

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JANUARY 15, 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:

Vice Chair: Mrs. Linda Moultrie (*served as Chair in Mr. Slayton's absence*)  
Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh  
Mr. Gerald Boone  
Mrs. Patricia Hightower

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

*Board Chair Bill Slayton was not present for this session.*

Meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on January 4, 2016 - Legal No. [1651701](#)

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

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

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Graduation Rate – According to numbers recently released by the Florida Department of Education, the graduation rate in Escambia County for the 2014-15 school year was 72.7%, up 6.6% from the 2013-14 school year.
- Test Scores and School Grades – The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) had recently voted to accept the Commissioner of Education's recommendation for test scores and schools grades. It was believed that school grades would be released on or shortly after February 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Special Meeting – As requested by the Superintendent, the School Board agreed to schedule a Special Meeting on February 2, 2016, beginning at 7:30 a.m., in the Superintendent's Conference Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building. The purpose of this session would be to consider approval of out-of-field teachers following the February FTE survey.

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the January 19, 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

2. Permission to Advertise

- a. Approval to Advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 7

Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, advised that an amendment to section (12) of 7.18, *Policy Against Bullying and Harassment*, was forthcoming.

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Marcanio explained that the proposed amendments to 7.18, *Policy Against Bullying and Harassment*, were primarily the result of statutory changes made in the last Legislative session. The most significant statutory change was a result of cyberstalking being stricken from statute and cyberbullying being added. Other changes included the replacement of references to the Adjudication Guidelines with references to the District Intervention Matrix.

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

L. Other

1. Escambia District Schools 2016-17 Staffing Allocation Table

Mr. Bergosh referred to the allocation of 1.00 Administrator on Special Assignment (12 months) for the Success Academy (*as outlined on the personnel resources allocation table for special centers; see: page 15 of 15 of the backup documentation*); however, the questions he posed were not specific to the allocation, but rather to the difference in scope and implementation of the Success Academy that would be located at Judy Andrews versus that of the Phoenix program already located at George Stone Technical Center.

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 & Business Services, gave a brief update on the performance of the Employee Benefit Trust Fund. Mr. St. Cyr noted that the Trust Fund was in the negative for the first three months of the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but had been “gaining positive ground” over the past two months.

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent gave a brief update on the performance of the School District’s Center for Health & Wellness and Mr. Kevin Windham, Director of Risk Management, reported on the School District’s 2015-2016 Choose WELLness Program.

Mr. Bergosh expressed a desire to see the District increase its efforts to promote the Center for Health & Wellness to all classes of employees.

3. Human Resource Services

A. Instructional/Professional

7. Special Requests

- a. For Board Information: Reporting the death of Anita M. Carnley, Teacher, Ensley Elementary School, on December 30, 2015.

On behalf of the School Board, Mrs. Moultrie said she wished to express condolences to the friends and family of Ms. Carnley.

- 4. Operations
  - No items discussed
- c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD
  - No items submitted
- d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
  - 2. Student Discipline
    - A. Disciplinary Reassignment

Mr. Bergosh said he was glad to see that students were now being “flagged” for excessive referrals and were facing the appropriate consequence(s) as prescribed by the District’s Intervention Matrix.

- e. INTERNAL AUDITING
  - No items submitted
- f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL
  - 1. Bond Counsel Agreement – Bryant Miller Olive, P.A.

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, Mrs. Waters confirmed that Bryant Miller Olive, P.A. was the same firm the School Board had engaged with in the past for bond counsel representation.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair