the school's Accountability 2005-2006 State Report. Mrs. Brown-Curry commended the school for their learning gains in reading and math.

Life Skills Center

In response to questions posed by Mrs. Brown-Curry, representatives of the Life Skills Center, addressed the school's plans to increase student achievement.

Pensacola Beach Elementary

No discussion was held.

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

No discussion was held on any items listed under this section of the June 19, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

No discussion was held on any items listed under this section of the June 19, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda.

B. Finance

6. Budget Amendments:

a. Resolution 9: General Operating Fund

At the request of Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, provided further clarification on budget amendment item (i), *FCAT Preparation* as listed on *page 3 of 9* in the backup documentation. It was noted that this particular budget amendment was being made in order to facilitate the set up of a budget for an FCAT Preparation project at the McMillian Center.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

g. Special Requests

15. Approve Bobby Simpson, teacher at Northview to work sixty hours during the month of June, 2007 to be paid at his regular hourly rate of pay from School Advisory Council funds. He will be placing students in the appropriate courses based on FCAT results.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director of High School Education, clarified that during the month of June, this employee would be paid to place students in the appropriate courses based on FCAT results received in late-May.

20. Adoption of 2007-08 school calendar to include early release/late arrival days.

Ms. Linda Longacre, Director of Staff Development, advised that the District was notified that February 13, 2008 was an FCAT writing day; therefore, the backup documentation for this item had been revised as follows: the School Improvement Day (1/2 Day Early Release) and Late Start Day for High School on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 had been changed to Wednesday, February 20, 2008.

21. Amend the 2007-08 Department Personnel Planning Document to reflect the following changes:

Page 15 – Transportation Services (4108) – Change funding for twenty more Teacher Assistant-Special (Bus Aides) from Individual with Disabilities Act Federal Project (5236) to General Fund, Regular Operations Project (0101) for 2007-08 (note 5).

Page 38 & 39 – Title I (4405) – Add one Continuous Improvement Model Specialist for District Implementation position to be paid from Title I School Wide Federal Project (5302) (note 7).

Staff members responded to questions posed by Board Members regarding the need for the addition of one Continuous Improvement Model Specialist position, the funding source for the salary of the position, and the duties and responsibilities of the position.

- 3. Risk Management
 - a. Property, Boiler & Machinery and Crime Insurance

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Kevin Windham, Director of Risk Management, stated that TRIA Risk Insurance (terrorism insurance) was “just not a good buy” and therefore, the District had always recommended that it be rejected.

D. Purchasing

- 22. Playground Equipment for McMillan Center, Ensley, Spencer Bibbs and Allie Yniestra Elementary Schools

At the request of Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, gave a brief description of the type of playground equipment that would be installed at these school sites.

- 38. Bid Award: Escambia, Washington High Schools, and West Florida High School of Advanced Technology Athletic Facilities Additions and Upgrades (Gender Equity)

Although not directly related to this particular item, Mrs. Brown-Curry requested an update regarding the status of facility upgrades at Pensacola High School. Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, advised that upgrades to the Pensacola High School facility would begin in the next couple of months.

E. Operations

No discussion was held on any items listed under this section of the June Regular Meeting agenda.

F. Student Transfers

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Ms. Sandra Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning, explained that after further review of their staffing information, Ransom Middle School had realized that they were not over-capacity and therefore, the District had given them permission to allow up to 50 additional students to enroll.

G. Internal Auditing

No discussion was held on any items listed under this section of the June Regular Meeting agenda.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

-No items submitted

B. Items from the Superintendent

No discussion was held on any items listed under this section of the June Regular Meeting agenda.

C. Items from the General Counsel

1. Agreement for Legal Services between the School Board of Escambia County and Steven J. Baker, Attorney at Law (to handle matters covered by the School Board's Risk Management Self-Insured Program)
2. Agreement for Legal Services between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Joseph L. Hammons, Attorney at Law, and Hammons, Longoria & Whittaker, P.A. (to handle matters covered by the School Board's Risk Management Self-Insured Program)
3. Agreement for Legal Services between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Joseph L. Hammons, Attorney at Law, and Hammons, Longoria & Whittaker, P.A. (to handle certain matters for the Superintendent of Schools)
4. Agreement for Legal Services between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Stephen B. Shell, Attorney at Law, Shell, Fleming, Davis & Menge (to handle real property and construction matters)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Odom stated that rate reflected in each of these contracts was consistent with the amount that other attorneys in the area were charging.

VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items submitted

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair