

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MAY 11, 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)
Vice Chair: Mr. Gerald W. Boone (District II)
Board Members: Mr. Kevin 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

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on April 28, 2017 - [Legal No. 2097520](#)

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/05112017-566/#2>.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Moultrie called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She advised those present of the lack of power point/agenda display capabilities due to technical difficulties. Mrs. Moultrie noted that although there was a time certain item listed on the agenda under Open Discussion, she wished to bring forward *Items from the General Counsel*, since an attorney was present in the audience (Mr. Emmanuel) to address item V.f.2. *Assignment to R. D. Ward Construction Co., Inc.* Mrs. Waters stated Mr. Emmanuel represented R. D. Ward Construction Company, as the company was pursuing litigation regarding an issue with a subcontractor providing concrete for a Bellview Middle School facilities project. Mrs. Waters noted this item was procedural in nature. Mr. Emmanuel addressed the Board regarding the building materials not meeting code, and his client was filing to recover the loss they incurred. Mr. Slayton asked the Superintendent if the district was on board with this assignment, and Mr. Thomas indicated yes.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mrs. Moultrie noted the Northview High School time certain item, asking if the students had arrived. Mr. Thomas said yes, and asked that their presentation be moved ahead of the other Open Discussion items. The presentation of the START Program was also moved up, and Mr. Thomas indicated the PowerPoint presentations would be hyper-linked to the agenda on the website, since the technical difficulties this morning prevented them from being displayed.

- Calendar

Mrs. Moultrie commented that she would be attending the graduation ceremony scheduled for May 19, 2017 for Escambia Westgate Center, as plans had changed regarding traveling out of town. Discussion ensued regarding the graduation ceremonies set for the month of May. Mrs. Moultrie reminded those present of the summer work hours (four day work week) for the district being in effect for the months of June and July.

Mr. Thomas requested input from the Board regarding scheduling of a Special Workshop for Strategic Planning during June or July. After some discussion, it was agreed to list "Strategic Planning" as an item on

the July 13, 2017, Regular School Board Workshop agenda (preferably at the end) to allow time for a possible recess for lunch and reconvene thereafter for discussion of the item.

- Legislative Updates

Mr. Adams stated he placed this item on the agenda for discussion, and asked Mr. Thomas to address the bills before legislative bodies. Mr. Thomas stated he planned to bring Mr. Jim Hamilton (Legislative Consultant) for his annual presentation during the month of June or July. He provided a brief overview of the current dynamic proposed bills, and it was early in the process. Mr. Thomas noted several funding revisions and restrictions that were included in the bills being proposed.

- First Grade Retention

Mrs. Moultrie stated this was her discussion item, and preferred to call it “prevention” because this was an effort to prevent retention. She noted the Board had received reports, and wanted the record to reflect her interest regarding the projected number of students to be possibly retained. (Mr. Thomas noted said report had been provided previously via electronic mail.) Mrs. Linda Maletsidis, Director of Elementary Education addressed the Board, and stated she was very proud of the increase in parental involvement, and as a result, the district was looking at more promotion more than retention. Mrs. Moultrie asked Mrs. Maletsidis to share the actual data (numbers) for the record. Mrs. Maletsidis stated in the first quarter, of the 3,108 students in first grade (non-extended day schools), a possible 536, or 17% would have been retained. In the extended day elementary schools, of 1,090 first grade students, 229 or 26% could possibly be retained. Mrs. Malesidis noted those numbers decline through the end of the year. Mrs. Hightower requested additional data for comparison purposes, and Mrs. Maletsidis agreed to provide it in the final report provided to the Board. Each Board member praised Mrs. Maletsidis for her hard work, and noted she would be missed upon her retirement next month.

- Steering Committee Use of Board Parking Spaces in the Summer

Mrs. Moultrie stated she was approached by a member of the McDaniel Building Steering Committee regarding the “auction of reserved premium parking places” for fund raising purposes. She requested Board members to communicate with Ms. Elisabeth Buswell, Coordinator of Board Affairs, regarding their interest in participating. Mr. Thomas stated he would be donating his reserved parking space, and asked Ms. Dana Harris, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, to coordinate with Ms. Buswell.

- Northview High School Culinary Arts Academy

[This item was moved forward, to allow the students to return to class in a timely manner.] Mrs. Vicki Cook, Culinary Arts Instructor at Northview High School, addressed the Board. Several students addressed the Board, providing an overview of their experiences in this academy. They provided a sample of their work (oatmeal-pecan-chocolate-chip cookies) to the Superintendent and School Board Members.

- Outside Support Organizations

Mr. David Bryant, Director of Internal Auditing, provided an update on his previous report on Outside Support Organizations; and the improvement in compliance with IRS and State requirements and/or guidelines. He was pleased to report that with the assistance of his department and cooperation of district administrators, 100% of our PTAs are in good standing with the IRS; 97% have filed their tax returns, 100% have submitted their annual authorizations for monitoring, and 100% of our booster clubs are in a good position as well. The Board Chair and School Board members each expressed their appreciation to the work and success of this effort.

Mrs. Moultrie called for a short recess at 10:35 a.m.; the Regular Workshop reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

- START Program

Mrs. Kelly Krostag, Coordinator II – Employee Services, addressed the Board, providing a brief overview of the success of the *Successful Teachers Assisting Rising Teachers* (START) Program, and introduced the Elementary Consulting Teachers in the audience. [This item was also moved forward.] Mr. Adams, Mr. Slayton and Mrs. Hightower expressed their appreciation and support of this program.

- School Capital Projects Update

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, provided a briefing regarding the status of the School Capital Projects. Due to technical difficulties, hard copies were provided to the Board, and Mr. Thomas noted this information would be hyper-linked on the agenda for the public to review the PowerPoint prepared. Mr. Dennis delineated the challenges facing the Facilities Department, and progress that had been made since his last report in 2014, including their focus until 2028. He provided an overview of current projects, including the construction of [new school sites] Kingsfield Elementary School and Beulah Middle School, as well as growth planning, various renovation, improvements and roof replacements. Mr. Slayton commented on the funding and projects currently slated for schools, expressing his concern regarding certain high schools and buildings in dire need of upgrades. After further discussion, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Dennis indicated they could revisit facilities project schedules/funding to assure equitable needs are addressed.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Upon request by Mr. Thomas, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, provide a brief budget update. Mr. St. Cyr provided handouts to the Superintendent and School Board (*House/Senate FEFP Comparison* and *First FEFP Calculation*) and addressed the strong possibility of a much decreased budget for 2017-2018 for school districts. Mr. Thomas informed the Board of his intention to address the impending budget shortfall by: cutting district budgets and projects by 5% (those unable to be cut, i.e., band uniforms, would be excluded), attempting to reduce staffing; immediately evaluating all unfilled or open/vacant positions and after staffing all schools, impose a hard hiring freeze, with the only exceptions being those positions providing services to students; plus initiating a lapse factor of keeping a position open for a minimum of thirty (30) days. Mr. Thomas said it was his intention to do everything possible to not eliminate positions. Mrs. Moultrie instructed Ms. Buswell to review their department budget and submit suggested budget cuts to her.

IV. MINUTES

-No items discussed

V. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items discussed

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

Mrs. Hightower inquired as to why on *Items H.1., H.2., and H.3., Professional Learning*, the textbook adoption agreements were now Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). Mr. Steve

Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, stated these were new, but would help to insure the agreements were in fact, fulfilled.

Mrs. Moultrie stated for the record she would be abstaining from voting on *Items J.1 and J.2., Title I*, as she was affiliated with these organizations; and she would file the appropriate paperwork.

Mr. Adams asked for further information on *Item E.2., Exceptional Student Education*, and Mr. Thomas explained the purpose of this agreement was the handling of Medicaid reimbursements. Mrs. Teri Szafran, Director of Exceptional Student Education, noted that Seminole County would process our claims at no cost.

2. Finance and Business Services

Mrs. Moultrie noted she has spoken with Mr. Thomas regarding *Item I. 2. Student Services*, the amount indicated “more”. Mr. Thomas provided an explanation, indicating the amount of the contract is only \$500 more.

3. Human Resource Services

Mrs. Hightower inquired about the recent Teacher Fair held by Human Resources. Mr. Thomas indicated it went well, and Dr. Alan Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, praised his staff and all of the participants in making this event successful.

4. Operations

-No items discussed

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Mrs. Moultrie called for volunteers for *Item c.1., Selection of Florida School Boards Association Legislative Liaison and Alternate*. Mrs. Hightower volunteered to represent as Liaison, and Mr. Slayton volunteered to be the Alternate.

Mrs. Hightower noted she had a discussion with General Counsel regarding her contract, *Item c. 2. General Counsel Contract Renewal*, and the recent challenges the department experienced. Mrs. Waters expressed her appreciation for Ms. Sharon Goshorn, Confidential Legal Assistant/Paralegal, for her dedication and work over the holidays.

Mrs. Hightower noted she volunteered to serve, with regard to *Item cC.3. Selection of Florida School Boards Association Board of Directors Alternate*, with Mrs. Moultrie volunteering to serve as Alternate.

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

-No items discussed

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items submitted

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

Mrs. Moultrie reminded those present of *Item F.1. Resolution Regarding Beach Tax Litigation*, thanking General Counsel for drafting it.

[Note: *Item V.f.2. Assignment To R. D. Ward Construction Co., Inc.*, was discussed earlier in the workshop.]

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

-No one wished to address the Board

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL