

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 14, 2016

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Regular Workshop at 8:00 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
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 July 1, 2016 – Legal No. [1395704](#)

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/07142016-529>

[*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 8:00 a.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Calendar Review and Updates

There was discussion regarding the schedules for individual School Board Members as well the schedule for various upcoming School District events.

July 19th Special Meeting – The Superintendent advised that staff had yet to receive data from the State that was needed to compile budget information for the July 19th Special Meeting. If the data was received in sufficient time for Finance & Budget staff to compile the information, the July 19th Special Meeting could proceed; if not, then a “fall back” session had been scheduled and advertised for July 21st.

There were no changes to the current schedule of School Board workshops/meetings for August:

- Special Meeting, August 1st, beginning at 5:01 p.m.*
- Special Workshop, August 11th, beginning at 3:00 p.m.*
- Regular Workshop, August 12th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.*
- Regular Meeting, August 16th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.*

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

August 1st – The Superintendent advised that it might be necessary to advertise an additional special meeting on August 1st for the School Board to consider the purchase of reading materials for low-performing schools.

Open House Schedules for 2016-2017 School Year – (*previously discussed at the [June 16, 2016 Regular Workshop](#)*) The Superintendent advised that Open House for high schools had been changed from August 30th to September 6th.

- Discussion About First Grade Retention – *Slayton*

Mr. Slayton questioned whether the School District was doing enough in terms of communicating with kindergarten parents about their child's progress. He was concerned the kindergarten grading system might not be enough to alert a parent of potential problems. He wanted assurance that parents were aware of their child's progression in kindergarten and alerted to any concerns with their preparedness for first grade. The Superintendent and Ms. Linda Maletsidis, Director of Elementary Education, explained that in addition to each nine-week grading report card, parents also received a checklist that outlined the expectations for each nine-week grading period and indication as to whether or not their child was meeting those expectations. Ms. Linda Entrekin, Teacher on Special Assignment – Instructional Training, reviewed several [documents](#), including a sample copy of the Escambia County School Standards Report Card, a chart outlining the First Grade Language Arts Florida Standards in simplified wording, and the checklist referenced during discussion.

- Discussion of Board's Pre-Meeting Prayer Protocol – *Bergosh*

Mr. Bergosh noted that before his resignation in November, he would have one remaining opportunity to invite a guest to deliver the pre-meeting invocation prior to the September Regular Meeting. Mr. Bergosh said he had received numerous requests from a particular individual, who wished to bring the pre-meeting invocation; however, Mr. Bergosh had rejected those requests and instead, selected a Baptist preacher as his guest for September. Mr. Bergosh encouraged his fellow School Board Members to maintain the current custom of inviting someone on their behalf to bring a pre-meeting invocation; it was his belief that the School Board had always been diverse and inclusive in doing so. In light of an occurrence at a recent Pensacola City Council meeting, Mr. Bergosh asked Mrs. Hightower if she would be inviting that particular individual to deliver the pre-meeting invocation prior to the July Regular Meeting; however, Mrs. Hightower did not respond directly to his inquiry.

- Budget Update – *Superintendent*

Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, and Ms. Theresa McCants, Director of Budgeting, narrated a brief PowerPoint [presentation](#) as part of their update on the 2016-2017 budget.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed the changes that had been made to the July 19, 2016 Regular Meeting agenda since initial publication and prior to this session.

[2015-16 Preliminary School Grades](#) – The Superintendent advised that the Florida Department of Education had released the 2015-16 preliminary school grades. He spent a few moments talking about the situations that got the School District to where it was in terms of those grades and then provided an overview of plans to improve those grades for the upcoming 2016-17 accountability assessment. He said that during the 2016-17 school year, the School District would be offering much greater support to 'F' schools and to [elementary schools with an extended day program](#); there would be a greater focus on student behavior and classroom management, in addition to academics. School Board Members expressed support of the Superintendent's plans to address this matter, especially in regards to a greater focus on student behavior and classroom management. Ms. Moultrie noted the importance of also inviting community groups/agencies to help the School District support the lower performing schools.

IV. MINUTES

-No items discussed

V. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items submitted

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

-No items submitted

2. Permission to Advertise

-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

B. Continuous Improvement

5. [Extended School Day for Selected Elementary Schools 2016-2017](#)

Mrs. Hightower pointed out that a number of schools that had received a low school grade, were those that had been on an extended school day for several years. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent confirmed there would be significant changes in terms of what would occur at those schools during the extended hour block; in particular, SRA Reading Mastery Signature (and SRA Corrective Reading/Decoding) would be implemented during the extended hour because it had been used in the past with success. With regard to this particular agenda item however, the Superintendent noted that he was simply recommending the School Board approve the budget for salaries/benefits that would be paid to staff at those schools for that additional hour each day; additional information on the use of that extra hour would be forthcoming.

F. High School Education

1. [Dual Enrollment Inter-Institutional Articulation Agreement Between the District Board of Trustees of Pensacola State College, FL and the School Board of Escambia County, FL](#)

The Superintendent advised due to the impending August 1st deadline for posting this to the Department of Education website, he was recommending that the School Board move forward with approval of this agreement. However, once approved by the School Board, an amendment to this agreement would be forthcoming from Pensacola State College (PSC), to include language that addresses services and resources for Dual Enrollment students with an IEP or 504 plan.

J. Title I

1. [Amendment to the Contract Between Community Action Program Committee, Inc. and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)

NOTE: *The purpose of this amendment to the original 2016-2017 contract was to establish a reduction formula for payment (per student) if enrollment did not reach the agreed upon one hundred eighty-five (185) students as stated in the 2016-2017 contract (approved at the May 17, 2016 Regular Meeting). Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Dr. Laura Colo, Director of Title I, explained that two years ago, the School District moved from serving 120 students to 185 students in the Head Start/Title I collaborative voluntary pre-k (VPK)*

program. During the first year of that change, the School District struggled to fill those 185 slots. She noted a particular difficulty was that the registration process for Head Start was quite cumbersome and confusing and so quite often, the individuals who were responsible for registering students at the school sites would register a student for VPK but only partially complete the Head Start registration paperwork while the parent was present. Once the parent had a VPK slot, there was not much motivation for them to complete the Head Start paperwork. Dr. Colo said the School District had since changed the registration process whereby all VPK students would be registered at the Spencer Bibbs Center, with the exception of those schools located in the very north-end of the county; they would handle their own registration process. Dr. Colo remarked that the registration process was “working beautifully” and she did not anticipate any problem filling the 185 slots.

2. Finance and Business Services

C. Budgeting

6. [Disposal and demolition of building #6 at Roy Hyatt Environmental Center](#)

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, advised that an amendment to this item was forthcoming as a memorandum provided in the backup documentation incorrectly asserted that certain damage to the building had been corrected.

3. Human Resource Services

A. Instructional/Professional

There were no questions or concerns specific to items listed under this section; however, Mr. Slayton inquired about the hiring process and Mrs. Moultrie inquired about training for substitute teachers.

C. Risk Management

1. [School Resource Officer Agreement-Escambia County Sheriff's Office](#)

2. [School Resource Officer Agreement-City of Pensacola Police Department](#)

Mrs. Hightower noted the importance of having Mrs. Waters carefully review these agreements to ensure that references to and descriptions of statutory verbiage were in keeping with the School Board's policies.

4. Operations

A. Facilities Planning

1. Miscellaneous

a. [Purchase Agreement Between Kenneth Madison and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)

b. [Purchase Agreement Between Charles Andrews and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)

c. [Purchase Agreement Between Marcus Dwight Hill and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)

d. [Purchase Agreement Between Pensacola Habitat for Humanity, Inc. and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)

Mr. Slayton thanked Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, for providing maps that illustrated each of these properties that were being recommended for purchase as part of the Pensacola High School campus expansion. Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Dennis confirmed that Pensacola High School, at only about 36 acres, did currently have the smallest footprint of all the high schools in the School District.

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

-No items submitted

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

3. Employee Discipline

B. Recommend that employee #0000018631 is suspended without pay for ten (10) working day beginning Wednesday, July 20, 2016, based on misconduct as more specifically identified in the notice letter to the employee.

Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, advised that an amendment was forthcoming.

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items submitted

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Slayton called for public forum; however, there was no one who registered to speak.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair