

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, APRIL 14, 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)

Absent: 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 3, 2017 - [Legal No. 2035555](#)

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://escambiacycountysdfl.swagit.com/play/04142017-507/#2>

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Moultrie called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Thomas asked Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, to give a brief update of the legislative budget process. Mr. St. Cyr distributed a handout with an update on the legislative budget process. He indicated both versions of the proposed budget (Senate and House) were very different, and as always, the district intends to be conservative throughout this process. Mr. St. Cyr noted the House version of the budget currently reflected a \$2.5 million decrease, while the Senate version shows a \$5 million increase. Superintendent Thomas commented that the House's position would be very detrimental to Florida as a whole, not just the education system. Mr. St. Cyr then provided an example of the effect of proposed changes to charter school Capital Outlay funding. Mrs. Hightower said everyone should encourage citizens to contact their legislative delegates regarding these issues.

III. MINUTES

Mrs. Hightower referred to the March 9, 2017 workshop minutes, noting the statement "No changes to Board schedule for May", which she felt was somewhat misleading, as there had previously been revisions to the May meeting schedule. She asked that verbiage be incorporated to clarify the fact the changes had occurred (May Regular Workshop combined with Special Workshop and moved to Thursday, May 11, 2017 due to the Master Board Training Workshop scheduled for May 12, 2017.) The Superintendent said he would see what could be done to amend the minutes accordingly.

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items discussed.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

No discussion regarding the two rules listed for adoption.

2. Permission to Advertise

A. *Approval to Advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to the School District of Escambia County, Florida Rights and Responsibilities Handbook*

Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mrs. Vicki Gibowski, Director of Middle School Education, and Mr. Thomas Ingram, Director of Information Technology, fielded questions and suggested edits to the *V.a.2.A. Permission to Advertise – Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook* draft document. Mrs. Hightower offered several suggestions, including the use of one email address throughout the handbook; and provided language for a paragraph on page eight (8) of regarding parental rights regarding material on district owned Chromebooks. Mrs. Hightower provided several suggestions and revisions to language throughout the handbook, with discussion following between Mrs. Moultrie, Mr. Adams, General Counsel, and the Superintendent. Mr. Marcanio and Mrs. Gibowski noted the revisions offered during this discussion, and indicated the amendment(s) would be forthcoming on this agenda item.

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

B. Continuous Improvement

2. *District English Language Learners (ELL) Plan 2016-2019*

Mrs. Hightower inquired how often the district was unable to complete an assessment in the required twenty (20) days. Mr. Denny Wilson, Director of Continuous Improvement, and Ms. Ramona Wright, ESOL Teacher on Special Assignment, addressed the Board. Ms. Wright indicated it is very seldom that we do not complete the assessment. Mrs. Hightower asked for clarification on page eight (8) of the agreement, which said if a student comes into the district and has passed a semester of their native language, say Spanish I, they would receive a Language Arts credit from the district, as a state requirement.

E. Exceptional Student Education

3. *Memorandum of Understanding Between Community Action Program Committee's Head Start Program and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida*

Mrs. Moultrie noted for the record that she would be abstaining from the vote on this item as she was affiliated with this organization. Mrs. Moultrie said she would provide the proper forms required so she could sign approved documents as noted.

H. Professional Learning

1. *Professional Learning – Instructional Material Adoption*

(NOTE: Item V.b.1.H.1 was moved up before New Business at the request of the Superintendent.)

Mr. Thomas requested this item be moved up on the agenda, prior to discussion regarding the rule for advertisement, due to the time constraints. Mrs. Moultrie agreed. Mrs. Hightower asked if there had been inquiries from the public. Mr. Thomas said no one had inquired, although it had been properly advertised. Dr. Sheila Brandt, Coordinator of District Media Services, addressed the Board, stating this information had been available on the district website since November, 2016, and no one had contacted her office.

2. Finance and Business Services

A.3. *Statement from Florida School Boards Association for 2017-2018 annual dues*

Mr. Adams initiated discussion by expressing his intention to be excluded from participating in the Florida School Boards Association for 2017, noting the dues could be divided by five (5) and not pay his portion. Mrs. Waters offered information regarding statute requirements. Mr. Thomas requested information regarding procedures for handling and paying this item correctly. Mrs. Hightower suggested Mr. Adams consider participating in the Master Board training scheduled, and Mrs. Moultrie agreed it was a good opportunity. After further discussion, it was agreed by consensus to delay this item, and Mr. St. Cyr would provide a memorandum requesting the deletion from the agenda.

C. 1. *Scrap List of April 2017*

Mrs. Hightower noted the Smart Boards which were listed on the scrap list, she thanked Mr. Tom Ingram for his assistance and efforts in seeing that this equipment was recycled and could be reused. Mr. Thomas stated the district would attempt to auction those still operable.

C.2. *Resolutions to amend 2016-2017 District School Budget*

Mrs. Hightower inquired as to the number of teachers who were qualified for Best and Brightest award. Mrs. Theresa McCants, Director of Budgeting, addressed the Board and said in the current year, there were 115, with two of them teaching at charter schools. Mr. Thomas noted the funds allocated were divided equally by the number of teachers statewide.

E. 2. *Bid Award: Custodial Services, RFP #171201*

Mrs. Hightower expressed concern about the majority of the schools within her district who were serviced by the previous custodial contractor, with unsatisfactory results. Mr. Thomas noted there were representatives from the successful bidder, PESG Facility Services, LLC, were in the audience and available to answer questions. Mr. David Davis, Senior Regional Manager of PESG, addressed the Board and fielded questions. He stated his 27 years in educational services, along with employee retention would make a difference in the service level. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, noted the June 1, 2017 start date would enhance the efforts to get our schools back in shape. Mr. Thomas recognized the efforts by Mr. John Dombroskie, Director of Purchasing, the Custodial Department and General Counsel to make this happen so quickly.

A. 7. *Special Requests – a. Approve the 2017-2018 Department Personnel Planning Document*

Mrs. Hightower noted on the Facilities Planning page 13, and expressed concern that One-Half Cent Sales Tax funds were being utilized to “pay” for capital outlay employees. Mr. St. Cyr noted it was not worded properly, and would be revised; he noted all capital outlay crew employee funding is charged similar to paying a contractor. He noted the district is not charging a salary cost, it is a project cost on a dollar for dollar basis. Mr. Thomas stated the district saves money by using our own capital crew.

Mrs. Hightower inquired if Title I was deleting a position. Dr. Laura Colo, Director of Title I, addressed the Board, explaining that her department always had two Finance Specialist positions, but they were not titled the same, which was confusing and did not attract the interest of applicants with a major in Finance.

Mrs. Hightower expressed her interest in enhancing “safety instruction” within the district, to implement safety protocols. Mr. Thomas noted that our Protection Services Department has shifted their focus to safety, and has made huge improvements in working directly with our schools. Dr. Alan

Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, informed the Board that Mrs. Jennifer Ellis, Manager of Protection Services, and Mr. Kevin Windham, Director of Risk Management, had been meeting regularly on safety related issues. Dr. Scott stressed the need to reduce Workers' Compensation claims, while keeping our students and staff safe.

4. Operations

B. School Food Services

2. *Contract for Meal Service with Escambia County Head Start*

Mrs. Moultrie noted for the record that she would be abstaining from the vote on this item as she was affiliated with this organization. Mrs. Moultrie said she would provide the proper forms required so she could sign approved documents as noted.

G. Protection Services

1. *2016-2017 Facility Life Safety Inspections*

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mrs. Dennis noted a jump drive containing these inspections had been delivered to the School Board Office. Mrs. Jennifer Ellis, Manager of Protection Services fielded questions. Mrs. Hightower requested future information be presented in a graph format, to reflect the improvements that had occurred with regard to life safety inspections. She noted it was a very positive step in the right direction.

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

-No items submitted.

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

No discussion occurred.

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

Mrs. Hightower expressed her appreciation for the additional information provided by Mr. David Bryant, Director of Internal Auditing.

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

No one wished to address the board.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair