

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 12, 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 (*not present*)  
Mr. Gerald Boone  
Mrs. Claudia Brown-Curry

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Jim Paul

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Regular Workshop to order at 4:00 p.m.

A. Open Discussion

1. School Board Workshop Meeting Site

Board Members and the Superintendent briefly discussed the possibility of changing the site of the monthly Regular Board Workshops from the Board Room at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building to Room 160 at the J.E. Hall Education Services Center. Board Members elected to add this item to the July 17, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda so that the issue could be further discussed once Mr. Bergosh was present.

2. District's Strategic Plan

At the request of Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent agreed to work with the Board to schedule a Special Workshop for the purpose of discussing the development of next year's Strategic Plan.

3. Report from Superintendent/Staff for Plans to Improve Student Scores

Staff members addressed the Board regarding the various District initiatives that had been implemented or would be implemented in an effort to improve student scores. (NOTE: *Much of the information shared during this report was outlined in the District Assistance and Intervention Plan that was submitted to the Department of Education*). The following speaker requested to address some of the items addressed in this report: Gail Husbands, President of the Escambia Education Association.

### School Board General Counsel

Mrs. Hightower introduced Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters, who had assumed the position of School Board General Counsel.

### Public Forum at Regular Board Workshops

Mrs. Hightower raised the issue of allowing public input at Regular Workshops. Mrs. Waters cited several Attorney General opinions which indicated that “a public meeting is really not a public meeting unless the public has a meaningful opportunity to participate.” There being no objection, it was decided that the Board would provide a moment for public input at the end of the Regular Workshop agenda in a format similar to that of “Public Forum” at Regular Meetings.

## II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the additions, deletions, amendments, and/or corrections to the July 17, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda.

### Budget Update

Ms. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, advised the Board of a possible State budget shortfall that could have a negative effect on the District’s 2007-2008 budget. She noted that the projected shortfall was due primarily to a lower collection of sales taxes than had been predicted. School districts had been advised to proceed accordingly with the adoption of their 2007-2008 budgets, but to be prepared for possible adjustments after the beginning of the fiscal year.

### No Child Left Behind (NCLB) – Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Registration

Ms. Dawn Rameriz, Coordinator of School Choice, provided Board Members with a copy of the letter that would be mailed to parents of students who attended schools that did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2006-2007 school year. The letter outlined the following options available to those parents:

Option 1: *Choose to remain at the current school and receive free tutoring/supplemental educational services (SES) after school. (This option is only available for students on free and/or reduced price lunch).*

Option 2: *Choose to remain at your child’s current school even though your child is not eligible to receive free tutoring.*

Option 3: *Choose to transfer to another public school in the District that is not in need of improvement, with express routing transportation (picked up and dropped off at a designated site).*

Option 4: *Choose to transfer to another higher performing school, without transportation.*

## III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

### 1. 2006-2007 District Safety and Security Review

Mr. Steve Sharp, Division Chief, gave a brief PowerPoint® presentation entitled “2006-2007 District Safety and Security Review.”

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Notice of Intent to Adopt Rule Amendment to School District Rule 6Gx17-3.07(16)(a)(b)(j)(k)(l) – Administration of Medication to Students (Item III.B.1 on July 17, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda)

Ms. Karen Thoennes, Coordinator of Health Services, briefly summarized the purpose of this particular rule amendment, which was necessary to allow the District to stock and administer over-the-counter medications acetaminophen, calcium carbonate, diphenhydramine, Sting Relief Pad, and ibuprofen at each school site as facilitated by a standing order from the Escambia County Health Department Medical Director.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

5. Public Charter Schools Implementation Grant Program 2006-2009 First Implementation Budget 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Period White Hat Management d/b/a Life Skills Center Escambia County, Inc.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, stated that only new charter programs were eligible for the Public Charter Schools Implementation Grant Program.

7. Contract between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Informed Families, The Florida Family Partnership, Inc. Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant

Mrs. Brown-Curry referred to backup documentation for this item which indicated that the “alternative to suspension” program provided under this contract had been eliminated at Warrington Middle School; she questioned why the administration at Warrington Middle had made such a decision especially with the large number of students who would be transferred to Warrington Middle from Brownsville Middle, now that Brownsville had closed.

B. Finance

No discussion was held.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

g. Special Requests

9. Approve revision of the following job descriptions:
  - (b) Elementary School Assistant Principal

It was noted that the job description for Elementary School Assistant Principal was previously approved by the Board at the April 24, 2007 Regular Meeting; however, it was later discovered that the job description contained an error related to the pay grade for this position and therefore, it was necessary to resubmit the corrected job description for Board approval.

12. Approve attached revision of the Escambia County School District Employee Code of Ethics.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, confirmed that employees were required to review the Employee Code of Ethics annually.

D. Purchasing

13. Custodial Zone Sub-Contracting

Summary of Custodial Zone Sub-Contracting Recommendation (as outlined in backup documentation): *The District currently has forty six vacancies in the Custodial Services Department. The Department is structured into five (5) service zones. Recommend that effective August 1, 2007 two thirds of existing Zone 3 be sub-contracted to a professional service provider. Further recommend that the existing service contract between Southern Management, Inc. and the School District of Santa Rosa County be used as it represents the most cost effective option available to the District to address the sub-contracting effort. Based on our studies, we have determined that the District can realize a significant savings in cost per square foot by sub-contracting thereby achieving full staffing in all service zones while simultaneously reducing cost per square footage in Zone 3.*

The Board recognized Mr. Tom Wazlavek, Executive Director of Escambia FEA Service Unit, who requested to address this item. Mr. Wazlavek reviewed a packet of information he provided to the Board entitled “*Cost Comparison of Custodial Operations in Zone 3 – Escambia County School Board vs. Southern Management.*” Using the information outlined in the cost comparison, he addressed various areas of concern with regard to the District’s recommendation for sub-contracting Zone 3 custodial operations. Mr. Wazlavek also expressed his disappointment that District staff had not collaborated with Union representatives on this issue.

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, gave a brief synopsis of the District’s recommendation regarding custodial zone-subcontracting (as outlined in backup documentation). Mr. Dennis noted that the merit to this proposal was that the District had an opportunity to “test the waters” of custodial sub-contracting by piggy-backing on the fifth year of an existing five-year service contract between Southern Management and the School District of Santa Rosa.

Mrs. Hightower indicated that she was willing to go forward with the recommendation as long as it was understood that the agreement was only to include Zone 3 and would not extend past the term of the initial contract between Santa Rosa and Southern Management, which was set to expire on June 30, 2008.

Mr. Boone indicated that he was comfortable approving this recommendation as he believed it was an opportunity for the District to “test the waters” of custodial sub-contracting in a very limited area and for a limited period of time.

Mrs. Brown-Curry noted that one of her primary concerns with this item had much to do with her belief that collaboration between District staff and Union representatives had not occurred; she believed that it was her responsibility as a Board Member, to ensure that such collaboration did take place.

The following speaker requested to address the Board regarding her opposition to this item: Ellen Lawrence, Escambia FEA Service Unit Director.

22. Amended Lease Schedule for Dell Computer Lease for West Florida High School of Advanced Technology

It was noted that the lease schedule associated with the Dell Computer Lease for West Florida High School of Advanced Technology was previously approved by the Board at the May 15, 2007 Regular Meeting (Item V.D.16); however, it was later discovered that the lease schedule provided by Dell Financial Services did not include needed services such equipment setup and shipment of the equipment back to Dell Financial Services at the lease end. Therefore, it was

necessary for the Board to approve the corrected lease schedule which would supersede and replace the lease schedule previously approved on May 15, 2007.

E. Operations

No discussion was held.

F. Student Transfers

No discussion was held.

G. Internal Auditing

No discussion was held.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW 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 7:40 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair