

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JANUARY 18, 2008

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Workshop Meeting at 9:00 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  
Mr. Gerald Boone  
Mrs. Claudia Brown-Curry

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Norm Ross, Deputy Superintendent (*represented Mr. Jim Paul*)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:02 a.m.

A. Open Discussion

Executive Session

The Board agreed to schedule an executive session for Tuesday, February 19, 2008, at 4:30 p.m., in Room 130, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.

Joint Meeting of the Escambia County Board of Commissioners and the Pensacola City Council

It was noted that the Board had received an invitation to a joint city-county meeting that would be held on January 22, 2008, at 3:00 p.m., in the Hagler Mason Conference Room, Second Floor, City Hall.

Budget Workshop

The Board agreed to schedule a Special Workshop for Monday, February 11, 2008, at 4:00 p.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building for the purpose of developing budget priorities.

Retreat for Board Members, Superintendent, and Senior Staff

(NOTE: *This issue was previously addressed at the December 14, 2007 Regular Workshop. Mrs. Brown-Curry had asked the Superintendent to consider hosting a retreat for Board Members and the Superintendent's Senior Staff to discuss priorities for the School District.*)

Mrs. Hightower indicated that she would confer with the Superintendent as to a convenient date, time, and location for the retreat. The following dates were suggested: Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Band Program - West Florida High School of Advanced Technology

(NOTE: *This issue was previously addressed at the December 14, 2007 Regular Workshop.*)

Mr. Ross indicated that the Superintendent would present his recommendation in February regarding the establishment of a band program at West Florida High School.

2008-09 Student Calendar

Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, advised that another Calendar Committee meeting would be scheduled at the beginning of February, at which time the Committee would discuss two calendar proposals: 1) first semester ending prior to Christmas Break and 2) first semester ending after Christmas Break. The Committee would then forward their recommendation to the Superintendent for consideration, and the Superintendent would in turn present his recommendation to the Board at the February Regular Meeting.

School Board Rules, Chapter 2

(NOTE: *This issue was previously addressed at the December 14, 2007 Regular Workshop.*)

Mr. Ross stated Chapter 2 Rule revisions would be presented to the Board in March.

Breakfast Program – Woodham Middle School

(NOTE: *This issue was previously addressed at the December 14, 2007 Regular Workshop.*)

Mrs. Glenna Taylor, Director of School Food Services, announced that the breakfast program at Woodham Middle School would begin on Tuesday of the following week.

Participation in the “One Laptop Per Child” Program – Laptopgiving.org

Establishment of a University Lab School Program on the University of West Florida Campus

Mr. Bergosh noted that he had been looking into these two issues and would bring forth more information regarding them in the near future.

NOTE: *Mr. Bergosh left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.*

Legislative Update

Mr. Ronnie Arnold, Associate Superintendent for Public & Interagency Affairs, reviewed a handout he had provided to the Board which summarized the legislative activity from the week of January 7, 2008.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:52 a.m. and reconvened at 10:58 a.m., with Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Gindl, Mr. Boone, Mrs. Brown-Curry, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters present.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the additions, deletions, corrections and amendments to the January 22, 2008 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

-No items submitted

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

##### Revisions to School District Chapter 7 – Student Affairs, including the Student Progression Plan (6Gx17-7.09)

Mrs. Brown-Curry expressed a desire to postpone this item due to confusion among the community regarding the District's "Zero Tolerance" policy outlined in Section 7.14. She noted that she would be researching information regarding the concept of "zero tolerance" and how that concept was implemented in other school districts throughout the State. She requested that the Superintendent and Board consider conducting a forum whereby principals, teachers, parents, and other members of the community would have an opportunity to provide their input on the issue. It was noted that educating the public as to the true definition of "zero tolerance" and how it was implemented within the School District was of utmost importance.

#### V. CONSENT AGENDA

##### A. Curriculum and Instruction

1. Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Biomedical Sciences Project Lead the Way, Inc.

It was noted that the following revisions to the backup documentation for this item would be provided prior to the January 22, 2008 Regular Meeting:

- Executive Summary Sheet – Elimination of the following objective under the section entitled "Strategic Alignment": *2.2 Increase to 100% the participation of middle school students who complete a Workforce Education course in order to enhance career decision-making processes.*
- Agreement, Page 1 - School District zip code will be changed to 32502 instead of 32503.

5. Amendment to Interlocal Agreement between Escambia County, Florida and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida

It was noted that incorrect statutory reference had been identified in the backup documentation provided by the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners for this item.

##### B. Finance

7. Financial Status Report on Projects and Grants

Staff members responded to general questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding some of the projects listed on Schedule B, *2007-2008 Projects and Grants Which Do Not Roll Forward*.

##### C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional
  - g. Special Requests

7. Approve job description for Specialist (Assistive Technology) on the instructional salary schedule.

Mrs. Hightower requested that the Personnel Planning Document (PPD) include a notation indicating that the approval of this job description did not constitute the creation of a new position, but simply a new job title/job description for Specialist-Assistive Technology which would replace the current Technology Coordinator job title/job description.

D. Purchasing

3. Educational Services: Linking Arms

It was noted that amended backup documentation for this item would be provided in order to correct a typographical error found on page 2 of the Agreement.

6. Dell Computers for Various Schools, Centers and Departments

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, briefly reviewed the process followed with regard to the acquisition of technology for schools, centers, and departments.

E. Operations

1. Facilities Planning

B. Miscellaneous

1. Real Property Exchange Agreement between Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church of Pensacola, Inc. and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida

Mrs. Brown-Curry referred to the "executive summary sheet" for this item, which included the following verbiage: "*The above referenced property exchange was approved by the Board on September 23, 2003; however, title work and deeds have just recently been cleared.*" She questioned why it had taken over four years for the title work and deeds to be cleared. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, explained that the delay was primarily due to the discovery that Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church had a lien on the property at the time the property exchange was approved; and it had taken a considerable length of time for the church to clear the lien and to then notice the School District thereafter. Mrs. Hightower requested information related to the estimated closing costs related to this property exchange.

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 submitted

B. Items from the Superintendent

2. Student Recommendations

Discussion took place among Board Members and staff with regard to various aspects of the student expulsion process.

C. Items from the General Counsel

No discussion was held.

VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS  
-No items submitted

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair