

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MAY 10, 2012

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 3:00 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

Chair: Mr. Bill Slayton (*not present*)

Vice Chair: Mr. Jeff Bergosh (*served as Chair in Mr. Slayton's absence*)

Board Members: Mr. Gerald W. Boone
Mrs. Linda Moultrie
Mrs. Patricia Hightower

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting was advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on April 30, 2012 - Legal No. 1561641

[General discussion took place among Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff throughout this meeting.]

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bergosh called the Special Workshop to order at 3:03 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- May and June Calendar - *Slayton*

School Board Members reviewed their schedules for May and June; no changes were made.

- Master Calendar/School Loop - *Superintendent*

The Superintendent and staff demonstrated the School District's new "master calendar" that was accessible via the homepage of the School District's website. For the time being, the Superintendent said that his Executive Assistant would be responsible for posting School District special events reported to the Superintendent's Office but eventually, that responsibility would be extended to other staff members who would post events for their areas. The Superintendent said that his office would communicate to all departments and schools that they should check the "master calendar" before planning an event in order to avoid any major scheduling conflicts.

- School Board Member Networking Statewide (and Nationwide) for Best Practices/Idea Sharing – *Bergosh* [[*Handout*](#) provided to School Board Members]

Mr. Bergosh gave a brief presentation regarding a project he had been working on that would allow for online networking among school board members initially statewide and eventually nationwide. He noted that this online networking website, while operating within the constraints of open meeting laws, would allow for online collaboration and best-practice dissemination for those in public education. There was some general discussion amongst School Board Members and Mrs. Waters as to how an elected official could participate in this type of online networking without violating the Florida Sunshine Law. Mrs. Waters noted that it was "incumbent on each member who decides to participate in this to

monitor their behavior.” Mrs. Hightower said she would have questions and concerns specifically about compliance with Sunshine Law, but she believed that Mr. Bergosh had a valuable idea. Mr. Boone believed that this type of online networking could be beneficial for school board members state-wide. Mr. Bergosh said he would continue to work on this project and intended to give a brief demonstration of the actual website sometime in the next few months.

- Student 2 Student - Superintendent

Mrs. Carissa Bergosh, School Liaison Officer (SLO) for Pensacola Naval Air Station (NAS), along with several students from Escambia, Pensacola and Pine Forest high schools, gave a brief presentation regarding the Student 2 Student (S2S)© initiative. *S2S is a student-led, school managed program that confronts the challenges of transition and provides relevant training that gives students the best possible transition experience. A team of volunteer students, supervised by a school counselor, teacher or other school staff person, trains inbound and outbound transitioning students on three subject areas: academics, relationships, and finding the way. For the incoming students the team provides a forum for students to quickly feel welcomed, comfortable, included and accepted into their new school community. For the outgoing student, the team assists in helping outbound students better prepare for transitioning to another school.*

- District-wide Recycling Effort Update - Superintendent
[[Handout](#) provided to School Board Members]

Mr. Chuck Peterson, Director of Maintenance Services, gave an update on the progress of the district-wide recycling effort and a brief report on other cost savings/cost avoidance initiatives of the Maintenance, Custodial, and Food Services departments.

- Guardian Angel, Chad Tucker - Superintendent

The Superintendent advised that the presentation on this topic would be postponed to the June 21, 2012 Regular Workshop as there had been a delay in the launch of the Guardian Angel software application.

- Update on Changes to Dual Enrollment Contracts - Hightower

[Mrs. Hightower previously addressed the topic of dual enrollment during the February 16, 2012 Special Workshop.] At the request of Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent gave a brief report on the negotiations with Pensacola State College (PSC) for an updated dual enrollment articulation agreement. The Superintendent said that staff was still in the process of negotiating the articulation agreement that would be presented for the School Board’s consideration by the August Regular Meeting.

Although not listed on the agenda, the following topics were briefly addressed:

Disposal of Computer Equipment: At the request of Mr. Boone, the Superintendent agreed to have staff explore the possibility of modifying the School District policy with regard to the disposal of computer equipment so that perhaps computers could be made available to individuals or organizations in need of computer equipment rather than being scrapped. It was noted that the hard drive would have to be removed from the discarded computers because it could possibly contain confidential student and/or employee information. Mr. Bergosh suggested that perhaps the end-user could pay a nominal fee per unit removal fee to cover the cost of the hard drive removal.

Update on School Nurses

(NOTE: This topic was previously addressed at the April 13, 2012 Special Workshop; however, Mrs. Hightower was not in attendance to voice her concerns.) Mrs. Hightower questioned whether the School District should have retracted its offer to put forward \$150,000 funds to assist with the nursing situation

considering that \$150,000 was a “small amount of money when considering that the health of a child is important to the academic success of a child.” The Superintendent clarified that the \$150,000 offer was in addition to what the School District had historically added to the contract; the reason the offer was withdrawn was because the Health Department was able to put a \$1,000,000 back on the table so that the plan that will be implemented for the 2012-2013 school year is \$850,000 better than originally thought. The Superintendent noted however, that it had been made clear that the Health Department would only be able to sustain this plan for one year only so for 2013-2014 school year, the School District may have to step forward and assist with an additional contribution. He said the reasoning for withdrawing the offer this year was to conserve the money until such a time when the need was much greater than it was for this year.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Bergosh called for Public Forum; however, there were no speakers.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair