

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, APRIL 14, 2008

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Workshop Meeting at 9:00 a.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 (*entered at 9:45 a.m.*)
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 9:15 a.m.

A. Open Discussion

The following issues were addressed during *Open Discussion*:

- Budget Update – Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting

Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, gave a brief update on the budget by reviewing information outlined in handouts she provided to the Board.

(*Mr. Bergosh entered the Regular Workshop at 9:45 a.m.*)

- School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee (SAZAC)

The Superintendent advised of his intent to reestablish the Student Attendance Zone Advisory Committee (SAZAC) to consider school closures and consolidations; he requested that each Board Member submit the name of their appointee by the end of the week.

- Budget for School Board Office

It was noted that each Board Member had received a copy of the proposed 2008-2009 budget for the School Board Office; there was no objection to the budget as presented.

- Issue regarding Student Records Department

Mrs. Hightower stated that she had received a phone call from an individual who had been trying for several days to contact the Student Records department, yet staff did not answer the phone or respond to messages left via voicemail. Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant

Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, stated that this issue had been addressed with that particular individual and with the staff from the Student Records department.

II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the additions, deletions, amendments and/or corrections to the April 15, 2008 Regular Meeting agenda.

III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

-No items submitted

IV. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

- Additional revisions to School District Rule 6Gx17 - Chapter 2, (2008) Human Resource Services *(Note: School District Rule 6Gx17 – Chapter 2 previously submitted March 18, 2008, for approval of advertisement is currently postponed to May 20, 2008)*

It was noted that a request to advertise Chapter 2 rule revisions had been postponed by the Board until the May Regular Meeting; however, because there were several rule revisions within Chapter 2 that were essential in proceeding with hiring process, it was decided that those specific revisions could be presented for separate advertisement at the April Regular Meeting.

Revisions to School District Rule 6Gx17-7.02 - Codes of Conduct: Elementary and Secondary Student Rights and Responsibilities, and School District Rule 6Gx17-7.15, Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

It was determined that this item could be delayed until the next meeting of the Student Rights & Responsibilities Review Committee had occurred.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Curriculum and Instruction

4. Cooperative Agreement between the Autism Society of the Panhandle and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida

Mr. Bergosh noticed that this agreement specified that the District would be providing facilities and custodial services for the Autism Society's summer camp program. Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, explained that the summer camp program was a collaborative effort among various community agencies whereby each agency contributed "what they were able" in order to maximize limited resources; in this case, the District was providing the facilities and custodial services and the Autism Society was providing funds for teaching training and teacher salaries.

9. Client Services Agreement between Professional Interpreting Services for the Deaf, Inc. and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida

Mr. Bergosh noted that the "signature page" for this contract provided only a generic listing of "representative" rather than a particular individual's name and title. He believed it was always "good to know" the name of the representative that one was dealing with and therefore, he requested that all contracts list the actual name and title of the individual who would be signing the contract, rather than simply "representative" or some other generic listing.

Mr. Boone questioned why this "new agreement" for the period of April 15, 2008 through June 30, 2008, was coming so late in the school year. Dr. George Ziolkowski, Director of Exceptional Student Education (ESE), explained that the initial provider, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of Northwest Florida, Inc., would not be able to provide interpreter services through June 30, 2008; therefore, this was a supplemental contract with another provider,

Professional Interpreting Services for the Deaf, Inc., to ensure students would continue receive those services through the end of the year.

10. 2008-2009 Proposed Staffing Allocation Table

Board Members agreed to address this item later in the meeting.

B. Finance

6. Disposal of Capitalized and Non-Capitalized Assets:

b) Auction List I for April 2008

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Laura Shaud, Director of Budgeting, advised that the numerous musical instruments referred to in the auction list for April 2008 were beyond repair; in fact, those instruments had been donated by Dollarhide's Music Center, for the sole purpose of allowing the District to obtain "scrap metal dollars" from auction. Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, confirmed that the faculty of West Florida High School (WFHS) was moving forward with their plan to establish a band program.

C. Human Resource Services

1. Instructional/Professional

g. Special Requests

1. Recommend Professional Service Contract for Terri Noel, teacher, West Pensacola for the 2007-08 school year who was inadvertently left off the agenda in June, 2007.

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, explained that paperwork not being received in a timely fashion by the Human Resource Services department had attributed to this item being inadvertently left off the agenda in June, 2007.

8. Approve revision of Specialist (Assistive Technology) job description on the instructional salary schedule and amend the 2007-2008 Department Personnel Planning Document for the following change:

Pages 44 & 45 – Exceptional Student Education (4412) – change Specialist (Assistive Technology) instructional position from 12 months to 11 months (see note 4).

There was discussion about Mrs. Hightower's request from the January 18, 2008 Regular Workshop, that the Personnel Planning Document (PPD) include a notation indicating that the approval of the job description for Specialist (Assistive Technology) did not constitute the creation of a new position, but simply a new job title/job description that would replace the Technology Coordinator job title/job description. Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, clarified that staff was now requesting that the Specialist (Assistive Technology) position be changed from a 12-month position to an 11-month position on the Instructional Salary Schedule.

9. Approve adoption of the 2008-2009 Department Personnel Planning Document.

Board Members agreed to address this item later in the meeting.

5. Affirmative Action
-Revised Affirmative Action Plan

Mr. Bergosh asked Mrs. Waters to look into the legality of changing the title of the Affirmative Action Plan, as he believed that the term “affirmative action” carried a negative connotation.

D. Purchasing

3. Bid Renewal: As Needed Real Estate Services, RFP #062701

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, stated that the cost to utilize these real estate services was under \$4,000 (aggregate) over the past two (2) years; he noted that the funds expended thus far, had been related to small property sales and property purchases. Mrs. Hightower requested that Mrs. Waters provide all Board Members with statutory references regarding the disposition of property.

5. SMART Boards and Accessories for Various Schools

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boone, Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, explained that SMART Boards were part of the equipment that schools were provided as they took on the Technology Learning Group initiative.

6. Surveillance Systems for Transportation Department

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Eric Fritz, Director of Transportation, explained the difference in the two types of cameras (wedge and mini dome) that were being purchased. He noted that this was the first phase in an initiative, which would take place over the next five years, to outfit each school bus with a video recording unit to record the activities that take place on District school buses.

8. Lexmark Printers for Various Schools

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boone, Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, stated that the schools listed in the backup documentation for this item would receive a laser printer as part of the District’s printer replacement cycle.

E. Operations

1. Facilities Planning
 - B. Miscellaneous
 1. Pre-Qualification of Contractors

At the request of Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, stated that he would provide the names of those contractors who appeared on the pre-qualification list, who were minority contractors. Mrs. Brown-Curry also wanted to know the District’s current plan for recruiting additional minority contractors. In response, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, stated that he would provide an outline of the District’s process that all contractors must follow in order to become pre-qualified to provide services to the District.

2. School Food Services

A. Miscellaneous

1. Contract for Off-Site Preparation of Meals – Escambia Bay Marine Institute (EBMI)

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, confirmed that this was a request to amend the contract for off-site preparation of meals to provide snacks to students at EBMI beginning April 16, 2008. (Original contract to provide breakfast and lunch was approved by the Board on June 19, 2007.)

F. Student Transfers

Board Members cited several errors within the backup documentation for this section that would need to be corrected prior to the April 15, 2008 Regular Meeting.

G. Internal Auditing

-No items submitted

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

1. Impact of Current School Consolidation on Student Achievement and Discipline

At the request of Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, addressed the issue of whether current school consolidation had any evident impact on student achievement and/or student discipline. He felt it important to note that school closures and consolidations had occurred for financial reasons, and not in an effort to increase student achievement and/or address student discipline. However, reports from those schools with regard to student achievement had been positive; and with regard to student discipline there appeared to be no dramatic change.

Discussion took place with regard to Mrs. Brown-Curry's specific concern as to "classroom management" at Woodham Middle School. Mr. Fetsko stated that he would address Mrs. Brown-Curry's concerns with the Woodham Middle School principal. Discussion also took place with regard to Mrs. Brown-Curry's concern as to the impact of bringing different communities together as part of school closures and consolidations.

2. Verbal Update from Connie Farish, CIM Specialist and Tom Harrell, Administrator on Special Assignment

As requested by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Ms. Connie Farish, CIM Specialist, gave a brief update on the implementation of the Continuous Improvement Model (CIM) throughout the District; and Mr. Tom Harrell, Administrator on Special Assignment, gave a brief update on the plan that was being implemented at O.J. Semmes Elementary to increase student achievement.

(Mr. Bergosh left the Regular Workshop at 1:00 p.m.)

3. Overview of District GED Program and Future Plans to Address Illiteracy Among Young Adults

At the request of Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Carl Leiterman, Director of Workforce Education, gave a brief overview of the District GED program; and Ms. Pam Ryland, Principal of Judy Andrews Center (Adult Education), gave a brief overview of what the District was doing to address illiteracy among young adults.

4. Update of Zero Tolerance Workshop/Information Meetings for Parents and General Public

As requested by Mrs. Brown-Curry, the Superintendent shared his plan to address the School Advisory Committees and PTAs with regard to the “zero tolerance” concept; he noted that this would occur at the beginning of the next school year. Mrs. Brown-Curry expressed her desire to also have this information conveyed to the general public.

5. Utilization of Studer Program within the School District

At the request of Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, gave a brief overview of how the Studer program was being utilized within the District.

B. Items from the Superintendent

1. Student Recommendations

Mrs. Brown-Curry was concerned that the backup documentation for student expulsion recommendations did not ever include information as to the types of intervention services that had been provided in an effort to help a student change his or her behavior prior to their being recommended for expulsion. The Superintendent stated that at an upcoming Board workshop, he would have staff share information regarding the various types of intervention services that were being provided to students.

C. Items from the General Counsel

-No items submitted

VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items submitted

IX. PUBLIC FORUM

The following speakers requested to address the Board regarding various subjects:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Issue</u>
Craig Broughton	Background Screenings for Field Trip Chaperones – N.B. Cook Elementary

X. ADJOURNMENT

Discussion on the following items had been postponed earlier in the meeting:

2008-2009 Proposed Staffing Allocation Table (Item V.A.10)

Approve adoption of the 2008-2009 Department Personnel Planning Document (Item V.C.1.g.9)

Board Members and the Superintendent agreed that a Special Meeting should be scheduled to discuss these two issues. The Regular Workshop was recessed at 2:00 p.m., so that the Superintendent and his staff could determine a date for a Special Meeting. The Regular Workshop reconvened at 2:05 p.m., with Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Gindl, Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Boone, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters present. (*Mr. Bergosh was not present.*)

The Board and Superintendent agreed to schedule a Special Meeting (re: Staffing Allocation Table & Personnel Planning Document) for April 21, 2008, at 3:00 p.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building. (NOTE: *The time of the Special Meeting was later changed to 3:30 p.m. and the location was changed to Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.*)

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair