

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JUNE 19, 2017

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:

Chair: Mrs. Linda Moultrie (District III), *arrived at 9:40 a.m.*
Vice Chair: Mr. Gerald W. Boone (District II)*
Board Members: Mr. Kevin L. Adams (District I)
Mrs. Patricia Hightower (District IV)
Mr. Bill Slayton (District V)

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

**Mr. Boone served as Chair until the arrival of Mrs. Moultrie at 9:40 a.m.*

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on June 1, 2017 - Legal No. 2176623

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/06192017-523>

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Boone called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Calendar

Discussion regarding the School District Strategic Plan was to be included on the agenda for the July 13, 2017 Regular Workshop; however, because Mrs. Hightower would not be able to attend that session, School Board Members agreed that separate session for that discussion was appropriate. As such, a Special Workshop was scheduled for July 20, 2017, beginning at 8:35 a.m. (following the 8:30 a.m. Special Meeting re: budget), in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.

- Reading Scores – Slayton

Mr. Slayton initiated a conversation regarding [FSA ELA third grade scores for 2016-2017](#). He thought it important to acknowledge those schools that had shown improvement. (NOTE: *The percentage of students who scored a 3, 4, or 5 was 59%, which was an eight point increase over the previous year, and placed the School District above the state average of 58%.*)

- 2017-18 Budget Discussion – Superintendent

Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, narrated a brief Power Point [presentation](#), which outlined the proposed 2017-18 budget situation.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 11:25 a.m., with the Superintendent, all School Board Members, and the General Counsel present.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

-None

IV. MINUTES

-No items discussed

V. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-Charter School Quarterly Report

Escambia Charter

Representatives from Escambia Charter reviewed the school's financial monitoring plan as outlined in a [memorandum](#) addressed to the School Board and dated June 15, 2017. In addition to the corrective actions outlined in the memorandum, Escambia Charter representatives also wished to amend their existing charter to accept general education students in addition to at-risk students. The Superintendent and School Board Members expressed their support for such an amendment. Ms. Vickie Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, said the amendment could be presented to the School Board as part of the August Regular Meeting agenda.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

A. [Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to the School District of Escambia County, Florida Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#)

Mrs. Hightower inquired as to whether any adjustments to the student dress code were anticipated given the recent passage of Senate Bill 436, *Religious Express in Public Schools* (Ch. 2017-074, Laws of Florida), which requires school districts to allow students to wear religious clothing, accessories and jewelry to the extent secular items with symbols or messages are also allowed. The Superintendent did not believe the current student dress code was in conflict with that legislation and as such, he did not believe any changes would be necessary. Mrs. Waters said she would review the student dress code once more to ensure that no changes were required.

At the request of the Superintendent, Ms. Vicki Gibowski, Director of Secondary Education, took a moment to share the School District's new method for distributing the Rights and Responsibilities handbook to students in grades 3 through 12 via electronic delivery. (The School District would continue to provide a hard copy of the handbook to students in kindergarten through second grade.) The shift to electronic delivery would save the School District the approximate \$50,000 cost incurred in the past for printing.

2. Permission to Advertise

-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

-No items discussed

2. Finance and Business Services

E. Purchasing

8. [Annual Agreement: Turnaround Solutions Inc. for Warrington Middle and C.A. Weis Elementary Schools](#)

Dr. Regina Lipnick, principal of Warrington Middle School and Ms. Hollie Wilkins, principal of C.A. Weis Elementary School, took a moment to share the positive things happening at their schools with the support of Turnaround Solutions, Inc.

36. [Termination of Lease for Modular Classroom Units at Woodham Middle School](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent clarified that he was recommending termination of the lease for modular classroom units as they were no longer necessary due to the one-year delay in moving West Florida High School to the Woodham Middle School campus. The Superintendent also confirmed that the closure of Woodham Middle School would still occur at the end of the 2016-2017 school year and recommendations for the redistricting of students would be presented to the School Board as part of the August Regular Meeting agenda.

3. Human Resource Services

A. Instructional/Professional

7. Special Requests

- c. [Approve deletion of all existing administrative, professional, and educational support personnel job descriptions effective June 30, 2017.](#)
- d. [Approve the following job descriptions on the Administrative Salary Schedule effective July 1, 2017:](#)
- e. [Approve the following job descriptions on the Professional Salary Schedule effective July 1, 2017:](#)
- f. [Approve the following job descriptions on the Educational Support Personnel Salary Schedule effective July 1, 2017:](#)
- g. [Amend the 2017-2018 Department Personnel Planning Document](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent confirmed that the only amendments to the Department Personnel Planning Document were those necessary to reflect the job title changes as outlined in the job descriptions presented in Item V.b.3.A.7.d, Item V.b.3.A.7.e, and Item V.b.3.A.7.f.

C. Risk Management

1. [Accidental Student Athletic Insurance Policy Renewal](#)

The Superintendent noted that while the cost of this item was under his spending authority, he wished to present it to the School Board to draw attention to the decrease in premium, from \$60,000 to \$47,000, which was most likely a result based on the School District's claim history.

4. Operations

-No items discussed

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

-No items submitted

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

4. Other Items

- B. [Agreement for Legal Services Between The School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Joseph L. Hammons, Attorney at Law, and The Hammons Law Firm](#) (Counsel for Superintendent)
- C. [Agreement for Legal Services Between The School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Joseph L. Hammons, Attorney at Law, and The Hammons Law Firm](#) (Risk Management)
- D. [Agreement for Legal Services Between The School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Steven J. Baker, P.A., Attorney at Law](#) (Risk Management)
- E. [Agreement for Legal Services between The School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Leonard J. Dietzen, III, Attorney at Law, and Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell PA](#)
- F. [Agreement for Legal Services Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Stephen B. Shell, Attorney at Law, Shell, Fleming, Davis & Menge](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent confirmed that these items represented standard contract renewals and that the hourly rates for each attorney had not changed from the previous term.

e. INTERNAL AUDITING
-No items discussed

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL
-No items submitted

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM
-None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair