

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, AUGUST 14, 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. 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://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/08142015-593>

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Instructional Employee Hiring – The Superintendent reported that as of August 13th a total of 339 new instructional employee had been hired; and the latest advertisement which would close on August 19th consisted of only 12 instructional vacancies due to unexpected resignations. The Superintendent commented that the School District would begin the 2015-2016 school year in a better position, in terms of having teachers in place for the first day of school, than it had been in the last few years and at a time when across the state of Florida over half the school districts were reporting severe teacher shortages. He attributed the ability to begin the first day of the 2015-2016 school year with adequately staffed schools to the School District's increased recruiting efforts.
- Student Schedules – The Superintendent reported that several schools were still working through some scheduling issues; as such, he had authorized the staffing of the help desk for the upcoming weekend (August 15th and August 16th) in order to provide extra support to those schools finalize the processing of those schedules prior to the first day of school on August 17th.
- Vision 2020 – The Superintendent said school administrators were reporting that teachers were excited about the various components of the School District's new Vision 2020 initiative. The Superintendent said he would provide School Board Members with an advance copy of the viewpoint he had written on Vision 2020 that was scheduled to appear in the August 16th issue of the *Pensacola News Journal*; he noted that the viewpoint was simply another opportunity to promote the new initiative.

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the August 18, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda since initial publication and prior to this session.

III. MINUTES

- a. 05-14-15 Special Workshop
- b. 05-15-15 Regular Workshop
- c. 07-21-15 Regular Meeting
- d. 06-05-15 Special Workshop

ADD

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

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

PTA Presentation (Item I.c.1. on August 18, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda)

Mr. Bergosh took a moment to thank the Escambia County Council of PTAs (ECCPTA) for hosting the VIP Breakfast of Champions just prior to the beginning of this workshop. Mr. Bergosh said the breakfast gave School Board Members an opportunity to meet some of the individuals who would be working with the parents, teachers, and students of Escambia County; and it also provided an opportunity for those who were unable to attend the recent administrator's conference to hear an abbreviated version of the School District's Vision 2020 initiative.

Future Ready Resolution (Item I.c.5. on August 18, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda)

The Superintendent requested that all School Board Members sign the "Future Ready Resolution" if approved by the School Board at the August 18, 2015 Regular Meeting; it was his desire to display a signed copy of the resolution at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building so that all who entered would know that the Escambia County School District's leadership team was committed to work with educators, families, and community members to make all Escambia County schools future ready.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

- 1. Rule(s) Adoption
 - No items submitted
- 2. Permission to Advertise
 - No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Curriculum
 - A. Alternative Education
 - 1. Charter School Contract Renewal Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Pensacola Beach Elementary School
 - 2. Charter School Contract Renewal Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Byrneville Elementary School

Mr. Bergosh said he intended to submit as a topic for the next Special "Open Discussion" Workshop, the possibility of sharing with local charter schools, a portion of funds generated by the One-Half Cent Tax.

H. Professional Learning

1. Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Sinclair Communications LLC, dba WEAR TV/WFGX

For informational purposes only, the Superintendent provided each School Board Member with a copy of the initial schedule of the District's high school football games to be broadcasted on WEAR TV/WFGX. Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent said he would need to inquire with WEAR TV/WFGX as to whether or not the School District was permitted to record and publish those broadcasts on its YouTube channel. Mr. Slayton believed that the posting of videos of high school football games would create more exposure for the School District's YouTube channel.

2. Finance and Business Services

D. Payroll and Benefits Accounting

1. Financial Status Report: Employee Benefit Trust Fund

At the request of Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, provided a brief update on the status of the Employee Benefit Trust Fund. He commented that the reserve balance had, for the most part, remained fairly stable over the past fiscal year. There was discussion among Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent, and Mr. Kevin Windham, Director of Risk Management, about plan design changes, the School District's wellness initiative, and utilization of the employee health clinic.

E. Purchasing

7. Chromebooks for Ferry Pass Elementary School

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent confirmed that before taking Chromebooks home, students and their parents would be required to view a video explaining the responsibilities of having a Chromebook and would also be required to sign a responsible use agreement. If a Chromebook was destroyed by negligence, the Superintendent said that parents would be responsible for the replacement cost. The Superintendent also mentioned that each Chromebook would be equipped with a theft recovery feature that could be activated as soon as it was discovered that a Chromebook was missing. The theft recovery software would collect data to help track the missing Chromebook and would also provide screenshots and webcam snapshots from the missing Chromebook to help identify who was using it.

3. Human Resource Services

C. Risk Management

1. Accidental Student Athletic Insurance Policy Renewal

Mr. Bergosh and Mr. Slayton each expressed appreciation that the Superintendent was recommending a renewal of this blanket policy.

This policy provides for \$25,000 in accidental medical coverage for students injured while participating in extracurricular activities. All students participating in athletics (including tryouts) are required to have a base medical insurance policy up to \$25,000 in coverage in order to participate in FHSAA sanctioned extracurricular athletics in high schools. This "blanket policy" satisfies this requirement regardless of the number of sports the student participates. This policy will provide proof of the minimum coverage required by the FHSAA for the entire year without a risk of a student athlete losing medical insurance coverage during the year. This blanket medical policy removes the requirement of multiple certifications for different sports and provides absolute assurance that the student is covered by a medical plan for the year.

- 4. Operations
 - A. Facilities Planning
 - 1. Miscellaneous
 - a. Northwest Middle School

Mr. Bergosh said he would not support the approval of this item at the August 18, 2015 Regular Meeting because of his belief that it was not another middle school that was currently needed in the Beulah area but rather an additional elementary school to alleviate overcrowding at Beulah Elementary School. Mr. Bergosh clarified that his refusal to support this item had nothing to do with the architects who had been selected to build the Northwest middle school, as each of them had done great work for the School District in the past.

- c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD
 - No items submitted
- d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
 - No items discussed
- e. INTERNAL AUDITING
 - No items submitted
- f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL
 - No items submitted

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Mrs. Hightower took a moment to thank the Escambia County Council of PTAs (ECCPTA) not only for hosting the VIP Breakfast of Champions just prior to the beginning of this workshop, but for all that they have done and continued to do to support the parents, teachers, and students of Escambia County.

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair