

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 15, 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
Vice Chair: Mrs. Linda Moultrie
Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh
Mr. Gerald W. 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 August 15, 2016 – Legal No. [1505105](#)

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/09152016-775>

[*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 Update

School Board Members took a few moments to review their schedule of workshops/meetings for September and October. At the request of the Superintendent, the School Board agreed to schedule a Special Meeting for October 7, beginning at 8:00 a.m., in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The purpose of the special session was for the School Board to consider the appointment of out-of-field teachers prior to the October FTE Survey Week. (NOTE: *Prior to the adjournment of this session, the School Board decided to change the location of the October 7 Special Meeting to Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.*) There was also brief discussion regarding the schedules for individual School Board Members as well as the schedule for various district-wide school-related events.

- Appoint Representative to Foundation Board – Slayton

Mr. Slayton advised that Mrs. Hightower had indicated she would be willing to serve as the School Board's non-voting representative on the Board of Directors for the to the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors. There was no objection among School Board Members to Mrs. Hightower serving in that capacity.

- Career Academy Presentation Multi-Media Academy at West Florida High School – Superintendent

Students enrolled in the Multimedia Academy at West Florida High School addressed the School Board and Superintendent regarding their experiences in this program. *The Multimedia Academy provides students with a broad foundation of knowledge and skills to prepare them for employment in the multimedia and communication industry and/or in post-secondary education. Students in the Multimedia Academy will gain practical experiences in digital photography, web page design, digital video editing, and presentation development.*

- Outside Support Organization Presentation – *Superintendent*
 Mr. David Bryant, Director of Internal Auditing and facilitator of the Guidelines Manual Revision Committee, narrated a brief PowerPoint® [presentation](#) that outlined information pertaining to the recent revision of the Outside Support Organizations guidelines manual, including the Committee’s key recommendations. Following his presentation, Mr. Bryant and the Superintendent responded to various questions and concerns posed by School Board Members regarding the information outlined in the presentation. There was some discussion as to whether the revised guidelines manual required School Board approval. Mr. Slayton asked Mrs. Waters to research the matter and advise if School Board approval was required.

- Progress Report for Selected Schools – *Superintendent*
 Mr. Denny Wilson, Director of Continuous Improvement, reviewed information outlined in the first [quarterly report](#) from priority schools*. The Superintendent introduced the administrators from each priority school who were present to respond if necessary, to any questions and/or concerns from School Board Members. (**Lincoln Park Primary, Montclair Elementary, Oakcrest Elementary, Warrington Elementary, and C.A. Weis Elementary.*) The Superintendent responded to questions posed by Mr. Bergosh regarding the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment system, which would replace the Discovery Education* assessment system used in the past. (**During the [June 16, 2016 Regular Workshop](#), the Superintendent had advised the School Board that Discovery Education would no longer be providing assessment services.*) The Superintendent clarified that the MAP assessment would be given three times a year, just as the Discovery Education assessment had. The Superintendent and Mr. Wilson responded to questions posed by Mr. Bergosh regarding the Safety-Care™ Behavioral Safety Program, which would replace the Crisis Prevention Institute program (CPI) used in the past. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Moultrie, Mr. Wilson clarified that extra staff was provided only during the first week of school to help with behavioral issues, primarily with younger students such as those entering kindergarten who were experiencing separation anxiety issues. The Superintendent responded to concerns expressed by Mr. Bergosh about staff. Mr. Bergosh was especially concerned about the need to address “teacher churn” noting the importance of retaining veteran teachers, especially at these priority schools. He noted that at C.A. Weis for example, nearly half the teachers were new for this school year. The Superintendent’s response was that the “teacher churn” was better than it had been in the past; in fact, all of the priority schools had at least 55% of their teachers returning from the 2015-2016 school year and that had not been the case two years ago.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Slayton called for public forum; however, no one had registered to address the School Board.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, the Superintendent announced that the School District and bargaining units had reached agreement on salary schedules and changes to the health insurance plan. As such, he hoped to be able to include those items on the agenda for the October 7, 2016 Special Meeting. The School Board decided to change the location of that session from the Superintendent’s Conference Room at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building to Room 160 at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

 Superintendent

 Chair