

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 12, 2016

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

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Board Member Patricia Hightower was not present for this session.

Meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on January 26, 2016 – Legal No. [1653270](#)

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/01152016-582>

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Slayton called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Teacher Fair – Information regarding the February 27th Teacher Fair at Washington High School was now accessible via the School District's website.
- School Grades – The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) had released school grades (proficiency scores only; no learning gains). In Escambia County, fourteen (14) schools scored an A; eleven (11) scored a B; seventeen (17) scored a C; eight (8) scored a D; and four (4) scored an F.
- School District Grades – The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) had released School District grades. The Escambia County School District scored a B.
- Salary Increase – All salary schedules had been adjusted to reflect the salary increases that were approved in December 2015. Employees would see those increases reflected in their February paychecks. Retro checks would be issued prior to Spring Break.

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the February 16, 2016 Regular Meeting agenda since initial publication and prior to this session.

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items discussed

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

F. High School Education

1. [Student Travel Outside Continental United States - Tate High School](#)

It was noted that the Tate High School band had received an invitation to travel to Hawaii in December 2016, to participate in the 75th recognition of Pearl Harbor Day. Mr. Rick Shackle, Principal of Tate High School, briefly addressed the “management” aspect of this trip. Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Shackle confirmed that students would have the option to earn money to pay their way on this trip; in fact, there would be a number of fund-raising opportunities throughout the summer.

2. Finance and Business Services

A. Finance

3. [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report \(CAFR\) of the District School Board of Escambia County, Florida for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015](#)

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, gave a brief review of Statement No. 68 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions (an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27). Mr. St. Cyr also discussed the impact that GASB Statement No. 68 had on the School District’s financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

4. [Escambia School District Employee Benefit Trust Audit Report: Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015](#)

At the request of Mr. Bergosh, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, reviewed “highlights” from the Escambia School District Employee Benefit Trust audit report.

3. Human Resource Services

-No items discussed

4. Operations

A. Facilities Planning

2. Miscellaneous

a. Certification of Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH)

Mr. Bergosh requested that he be sent the Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) data electronically; it was noted that the data was not included as part of the backup documentation for this item.

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

-No items submitted

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. [Disciplinary Reassignment](#)

*Student 16-48-1251- Adopt the order of the Formal Hearing Officer as the order of the Board
Student 16-49-1251 - Adopt the order of the Formal Hearing Officer as the order of the Board*

Mr. Bergosh believed the School Board’s hearing officer had made a mistake in his/her findings and conclusion in the matter involving these two students. In particular, he disagreed with the hearing officer’s finding for student 16-49-1251, in that the misconduct of “battery on a peer”* had not been established by a preponderance of the evidence (*as defined under Florida Statute 784.03). Given that a formal hearing officer, like anyone, was capable of making mistakes, Mr. Bergosh said it was his desire to develop a process going forward, that would allow the School Board to act as the final body when a mistake occurred. In response to concerns expressed by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Waters advised that the School Board, by majority vote, did have the ability to conduct a *de novo review*, but she warned against letting “bad facts make bad policy” in terms of responding to a difficult case by changing the process based on that one case.

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

2. School Internal Accounts Audits

D. [2014-2015 Escambia High School Internal Accounts Audit](#)

Mr. Bergosh said he was troubled by a number of things, but mostly that the issues were recurring. The Superintendent said the new principal, Mr. Frank Murphy, had developed a strong plan of action and he expected that when the Internal Auditing department followed-up later in the year, they would see that much progress had occurred. Mr. Boone said he was more than appalled by what he read in the audit report. He thought it important to note that Mr. Murphy had not assumed the role of principal until June 2015, but the problem had gone on a long time through previous administrators. Mr. Boone commented that it was hard to understand how such a dynamic problem could have gone on this long. Mrs. Moultrie said she was glad to see that Mr. Murphy had outlined his plan of action and she was hopeful that those corrective actions would resolve the problems. Mr. Bergosh was curious as to why the former principal was not in attendance for this discussion. The Superintendent responded that he had asked Mr. Murphy, the current principal to attend as he would be the individual who would be responsible for correcting the problems; however, if any School Board Member had questions for the former principal, the Superintendent said he would be happy to relay those questions to him for a response.

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair