

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MAY 12, 2016

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

Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh
Mrs. Patricia Hightower

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Vice Chair Linda Moultrie and Board Member Gerald Boone were not present for this session.

Meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on May 2, 2016 – Legal No. 1657507

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/05122016-732>

[*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.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Calendar Updates

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

- Regular Workshop, May 13th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.*
- Regular Meeting, May 17th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.*

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

The following change was made to the schedule of School Board workshops/meetings for June and July:

- The time of the June 16th Regular Workshop was changed from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.
- The time of the July 14th Regular Workshop was changed from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

There was general discussion regarding the schedules for individual School Board Members and Mrs. Waters. There was brief mention of the schedule for high school graduation ceremonies and possible lunch options for the School Board.

- Progress Update on Getting Chromebooks Ready for Next School Year – *Slayton*

At the request of Mr. Slayton, Mr. Jim Branton, Coordinator-Technology Services, gave a brief report on staff's timeline for having Chromebooks activated and ready for the upcoming school year.

- Providing students enhanced access to course offerings via the internet from districts around the state to enrich elective offerings – *Bergosh*

Mr. Bergosh said he was recently made aware that the State of Louisiana allowed their students, regardless of which parish they actually resided in, to take advantage of online courses offered by any parish. He questioned the possibility of something similar being organized for students in the State of Florida. The Superintendent noted a major difference between Louisiana and Florida being that Florida had established its own virtual school (Florida Virtual School). He pointed out that Florida Virtual School already had a very robust course catalog; however, if another school district in Florida offered a course not available in Escambia County or through Florida Virtual School, it was permissible for the two school districts to establish an inter-district agreement that would allow students from Escambia to take advantage of a course offered by the other school district.

- Implementation of parental classroom choice/statewide school choice as a result of passage of HB 7029 – Bergosh

Upon inquiry by Mr. Bergosh, the Superintendent advised that the portions of House Bill 7029 which referred to classroom choice/statewide school choice had been added to the Rights & Responsibilities Handbook (see: Item V.a.2.a., *Approval to Advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to the School District of Escambia County, Florida Rights and Responsibilities Handbook*, May 17, 2016 Regular Meeting agenda).

- School Facilities Naming Committee Recommendations - Superintendent

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, briefly reviewed the composition and purpose of the Facilities Naming Committee. He then outlined the process that was followed for soliciting name recommendations from the public, reviewing those submissions and making a recommendation to the Superintendent and ultimately to the School Board for the names of two new schools currently in design. It was noted that a request to consider the proposed names, Kingsfield Elementary School and Beulah Middle School, would be presented to the School Board at the June Regular Meeting.

- Jim C. Bailey Middle School Information Technology Career Academy Presentation – Superintendent

Students enrolled in Jim C. Bailey Middle School’s Information Technology Career Academy addressed the School Board and Superintendent regarding their experiences in this program.

- George Stone Audit Update - Superintendent

Dr. Michelle Taylor, Director of Workforce Education, narrated a brief PowerPoint [presentation](#) which outlined information from a recent assessment of the financial aid office at George Stone Technical Center.

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 4:10 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair