

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MARCH 12, 2009

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop meeting at 3:00 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. Gerald Boone

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh
Mrs. Linda Moultrie
Mr. Bill Slayton

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on February 26, 2009 – Legal No. 1387167 IT

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

(NOTE: General discussion amongst Board Members and staff took place throughout the meeting.)

- Teacher of the Year Process
The Superintendent indicated that he would look into Mr. Slayton's concern that very few teachers typically complete the paperwork required by the State to be considered for Florida Teacher of the Year.
- Update from Math Supervisor Regarding Changes with FCAT Math Testing (specifically high school level)
Ms. Sheila Montgomery, Secondary Mathematics Specialist, gave a brief PowerPoint® presentation entitled, "Mathematics and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards."
- High School Graduation Fund
(Handout provided to Board Members)
Mr. Bergosh presented his proposal for establishing an endowment trust account to deposit proceeds from the sale of the old Molino Elementary School property that could then be used fund high school graduation ceremonies in future years. The handout that Mr. Bergosh provided, included an analysis for the continued funding of high school graduation ceremonies at the Pensacola Civic Center (assuming a \$25,000 yearly cost); and also included an analysis for funding the ceremonies at an alternative facility (assuming a \$15,000 yearly cost) that he had identified, yet did not name. The Superintendent indicated that he would be open to exploring Mr. Bergosh's proposal for an endowment trust account and his proposal for an alternative site for the high school graduation ceremonies. However, he asked that this issue be put on hold until such time as he had a clearer idea of the current budget situation.

- (Old) Molino Elementary School Property
Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, advised that the contract for the sale of the old Molino Elementary School property would be presented at the April Regular Meeting.
- Potential Board Salary Reduction as Part of Comprehensive Budget Savings Plan
It was noted that the Florida Legislature had approved a measure that would empower School Board Members to voluntarily cut their own salaries. (Traditionally, School Board salaries are set by the State, based on student enrollment in each of Florida's 67 county-wide districts). Mr. Bergosh stated that if the budget situation got so bad that District employees were asked to take a wage concession, he would be willing and would hope that the rest of the Board would agree, to also take a substantial wage concession.
- Objectives and General Directions Given to the Various Task Forces
In response to concerns raised by Mrs. Moultrie, the Superintendent confirmed that a clear mission and clear objectives had been established for each of his task forces. He assured her that District staff served simply as facilitators for the task force meetings.
- Chain of Command Regarding District Wide Invitations
At the request of Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent stated that he would remind school principals that Board Members would always appreciate an invitation to the various events occurring at their schools.
- Budget Update
(Handouts provided to Board Members)
Mrs. Barbara Linker, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, reviewed the following information:
 - 2009-10 Revenue/Needs Forecast
 - Instructional and Non-teaching Support Staffing Changes for 2009-10
 - Projected Recurring and Non-Recurring 2009-10 Budget Reductions
- Update on the Development of Facility Naming Protocol
(Handout provided to Board Members)
Mrs. Carolyn Spooner, Director-High School Education, reviewed the standard operating procedure that had been developed for selecting a school facility name. She then responded to general questions posed by some of the Board Members with regard to this particular procedure.

III. PRESENTATIONS

1. New Downtown Elementary School Presentation (*Time Certain – 3:05 p.m.*)

The project architect, Quina Grundhoefer, Inc. gave a brief PowerPoint® presentation regarding the new downtown elementary school. It was noted that the new school would open in August 2011.

Following the architect's presentation, the Superintendent stated that it was his intent for Dr. Sheree' Cagle-Mauldin to become the principal of both Hallmark Elementary and Yniestra Elementary for the 2009-2010 school year (current Yniestra principal, Ms. Nancy Reece would retire at the end of the current 2008-2009 school year). He noted that having a shared administrator for both sites would not only save money, but would also help with bringing both of the faculties together. He also expressed his commitment to ensuring that the students who are currently zoned for the Hallmark and Yniestra attendance area would always have first priority at attending the new school.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

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

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair