

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Regular Workshop 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. Bill Slayton
Board Members: Mr. Gerald Boone
Mrs. Linda Moultrie

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Board Member Mr. Jeff Bergosh was not present.

Meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on August 27, 2015 - Legal No. 1646550

NOTE: The minutes from this session have been prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*. The video from this session is available at <http://escambiacycountysdfl.swagit.com/play/09112015-579>

[*General discussion among School Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff occurred throughout this session.*]

I. CALL TO ORDER

Prior to calling the session to order, Mrs. Hightower asked everyone to join her for a “moment of silence” in memory of those who lost their lives as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

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

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Youth Emergency Preparedness (YEP!) Expo: The Superintendent announced that the 6th annual YEP! Expo, sponsored by BRACE and the Escambia County School District, would be held at Washington High School on September 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (*The YEP! Expo is a free community event that teaches preparedness and safety through interactive demonstrations.*) The Superintendent noted that this year’s expo would include a special tribute to first responders and serve as a National Day of Service and Remembrance event. The ceremony to honor first responders was scheduled for 11:00 a.m.
- Florida Standards Assessment: The Superintendent reported that the Department of Education had released the results of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) validity study. The Superintendent said he would keep the School Board updated with any information received regarding the calculation of school grades.

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the September 15, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda since initial publication and prior to this session. At the request of the Superintendent, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, explained the reasoning for changes that were made to the September 15, 2015 Special Meeting/Public Hearing agenda with regard to the District’s Facilities Work Program (Five Year Plan).

III. MINUTES

- a. 06-15-15 Regular Workshop
- b. 06-22-15 Special Workshop
- c. 07-16-15 Regular Workshop
- d. 07-20-15 Special Workshop
- e. 07-21-15 Special Meeting
- f. 07-28-15 Special Meeting/Public Hearing
- g. 08-18-15 Regular Meeting
- h. 07-14-15 Special Meeting

ADD

There were no questions or concerns from School Board Members regarding any of the minutes as listed (Items a through h).

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-Charter School Quarterly Report

The Superintendent and his staff responded to Mrs. Moultrie's concerns about the student enrollment numbers for Escambia Charter School. Mr. Slayton commented that he liked the new format of the charter school quarterly report. The Superintendent and his staff responded to questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding charter school bus inspections.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

2. Permission to Advertise

- A. Approval to Advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to the School District of Escambia County – Student Progression Plan

Mrs. Lesa Morgan, Director of High School Education, responded to general questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding some of the verbiage under Section 4.1.2., *International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma*.

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

D. Evaluation Services

1. 2015-2016 Assessment Calendar

Mrs. Moultrie and Mr. Slayton commented on the excessive number of assessments regarding by the Florida Department of Education. There was discussion about the need to communicate to parents and the public at-large that concerns regarding the excessive number of state-required assessments should be directed to their legislative representative.

K. Workforce Education

1. Agreement between Gaetz Aerospace Institute, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Escambia County School District Academic Year 2015-2016

Dr. Michelle Taylor, Director of Workforce Education, and Mr. Frank Murphy, Principal of Escambia High School, addressed the School Board regarding this agreement which would enable Embry Riddle Aeronautical University dual enrollment courses to be taught at Escambia High School in the NFA-ACE Flight Academy.

- 2. Finance and Business Services
-No items discussed
- 3. Human Resource Services

At the request of Mr. Slayton, Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, gave a brief update on staffing for the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Scott reported that out of approximately 3500 instructional positions, the School District only experienced twelve (12) opening when the school year began in August.

A. Instructional/Professional

7. Special Requests

- d. Establish the following job description on the Administrative Salary Schedule:
Coordinator I-DODEA Military Grants
- e. Amend the 2015-2016 Department Personnel Planning Document (Cost Center 4406)

Mrs. Hightower was not ready to support the establishment of the Coordinator I-DODEA Military Grants because first, she did not know whether the qualifications listed in the job description were appropriate based on the terms of the grant as she had not seen a copy of the grant; and secondly, she believed that the pay grade (Pay Grade 8 – Administrative Salary Schedule) was set too high. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Joel Hollon, Specialist I-Continuous Improvement & School Choice, clarified that the School District had not yet received official grant award notification; however, staff felt it important to “have everything in place” in terms of asking the School Board to go ahead establish the new position, so that once the grant was awarded, they could then immediately proceed with advertising and filling that position. The Superintendent pointed out that the position, if approved by the School Board, would only be filled if the grant was awarded. He also noted that the position would be eliminated once the grant period ended. In response to Mrs. Hightower’s concerns, Mr. Hollon said the grant required the School District to have a position where at least 50% of that employee’s time was spent directing the grant.

- 4. Operations
-No items discussed

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD
-No items submitted

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
-No items discussed

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

- 1. Inventory Adjustment Reports for forty (40) cost centers

Mr. David Bryant, Director of Internal Auditing, advised the School Board that his office had submitted about half of their recently completed inventory adjustment reports and would submit the other half the following month.

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL
-No items submitted

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL