

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 16, 2015

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Regular Workshop at 8:00 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

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

*Vice Chair Bill Slayton was not present.*

Meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on February 26, 2015 - Legal No. 1638085

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/07162015-533>

*[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 8:00 a.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Legislative Update w/Senator Don Gaetz – Superintendent

Senator Don Gaetz, District I (R-Niceville) thanked the School Board and the Superintendent for the opportunity to bring them a brief report on various legislative issues from the 2015 Regular Legislative Session. Highlights from his report included an update on funding appropriations and a review of education bills, which he supported or joined in sponsoring, that passed in both the Senate and the House. Senator Gaetz commented that education funding was at a historic high. He reported that the Escambia County School District would receive \$279,884,266 in total funding for 2015-2016 (an increase of \$8,116,548 over 2014-2015). Senator Gaetz reported that the Testing Assessment Reform Bill (Senate Bill 616/House Bill 7069) would achieve fewer but better tests.

- July and August 2015 Calendar

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

- Special Workshop, July 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:00 a.m.\*
- Special Meeting, July 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 5:00 p.m.\*
- Regular Meeting, July 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 5:30 p.m.\*
- Special Meeting, July 28<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:01 p.m.\*

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

- Special Meeting, August 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:00 a.m.\*\*

- Special Workshop, August 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 3:00 p.m.\*
- Regular Workshop, August 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 a.m.\*
- Regular Meeting, beginning at 5:30 p.m.\*

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

*\*\*To be held in the Superintendent's Conference Room at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building*

- Charitable Dental Group Utilization of School Gym to Provide 2000 Escambia County Residents with Free Dental Care - Bergosh

Mr. Bergosh reported that Dr. Kim Jernigan, a local dentist and member of the Florida Dental Association Foundation (FDAF), was hoping to schedule a Mission of Mercy (MOM) event in Pensacola. (MOM is a two-day clinic which provides free dental services for up to 2,000 area residents who are in desperate need of dental work but cannot afford the costs.) Mr. Bergosh reported that according to Dr. Jernigan, the FDAF was interested in utilizing the Travis Fryman Gymnasium on the Tate High School campus to host the event; however, it was noted that students would be in session during the specific dates they had selected for May 2016. Unfortunately, Dr. Jernigan did not have all of the information necessary to present during this session; as such Mr. Bergosh intended to submit this as a topic for discussion at the next month's Special "Open Discussion" Workshop. The Superintendent said he was certainly supportive of the event; however, there were serious logistical concerns that might prohibit the event from being held on a school campus while students were in session; as such, when he spoke with Dr. Jernigan back in May, he suggested that Spring Break would be a better option as students would not be in session. However, the Superintendent commented that if the event had to occur on a school day, he was committed to helping identify an adequately-sized facility elsewhere in the community so that this beneficial event could be held.

- School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee (SAZAC) Reconstitution Time-line, and Effect of Re-balancing School Student Loads on Developers' Impact Fees – Bergosh  
[Handout provided to School Board Members]

*School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee (SAZAC) Reconstitution Time-line*

Mr. Bergosh believed it was necessary to convene School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee (SAZAC) immediately in order to determine how existing school attendance zone boundaries could be redrawn so that school capacities were better balanced before decisions were finalized on the location of new schools. The Superintendent said he wanted to avoid having SAZAC convene now and then again once construction was completed as it would mean rezoning families twice. Since it was anticipated that the new middle school would be ready for students by August 2018, it was his intention to begin forming the committee at the beginning of the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year and provide them the training necessary to complete their mission so that they were begin their work by August 2016. The committee would spend the 2016-2017 school year working on proposed zone changes and would be expected to provide their recommendations in sufficient time that they could be presented to the School Board by October or November 2017, with advertisement no later than December 2017, adoption no later than February 2018, and implementation in August 2018.

*Effect of Re-balancing School Student Loads on Developers' Impact Fees*

Mr. Bergosh said it was his understanding that under the current system, if a developer was building next to a school that was overcapacity, as long as there was capacity at an adjacent school, then the developer was not required to pay impact fees. He wanted to know if developers would be required to pay impact fees once the SAZAC was able to redraw existing school attendance zone boundaries such that school capacities were better balanced. Mr. Dennis clarified that there were no impact fees in Escambia County; but rather a builder mitigation strategy.

- FSBA 2016 Legislative Platform - Hightower

[At the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) Board of Directors' Meeting on June 10, 2015, it was reported that the bylaws had changed in that a legislative liaison from each school district would be appointed in June instead of during the organization meetings held in November of each year.] Mrs. Hightower advised that each school district could decide whether they wished to appoint a new or simply continuing with their selection from the November 18, 2014 Regular Meeting for Mrs. Moultrie to serve as the legislative liaison and Mr. Slayton to serve as the alternate. There was agreement among those School Board Members who were present, to continue with Mrs. Moultrie serving as legislative liaison and Mr. Slayton serving as the alternate.

- Vision 2020 - Superintendent

Mr. Tom Ingram, Director of Information Technology, and Mr. Brian Alaback, Director II-Professional Learning, took turns narrating a brief PowerPoint® presentation introducing the School District's Vision 2020 concept which outlined a personalized learning approach for every student.

Related to the School District's Vision 2020 concept, the Superintendent said it was his intent to bring to the August Regular Meeting, a resolution to affirm the Leadership Team's commitment to work with students, educators, families, and members of the community to become Future Ready.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:24 a.m. and reconvened at 10:38 a.m., with all School Board Members except Mr. Slayton present. The Superintendent and General Counsel were present as well.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the July 21, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda since its initial publication.

- Budget Update

An update on the budget was provided later in the session, just prior to adjournment.

IV. MINUTES

**ADD**

a. 06-16-15 Regular Meeting

There were no questions or concerns regarding the minutes from the June 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting. Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent reported that Mrs. Jackie Dwelle, Office Administration Specialist, hoped to have all minutes from recent School Board sessions completed by the following month. The Superintendent commented that the delay in preparing minutes was due in part to the fact that in addition to her regular duties, Mrs. Dwelle had been serving as the "recording secretary" while Mrs. Holley DeWees, Administrative Recording Secretary, was on a leave of absence.

V. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items submitted

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

-No items discussed

2. Permission to Advertise

-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

A. Alternative Education

1. Amendment to the Charter Contract Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Escambia Charter School, Inc.
2. Amendment to the Charter Contract Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and New Road to Learning, Inc. DBA Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy
3. Amendment to the Charter Contract Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Beulah Academy of Science, Inc.
4. Amendment to the Charter Contract Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Capstone Adaptive Learning & Therapy Centers, Inc. DBA Capstone Academy

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent confirmed that the amendments made to each of these contracts (Items V.b.1.A.1 through Item V.b.1.A.4) were identical.

C. Elementary Education

1. Extended School Day for Selected Elementary Schools 2015-2016

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent confirmed that Reading, Title I and SAI allocations were the funding sources for the extended school day.

H. Professional Learning

1. New Venture Fund Grant Agreement for ECET2-ECSD

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent clarified that this was the same Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Microsoft) grant that had been received the previous year it had just been renamed. The purpose of the grant was to help the School District promote quality teacher initiative.

2. Finance and Business Services

C. Budgeting

3. Scrap List I for July 2015

Mr. Bergosh said he noticed there were quite a few computers listed on Scrap List I for July 2015. He wondered if organizations had been taking advantage of the method for requesting the School District's obsolete functional computers. The Superintendent said that to his knowledge, there had been only a few requests.

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.

E. Purchasing

22. Change Notice #2 to Purchase Order #5421400193 – Cason Environmental & Demolition Services, LLC for Brownsville Middle School

Mr. Bergosh questioned whether this was the last of the change order for the demolition project at the former Brownsville Middle School site. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, responded that the biggest challenge for a demolition on any School District campus was that landfill tipping fees were substantially more than they had

been in the past; so, while he hoped that this was the last change order for this project, there was still a possibility of another change order related to landfill tipping fees.

3. Human Resource Services

C. Risk Management

2. School Resource Officer Agreement-City of Pensacola Police Department
3. School Resource Officer Agreement-Escambia County Sheriff's Office

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent confirmed that each contract (Item V.b.3.C.2. and Item V.b.3.C.3) was essentially the same as those from the previous school year. Mr. Bergosh wanted to know if the contracts were generated by the School District. The Superintendent responded the contracts were primarily driven by the local law enforcement agencies; he noted that the School District and those agencies had always worked collaboratively to "work out the details" of those contracts. Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Waters confirmed that the contracts could certainly be modified if both parties agreed to the modification(s). Mr. Bergosh clarified that he intended to support the approval of both contracts; he was simply curious as to whether or not modifications could be made.

E. Affirmative Action

1. 2013-2014 Annual Equity Report

Mr. Bergosh said that in reviewing the report, it appeared School District's was making progress in terms of its Hispanic representation noting that there had been an increase in the number of Hispanic students, instructional employees, and School District administrators. At the request of Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent said although it not required for this report, he would be happy to provide the percentage of Asian students, instructional employees, and School District administrators.

4. Operations

-No items discussed

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

-Budget Update

At this time, the Superintendent asked Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, to provide an update on the budget. Mr. St. Cyr reviewed budget information that was outlined in a [handout](#) that he had provided to School Board Members. It was noted that additional details would accompany the backup documentation that would be submitted to the School Board in preparation for the July 21<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting. It was noted that a more detailed update would occur at the July 21<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting at which time it will be presented for the School Board's consideration for advertising purposes. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. St. Cyr confirmed that the backup documentation for the July 21<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting would be submitted to the School Board as soon as the 2<sup>nd</sup> FEFP calculation (which would include millage information) was received from the State.

Mrs. Linda West, Coordinator of Board Affairs, took a moment to make a comment on behalf of Mr. Slayton who was unable to attend this session. She reported that Mr. Slayton had concerns regarding the information that School Board Members had received from the Superintendent's office regarding the middle school band instrument funding. Mrs. West said Mr. Slayton intended to address his concerns at the School Board's next budget session. The Superintendent indicated that he would contact Mr. Slayton to discuss his concerns.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair

PENDING PUBLICATION