

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Workshop Meeting at 8:00 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive, 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 8:00 a.m.

A. Open Discussion

The following issues were addressed during *Open Discussion*:

- Florida School Board's Association (FSBA) Innovative Technology in Education Recognition Program - Mrs. Hightower provided the Board and Superintendent with a copy of the application for this program; she requested that the Superintendent share this information with staff.
- Executive Session re: Collaborative Bargaining - An Executive Session (re: Collaborative Bargaining) was scheduled for September 17, 2007, at 4:00 p.m., in the Superintendent's Conference Room.
- Special Workshop to Discuss District's Hiring Practices - Mrs. Brown-Curry requested that the Superintendent's staff work with Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs, on scheduling a Special Workshop for the purpose of discussing the District's hiring practices. Prior to the occurrence of such meeting, Mrs. Brown-Curry requested that the Superintendent's staff provide the Board with information outlining the current hiring practices.
- District-Wide Beverage Vending - Staff members reviewed information outlined in a handout provided to the Board regarding district-wide beverage vending.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the additions, deletions, amendments, and/or corrections to the September 18, 2007 Regular Meeting agenda.

### III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

#### 1. Bus Radio Guidelines

This item was addressed immediately after *Charter School Quarterly Reports (Item III.2)*.

### ADD

#### 2. Charter School Quarterly Report

Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, indicated that she had provided the Board with a quarterly report (September 2007) on charter schools prior to this meeting. Representatives from the following charter schools were in attendance and responded to various questions posed by Board Members regarding information outlined in the quarterly report: Capstone Academy, Pensacola Beach Elementary School; Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy; Escambia Charter; Ruby J. Gainer School for Reaching Your Dream; and Life Skills Center. Questions posed by the Board focused primarily on charter school contractual obligations such as timely submission of annual audits and attendance at principals' meetings. (NOTE: *No representative was present from Byrneville Elementary or Beulah Academy of Science.*)

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:10 a.m. and reconvened at 10:25 p.m., with Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Gindl, Mr. Boone, Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mrs. Waters and the Superintendent present. (*Mr. Bergosh was not present.*)

#### Bus Radio Guidelines

Ms. Gina Manning, representative of Bus Radio, gave a brief presentation regarding a national radio show, entitled "Bus Radio" that was delivered exclusively to school buses nationwide. She explained that "Bus Radio" was a free program designed specifically to improve bus safety while providing students with both age-appropriate content and an entertaining ride to and from school. Ms. Manning indicated that all participating school districts would receive custom designed and installed "Bus Radio" equipment free of charge. Mr. Eric Fritz, Director of Transportation, advised that this program was being considered due to growing concerns regarding student behavior on school buses. Due to the limited number of "Bus Radio" units available for the current school year, Board Members expressed a desire to see this issue considered at the September 18, 2007 Regular Meeting.

### IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

#### Revisions to School District Chapter 5 – Business Services

##### *5.01 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING – FISCAL MANAGEMENT*

##### *(1) GENERAL FISCAL POLICIES*

##### *(11) PAYROLL*

##### *(b) PAY DAYS*

*Instructional, administrative, and professional (permanent, temporary or substitute) personnel shall be paid regular pay on the last day of each month. Extra pay shall be paid on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. If the above dates occur on a Saturday or Sunday, that payday shall be the preceding Friday. If the above dates occur on a holiday which is observed by the School Board, that payday shall be paid on the previous workday. Educational Support Personnel (permanent, temporary or substitute) shall be paid biweekly. If the above dates occur on a holiday which is observed by the School Board, that payday shall be paid on the previous workday.*

Mrs. Hightower questioned the possibility of paying substitute teachers biweekly rather than just once a month. Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, indicated that

it was certainly possible; however, it would require additional reporting from school staff and additional check printing from the Payroll Department. She indicated that the issue would need to be discussed with Mrs. Linda Lewis, Director of Payroll.

5.02 PURCHASING

(4) PURCHASE APPROVAL

(b) With regard to the acquisition of technology District personnel shall:

~~1. Consider leasing and lease purchasing;~~

~~2. Prepare an analysis setting forth the budgetary and educational rationale for the method of each acquisition (lease, lease purchase or purchase)~~

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, advised that the verbiage regarding the lease of technology had been deleted from this section, as it was determined that in most situations, the leasing of technology was not cost-effective for the District. He noted that the consideration of leasing would no longer be a "normal course of business" with regard to the acquisition of technology, except perhaps for purchases related to those schools/programs on a continuous technology refresh cycle (i.e., West Florida High School of Advanced Technology).

5.03 PURCHASING

(13) MINORITY AND SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROCUREMENT PROGRAM

(i) REPORTING TO THE BOARD

*The Superintendent shall provide the School Board with an annual report in August of each fiscal year, describing the operation and effectiveness of the Minority Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program. The report submitted by the Superintendent shall include information regarding ~~rates~~ of participation by minority owned enterprises in the School Board's program.*

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, advised that although it had not been submitted in the past, an annual report describing the operation and effectiveness of the Minority Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program would be submitted to the Board in the future. Mrs. Hightower asked Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs, to place a notation on the Board's office calendar, indicating that such a report could be expected each year in August.

5.06 NON-SCHOOL USE OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

(4) SCHEDULE OF FEES

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, indicated that the last revision to the fee schedule for non-school use of educational facilities occurred approximately three years ago. Staff members noted that the current fee schedule was considered reasonable; and that fees collected from such usage were used to cover the cost of utilities and other overhead costs borne by the School District.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

2. No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 Supplemental Educational Services Contractual Agreement 2006-2007 (Cool Kids Learn, Inc.)

Mrs. Brown-Curry noticed that the Sid Nelson Cysis Program was listed as a participating school on this agreement; she questioned whether Cysis students who chose to participate in Supplemental Education Service (SES) tutoring services would be provided transportation and/or child care services. Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, advised that the decision of whether or not to provide or arrange for student transportation was at the discretion of each private SES

provider and referenced in their State-approved application. She noted that child care was not provided as part SES tutoring services.

20. Learning for Life Character Education Program Grant 2007-2008

Mrs. Hightower questioned how this item related to Item V.D.8, *Educational Services Agreement: Learning for Life*. Staff explained that this item contained information regarding a grant that the District had received for implementation of character education through a collaborative effort with Learning for Life, Inc.; whereas, Item V.D.8 was the actual purchase agreement with Learning for Life, Inc.

24. 2007-2008 Escambia County School District Strategic Plan 2006-2012 (2007-2008 update)

It was noted that this item would be addressed at the Special Workshop (Re: Discussion on Escambia County School District Strategic Plan 2006-2012) that would immediately follow this meeting.

B. Finance

No discussion was held.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

d. Out-of-Field

1. Appointments
2. Reappointments
3. Transfers
4. Other

Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, responded to general questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding items listed under the “*Out-of-Field*” section.

g. Special Requests

4. Amend the 2007-2008 Department Personnel Planning Document to reflect the following change:

Pages 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). (Job description provided in backup documentation)

6. Approval to establish and advertise Administrator on Special Assignment – O.J. Semmes (Job description provided in backup documentation)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Ms. Sandra Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning, advised that this position was mandated by the Florida Department of Education for any school receiving an “F” grade twice within a four-year period. She briefly reviewed the major responsibilities of this position (as outlined in backup documentation), one of which was to “compile and submit all Florida DOE required documentation or reports for school improvement at the assigned work location” (O.J. Semmes). Mrs. Hightower requested that the Board be provided a copy of such

documentation and/or reports. Mrs. Hightower also requested information regarding “how many additional people are at each “F” school that are not actually in classrooms?” Mrs. Hightower indicated that she would support the approval to establish this position; yet she would do so reluctantly; Mr. Gindl, Mr. Boone, and Mrs. Brown-Curry shared that same sentiment.

3. Risk Management

h. Escambia County Sheriff’s Department School Resource Officer Contract

It was noted that the backup documentation for this item was forthcoming.

D. Purchasing

14. Architectural/Engineering Services for Brown Barge Middle School

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, confirmed that the renovations outlined in the backup documentation did in fact, fall under the One-Half Cent Sales Tax project fund.

17. Stanford Achievement Tests for Grades 1-4, 6 & 7 and 9 & 10

Mr. Malcolm Thomas, Director of Evaluation Services, responded to general questions posed by Board Members regarding this purchase. While he was aware of the high-cost for this purchase, he believed it would ill-advised to discontinue usage of the Stanford Achievement Test until an alternative standard-measure test for Grades 1 & 2 was identified.

E. Operations

No discussion was held.

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 items were submitted

B. Items from the Superintendent

No discussion was held.

C. Items from the General Counsel

1. Participation in the Amicus Brief of Florida School Boards Association in Strand v. Escambia County, Florida, (Fla. 2007). (Regarding Certificates of Participation)

Mrs. Waters briefly addressed this item by reviewing the information outlined in the backup documentation for this item.

VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

**DELETED**

- ~~1. Charter School Quarterly Report~~

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs. Hightower called for public forum; however, there were no speakers.

X. ADJOURNMENT

It was noted that the Special Workshop that was to follow this meeting would begin at 1:20 p.m. There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair