

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, AUGUST 13, 2015

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: Mrs. Patricia Hightower
Vice Chair: Mr. Bill Slayton
Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh
Mr. Gerald Boone
Mrs. Linda Moultrie

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on July 31, 2015 – Legal No. 1645232

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://escambiacountysdf1.swagit.com/play/08132015-789>

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- August and September 2015 Calendar

There were no changes to the remaining schedule of School Board workshops/meetings for August:

- Regular Workshop, August 14th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.*
- Regular Meeting, August 18th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.*

The School Board reviewed their schedule of School Board workshops/meetings for September:

- Special Workshop, September 10th, beginning at 3:00 p.m.*
- Regular Workshop, September 11th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.*
- Regular Meeting, September 15th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.*

The following meetings were added to the schedule of School Board workshops/meetings for September:

- Special Meeting, September 10th, beginning at 2:45 p.m.*
Purpose: To consider approval of the Annual Finance Report & Cost Report
- Special Meeting, September 15th, beginning at 5:01 p.m.*

Purpose: Final Adoption of the 2015-2016 Millage Rates & Budget

*To be held in Room 160 at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center

DELETED

~~—Charitable Dental Group Utilization of School Gym to Provide 2000 Escambia County Residents with Free Dental Care (continued from July) —Bergosh (10 minutes)~~

- Discussion of July 13, 2015 Letter from Walt Griffin, Superintendent of Seminole County Public Schools to Commissioner of Education, Pam Stewart regarding State Mandated Testing - Hightower

Mrs. Hightower said school boards around the state of Florida had been asked to support a letter written by Dr. Walt Griffin, Superintendent of Seminole County Public Schools to Pam Stewart, Commissioner of Education, regarding state-mandated testing. [The letter referenced Seminole County's proposal for the statewide use of nationally normed-referenced standardized achievement tests in place of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) beginning in 2015-16.] Mr. Bergosh was the only Board Member who completely agreed with and was willing to support Dr. Griffin's letter as written. He reported that the Florida Coalition of School Board Members strongly supported it as well. Mr. Bergosh considered the proposal for the statewide use of nationally normed-referenced tests to be a matter of common sense, in that Florida would save time and money by doing so, and would then have a valid and reliable way to nationally assess its students. Other Board Members agreed that most of the points made by Dr. Griffin were valid, but they were not willing to offer their full support of the letter as written. Mrs. Hightower noted the importance of ensuring that concerns related to accountability and assessments were submitted for possible inclusion on the 2016 Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) Legislative Platform. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent confirmed that Seminole County's proposal would be a topic of discussion at the next meeting of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) in late-September.

- Pensacola MESS Hall on Wheels—Campus Visits - Bergosh

Mr. Bergosh introduced Ms. Sarabeth Gordon, who addressed the School Board regarding Pensacola MESS Hall's desire to go mobile, with the potential of taking the MESS Hall to some of the schools throughout Escambia County that may not have the ability to travel to the MESS Hall's current location. [The following description was obtained from www.pensacolamesshall.org: *The Pensacola MESS Hall (Math, Engineering, Science & Stuff) is not a typical science museum. Rather than exhibits with planned outcomes, visitors get to work like real scientists, developing questions and creating experiments, engaging in complex reasoning and learning science just through tinkering. It's all hands-on science.*]

- Charter School Report Format – Superintendent

[Handout provided to School Board Members] The Superintendent reviewed the updated format for the charter school report that was submitted each quarter to the School Board. The primary purpose for updating the format was to clearly notify the School Board when School District staff were in the process of developing a progress monitoring plan for a charter school due to contractual concerns. In response to questions and concerns* from Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent clarified that if the line item for progress monitoring plan was marked yes, then School Board Members would have already received a copy of and could discuss that plan; however, if the line item was marked with an asterisk, then School District staff were in the process of developing a plan that would be provided to School Board Members immediately upon completion. *Mr. Bergosh said his concerns stemmed from a recent situation involving Newpoint charter

schools. There being no objection from any Board Member, the Superintendent said the updated format would be used in the next cycle of charter school reports. Mrs. Moultrie requested that the dates of site visits made by School District staff be documented on the quarterly report.

- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Food Services Update – *Superintendent*

Ms. Jaleena Davis, Director of Food Services, narrated a brief PowerPoint® [presentation](#) that outlined the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a federal program that would provide free breakfast and lunch to all students at each of the following locations/school sites: Bellview Elementary, Brentwood Elementary, C.A. Weis Elementary, Ensley Elementary, Ferry Pass Elementary, Global Learning Academy, Holm Elementary, Jim Allen Elementary, Lincoln Park Elementary, Longleaf Elementary, Montclair Elementary, Myrtle Grove Elementary, Navy Point Elementary, Oakcrest Elementary, Pleasant Grove Elementary, O.J. Semmes Elementary, Sherwood Elementary, Warrington Elementary, West Pensacola Elementary, Bellview Middle, Warrington Middle, Woodham Middle, Workman Middle, Pine Forest High, Judy Andrews Center, McMillian Pre-K Center, Escambia Westgate Center, Camelot Academy, Escambia Charter, and Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy.

- Legislative Update by Jim Hamilton – *Superintendent*

[*Handouts provided to School Board Members*] Mr. Jim Hamilton and Mr. Juhan Mixon, Mixon & Associates, thanked the School Board and the Superintendent for the opportunity to bring them a brief report on various legislative issues impacting public education. Mr. Hamilton focused his discussion primarily on financial matters and Mr. Mixon followed with a discussion of major policy issues such as school choice, student data privacy, charter schools, technology, and student testing.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair