

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MAY 16, 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. Jim Paul

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Open Discussion

The following issues were addressed during *Open Discussion*:

- “Good Cause Exemptions” to Mandatory Third-Grade Retention

At the request of Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Wayne Odom, Director of Elementary Education, briefly reviewed the “good cause exemptions” to the State’s mandatory third-grade retention policy.

- Potential Closure of Carver/Century K-8 School

For the record, it was noted that the Superintendent had not yet presented any formal recommendation to the Board with regard to the closure of Carver/Century K-8 School. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, stated that it was certainly possible to close Carver/Century prior to the start of school in August. Mrs. Brown-Curry had several questions with regard to the potential closure of Carver/Century; the Superintendent requested that she submit to him, a compilation of all her questions, and he and his staff would respond with the appropriate information.

Ellen Lawrence, Director of Escambia NEA UniServe, questioned what would happen to the faculty and staff of Carver/Century K-8, should the school be closed.

- Potential Changing of School Start/End Times

For the record, it was noted that the Superintendent had not yet presented any formal recommendation to the Board with regard to any change in school start/end times.

Later in the meeting, the following “*Open Discussion*” issue was addressed:

- Summer Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program

Mrs. Brown-Curry requested the figures regarding the number of students registered for the summer voluntary pre-kindergarten program.

## II. COMMENTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Norm Ross, Deputy Superintendent, listed the additions, deletions, amendments and/or corrections to the May 20, 2008 Regular Meeting agenda.

## III. TIME CERTAIN ITEMS

-No items submitted

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

Revisions to School District Rules 6Gx17-2.04(6) 4. and 7. - Recruitment and Selection of Personnel and 6Gx17-2.06(2)(g)(h) - Instructional Contracts

### *2.04 RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION OF PERSONNEL*

*(6) Guidelines which disqualify applicants from employment include:*

- 4. ~~Two (2)~~ One (1) DWI, DUI, or BUI convictions ~~within the past five (5) years for general hire; and one (1) DWI, DUI, or BUI for applicants being given consideration to drive any school district vehicle regardless of the date of the incident.~~ School bus operators cannot have a DUI or DWI conviction.*

It was noted that the verbiage for this section would be revised to state “more than one DWI, DUI, or BUI convictions.”

## V. CONSENT AGENDA

### A. Curriculum and Instruction

1. Family Resource Activities Model in Early Education (F.R.A.M.E.)/Title I

*Purpose: This proposal provides for a fourteen-day early literacy booster session for Title I/F.R.A.M.E. four year old prekindergarten students and a nine-day early literacy orientation session for F.R.A.M.E. “Time for Two’s” Project students.*

At the request of Mr. Boone, Mrs. Marcia Nowlin, Director of Title I, stated that she would look into the possibility of conducting these “booster sessions” just prior to the start of a new school year as opposed to after the end of a school year.

2. Contractual Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Lakeview Center, Inc.

At the request of Mrs. Brown-Curry, Dr. Garth Grove, Director of Guidance Services, provided an approximate figure regarding the number of students who had received counseling services through this contract during the current school year. Dr. Grove then responded to other

general questions posed by Mrs. Brown-Curry regarding the services provided for under this agreement.

5. Contractual Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida & Silvio Fina, LMHC

Dr. Garth Grove, Director of Guidance Services, confirmed that this contract with Silvio Fina, LMHC, would provide counseling and consultative services to all area high schools and the Judy Andrews (Adult Education) Center. Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Dr. Grove clarified that the total contract amount was not to exceed \$36,070.00.

11. Multidisciplinary Evaluation – Florida State University

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Malcolm Thomas, Director of Evaluation Services, advised that the Regional Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Consulting Center of Florida State University was located in Tallahassee. Should the District need to access the services provided for under this agreement, a referral would be issued and the Center would send personnel to the District to meet with parents and students.

12. Communications Equipment and Technology Grant

In response to questions posed by Mr. Bergosh, Ms. Sandra Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning, clarified that unless this grant was awarded to the District, none of the communications equipment/technology purchases would be made.

13. Modification #1 Contract between Workforce Escarosa, Inc. and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida for Youth Services WIA 2007-2008-04

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Carl Leiterman, Director of Workforce Education, clarified that the Workforce Escarosa Board of Directors had generously agreed to increase the School Board's Youth Service grant allocation by \$6,000.00 in order to provide enough revenue to cover youth salaries impacted by the increase in minimum wage.

18. Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Childhood Dreams Learning Center, Inc.

Mrs. Hightower identified a typographical error on the "executive summary" sheet for this item, whereby "Childhood Dreams Learning Center, Inc." was incorrectly listed as a participating school/agency.

20. Cooperative Agreement between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and ARC Gateway, Inc.

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, stated that in essence, the entire funding amount for this vocational training program would be paid from the general operating fund, FTE-Project 0800; however, the students attending the program would actually be generating those FTE dollars.

B. Finance

6. Disposal of Capitalized and Non-Capitalized Assets:  
b) Auction Lists I and II for May 2008

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Paul Fetsko, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, advised that the studio piano referred to in the auction list for May 2008, was determined by District staff to be beyond repair.

- C. Human Resource Services
  - 1. Instructional/Professional
    - b. Reappointments
    - 2. Professional

Mrs. Hightower requested the employment start dates for the individuals listed under this section. (*Refer to the May 20, 2008 Regular Meeting agenda for a complete listing of individuals.*)

- g. Special Requests

Staff members responded to general questions posed by Board Members regarding various items listed under this section.

- 5. Affirmative Action
  - Revised Affirmative Action Plan

It was noted that Mr. Bergosh had previously suggested changing the title of the Affirmative Action Plan, as he believed that the term “affirmative action” carried a negative connotation. Mr. Bergosh indicated that he would discuss this issue further with Mrs. Waters and Mr. Horace Jones, Director of Affirmative Action.

- D. Purchasing

- 1. Bid Award: Sports Equipment Supplies, Bid #083004

Upon inquiry by Board Members, Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, clarified that this was a request to issue purchase orders as needed to replenish the Central Warehouse inventory (effective dates: June 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009). He noted that the “sports equipment and supplies” provided by this contract would be stocked at the Central Warehouse and distributed to the schools when requested.

- 2. Bid Renewal: Communications Cabling, RFP #051104

*Amount of Purchase: \$850,000.00 Est./Yr.*  
*Funding Source: Various funding/project sources including E-Rate*

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, confirmed that very little of the funding for this purchase would come from the general operating fund.

- 5. Bid Renewal: Paint Products, Bid #042602

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Chuck Peterson, Director of Maintenance, explained that the 10% cost increase (estimated at \$6,000) was due to an increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

- 6. Bid Renewal: Bar Coding of Textbooks, Bid #063701

At the request of Board Members, Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, clarified that this agreement was being renewed to support school staff if they were unable to complete their book processing prior to the 2008-2009 school year.

29. Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #294145 – Ensley and Cordova Elementary Schools

At the request of Mrs. Brown-Curry, Mr. Ron Peacock, Director of Facilities Planning, provided the rationale behind the change in flooring and roofing materials as outlined in the backup documentation for this item.

E. Operations

No discussion was held.

F. Student Transfers

No discussion was held.

G. Internal Auditing

2. Inventory Adjustment Reports

-Inventory for twelve (12) cost centers

Mr. Bergosh questioned whether or not there was anything that could be done to reduce the number of laptop computers that were being reported missing. Mr. Don Manderson, Director of Instructional Technology, noted that actually, the number of laptop computers reported as missing was well within operational acceptability. Mr. David Bryant, Director of Internal Auditing, stressed the importance of referring to the acquisition date for those laptop computers reported as missing; he noted many of those laptops were not actually missing per say, but rather improperly cannibalized once they were no longer functional.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mrs. Hightower noted that the section entitled “Unfinished Business” would be moved forward on the agenda at the May 20, 2008 Regular Meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Items from the Board

1. Scheduling of June 2008 School Board Workshops and Meetings

(Meetings currently scheduled are: Friday, June 13, 2008 – Regular Monthly Workshop and Tuesday, June 17, 2008 – Regular Monthly Meeting)

The Board agreed to reschedule the Regular Workshop to June 16, 2008, at 4:00 p.m., in the Board Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building. The Regular Meeting remains scheduled for June 17, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.

2. Request Approval to Enter into Agreement with the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Donna Sessions Waters, Esquire

It was noted that the negotiation of a three-year contract with Donna Sessions Waters, had been approved at the March 6, 2008 Special Meeting. Board Members indicated that they were still interested in issuing a three-year contract to Mrs. Waters, despite the current budget situation.

B. Items from the Superintendent

4. Student Recommendations

Mrs. Brown-Curry and Mr. Bergosh were very concerned with the number of drug-related student expulsions; each expressed their desire to see more random drugs searches being conducted at the school sites. Mrs. Hightower stated that she had requested in the past, and was

now requesting again, that the Superintendent and his staff inform school principals as to the true nature of the zero-tolerance concept.

- C. Items from the General Counsel
  - No items submitted

- VIII. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS
  - No items submitted

- IX. PUBLIC FORUM

The following speaker(s) requested to the address the Board regarding various subjects:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Issue</u>
Arto Pryor	“Show-n-Tell” Technology from Education News Network

- X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair