

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, AUGUST 28, 2007

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special 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. (*entered at 4:10 p.m.*)

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh
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/ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. On motion by Mrs. Brown-Curry, seconded by Mr. Boone, adoption of agenda was approved 4 to 0, with Mr. Gindl absent for vote.

II. ITEMS FROM THE GENERAL COUNSEL
(Supplementary Minute Book, Exhibit "A")

1. Final Order in re: Escambia County School Board v. Jackie Fowler, DOAH Case No. 06-4028

The first order of business was to remove this item from the table, as it was previously tabled at the August 17, 2007 Regular Meeting. Motion by Mrs. Brown-Curry, seconded by Mr. Boone, to remove this item from the table, was approved 4 to 0, with Mr. Gindl absent for vote.

As recommended by Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Hightower moved to reject the order of the Administrative Law Judge and adopt instead, the Final Order prepared by General Counsel. Mr. H.B. Stivers, attorney representing Ms. Jackie Fowler, briefly addressed the Board regarding various aspects of this item. (*Mr. Gindl entered the Special Meeting at 4:10 p.m.*) Motion carried unanimously.

2. Escambia STAR Performance Pay Plan

Motion was made by Mrs. Hightower, seconded by Mrs. Brown-Curry, to rescind Board action taken on February 20, 2007 (*Item VII.B.2*) to approve and implement the Escambia County STAR Performance Pay Plan and to direct the Superintendent to notify the Department of Education that the District would not participate in STAR for the 2006-2007 school year. The Superintendent began by stating that he was a strong proponent of merit pay. He did not however, feel comfortable with the implementation of the current STAR plan, which was the result of the District's "quick" effort to comply with a State mandate regarding the development of a merit pay plan. Now that the State had deemed the merit pay plan optional, the Superintendent believed that the District would have the time

necessary to develop a better plan. He urged the Board to support the motion on the floor which would rescind the approval and implementation of the current STAR plan. The following speakers requested to address the Board regarding this item: 1) George Najjar, who asked the Board to reject the motion on the floor; and 2) Gail Husbands, who asked the Board to support the motion on the floor. Mr. Bergosh believed that it would be a mistake to return the funds that were already provided by the State for implementation of the current STAR plan. He urged his fellow Board Members to move forward with implementation of the current plan while working towards improving the plan for next school year. Motion was approved 4 to 1, with Mr. Bergosh voting “No.”

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair