

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 3:00 p.m., in the Board Room, at 215 West Garden Street, Pensacola, Florida, with the following present:

Chair: Mr. Gerald W. Boone Vice Chair: Mr. Jeff Bergosh

Board Members: Mrs. Linda Moultrie
Mrs. Patricia Hightower
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 August 16, 2010 - Legal No. 1481614

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Boone called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Class Size Compliance – *topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh*
Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent reported that the School District appeared to be “on target” with class size compliance at all grade-levels. He noted that staff would of course, continue to monitor the situation and adjust staffing as necessary. A final report on class size compliance was to be provided to the Board following the State’s official class size count in October.
- Presentation on “Yes on Amendment 8” – *topic submitted by Jeff Bergosh*
(NOTE: *Amendment 8 is a proposed amendment on the November 2010 ballot that would allow class sizes to be calculated in a more lenient fashion. If passed, the class size would be calculated at a grade-level average, not an individual classroom cap, allowing some classes to go above the limit.*)
Mr. Bergosh narrated a brief Power Point® presentation which outlined his individual effort to advocate for the passage of Amendment 8 by turning his old campaign signs into pro-Amendment 8 messages. It was noted that the Board would have an opportunity at the September 21, 2010 Regular Meeting (see Item VII.A.2), to collectively adopt the following position statement regarding Amendment 8: “*The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, recognizing the need for smaller classes and the need for flexibility at the school level in providing the best education for students of this District, encourages citizens to support proposed Amendment 8 in the 2010 general election.*”
- Need for Coded Security Door – *topic submitted by Patty Hightower*
Board Members determined that the security door outside of their office suite at the new administration building was not necessary. Board Members agreed that the security door and metal frame should be removed and relocated to another office area.

- Establishing Criteria for a Priority Percentage to be Given to Students that Live With-in Walking Distance to a School with a Lottery System – *topic submitted by Patty Hightower*
The Superintendent advised that staff was exploring the possibility of adding a proximity preference to lottery eligibility criteria. This preference would increase the likelihood that a student living closest to a school would be selected to attend the school. It was noted that any such proposal would be presented to the Board along with other revisions to the lottery process as outlined in School District Rule 6Gx17-3, School Operating Procedures.
- School Improvement Plan Presentation by Various Schools – *Superintendent*
Mrs. Sandra Edwards, Director of Comprehensive Planning, gave a brief report outlining the various initiatives that would support each of the School District’s “D” and “F” schools.
- Focused Curriculum – *Superintendent*
[Handouts provided to Board Members]
Various staff provided status reports on focused curriculum goals for each grade-level.
- Plan for Algebra End-of-Course Assessment – *Superintendent*
Due to time constraints, the Superintendent elected to defer this item to the September 17, 2010 Regular Workshop.
- Misconduct Investigative Procedure – *Superintendent*
Due to time constraints, the Superintendent decided to postpone this item to the October 14, 2010 Special Workshop.

The following issue was also briefly addressed during *Open Discussion*:

- Tobacco-Free Policy for Potential New Employees
Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent advised that information was currently being gathered regarding this topic and that any proposed policy of course, would be presented to the Board for approval.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Boone called for public forum; however, there were no speakers.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair