

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, DECEMBER 10, 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: Mr. Bill Slayton
Vice Chair: Mrs. Linda Moultrie
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

Meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on December 1, 2015 - Legal No. 1650388

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/12102015-700>

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Slayton called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone in attendance to the School Board's regular monthly workshop and thanked them for their interest in public education.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Northview High School Automation and Production Academy – Superintendent

Instructor Marty Lister and students enrolled in the Northview High School Automation and Production Academy addressed the School Board regarding this program which exposes students to manufacturing concepts and actions that can produce higher quality products, increase productivity, achieve greater customer satisfaction, and assure a safe and health work environment. *The Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) courses examine four (4) content areas for production: Safety, Quality, Manufacturing Processes, and Maintenance Awareness. Each of the 4 areas are broken down with definitions, examples, and exercises. Practical cases/examples are investigated and discussed. Capitalizing on a blended learning approach, students experience lectures, self-pace studies, on-line labs, and individual and group activities.*

- Calendar

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

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

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

- Update on Chromebooks in the District – Slayton

At the request of Mr. Slayton, gave a brief update on Chromebooks. He demonstrated how anyone accessing the School District website could view “Measurements of Success” in relation to overall District device readiness and device readiness at each grade level (i.e., elementary, middle, high). It was noted that with every purchase of Chromebooks, the Informational Technology (IT) department would update these measurements. With the School Board’s anticipated approval of the Chromebook purchases listed on the December Regular Meeting agenda, the Superintendent reported that the School District’s overall device readiness would increase to 68%, with high schools having reached the 100% target.

- Implications of ESEA Reauthorization and a Discussion of Pending Education Legislation in Tallahassee - Bergosh

Implications of ESEA Reauthorization - Mr. Bergosh said he had provided his fellow School Board Members with some reading materials related to the ESEA Reauthorization. He said he intended to resubmit this as a discussion topic for the January 14, 2016 Special Workshop as it was his desire to have a discussion with his fellow School Board Members, the Superintendent and the Superintendent’s staff, as to the implications that the ESEA Reauthorization would have on School District operations.

Discussion of Pending Education Legislation in Tallahassee – Mr. Bergosh said he had provided his fellow School Board Members a listing of all education bills that had been filed in the Florida Legislature. He briefly addressed the following:

House Bill 25: Texting While Driving in a School Zone - *Provides enhanced penalties for violations of Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law when committed in school zone or school crossing.*

Senate Bill 72: School Safety - *Redefining the term “school”; authorizing a school superintendent, with approval of the school board, to authorize a school safety designee to carry a concealed weapon or firearm on school property; requiring the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission to develop a school safety program by a certain date; requiring that fingerprinting fees be borne by the school safety designee or the school; authorizing district school boards to commission one or more school safety officers on each school campus, etc.*

Senate Bill 140: School Choice - *Requiring a charter school applicant to undergo background screening; requiring a charter school applicant to provide evidence of accreditation; expanding the factors for approval of a charter application to include documentation of adequate financial resources, certain applicant identifying information, disclosure of additional charter schools sponsored by such parties and the records of such schools, and the independent status of any management company or cooperative, etc.*

House Bill 185: Instructional Personnel Salaries - *Requires Legislature to fund FEFP at level that ensures guaranteed minimum annual starting salary; requires statewide minimum salary for instructional personnel for 2016-2017 school year; provides for annual adjustment of instructional personnel minimum salary.*

House Bill 229: Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools - *Requires school districts to review their bullying & harassment policies at specified intervals, school principals to implement district's bullying and harassment policy at school & integrate it with specified programs; requires policy to include procedure for reports of alleged acts of bullying & list of authorized bullying & harassment programs.*

Senate Bill 268: Bullying and Harassment Policies in Schools - *Requiring school districts to revise their bullying and harassment policy at specified intervals; requiring the policy to include mandatory reporting procedures and a list of authorized programs that provide bullying and harassment identification, prevention, and response instruction, etc.*

Senate Joint Resolution 734: School Districts and School Boards - *School Districts and School Boards; Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to provide that a school district may be established or abolished as provided by law and to provide for the election or designation of a school board, etc.*

House Joint Resolution 767: Composition of Cabinet/Election of Commissioner of Education/State Board of Education – *Composition of Cabinet/Election of Commissioner of Education/State Board of Education; Proposes amendment to State Constitution to provide for statewide election of Commissioner of Education, include commissioner as member of Cabinet, provide for commissioner to supervise public*

education system, include commissioner as member of Board of Trustees of Internal Improvement Trust Fund & Land Acquisition Trust Fund & as component of head of FDLE, & establish Governor & Cabinet as State Board of Education.

Senate Bill 808: Charter Schools – *Charter Schools; Authorizing a municipal governing authority to become a charter school sponsor in the municipality over which the municipal governing authority has jurisdiction; requiring a municipal governing authority to make timely and efficient payment and reimbursement to charter schools; deleting a provision that prohibits high-performing charter schools from establishing more than one charter school in any given year, etc.*

Mr. Bergosh said he intended to resubmit this as a discussion topic for the January 14, 2016 Special Workshop as it was his desire to have a discussion with his fellow School Board Members, the Superintendent and his staff, as well as Mr. Hamilton from Mixon & Associates (School Board’s legislative consultant). The Superintendent said he would certainly invite, but could not guarantee that Mr. Hamilton would be able to attend the Special Workshop due to the beginning of the Legislative session. On a similar note, he advised that weekly conference calls with Mixon & Associates would begin January 4, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. (CST), in the Superintendent’s Conference Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building. The School Board should have received an email from his office.

- FERPA and Free Speech – *Bergosh*

Mr. Bergosh said he had provided his fellow School Board Members with some reading materials related to FERPA and free speech. He said he intended to resubmit this as a discussion topic for the January 14, 2016 Special Workshop as it was his desire to have a discussion with his fellow School Board Members as to the potential impact of FERPA on a school board member’s right to free speech.

- State of Division Reports – *Superintendent*

Each Assistant Superintendent briefly reviewed the highlights from his department’s “state of division” report for 2016. It was noted that “state of division” reports could be accessed via the Superintendent’s webpage: <http://superintendent.escambia.k12.fl.us/state%20of%20division.htm>.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair