

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Regular Workshop at 2:00 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. Gerald W. Boone (District II)  
Vice Chair: Mrs. Patricia Hightower (District IV)  
Board Members\*: Mr. Kevin L. Adams (District I)

*\*School Board Member, District III: Vacant*

*Mr. Bill Slayton, School Board Member, District V, was not present for this session.*

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting advertised in *Pensacola News Journal* on October 30, 2017 - Legal No. 2501072

NOTE: Minutes from this session have been prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.  
Video from this session is available at <http://escambiacountysdf1.swagit.com/play/11092017-718>

[*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 2:00 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Career Academy Presentation – Pine Forest High School New Media Academy – Superintendent

Students enrolled in the New Media Academy at Pine Forest High School addressed the School Board regarding their experiences in this program.

- Calendar

NOTE: *In addition to reviewing and discussing their monthly schedules of workshops/meetings, the School Board Members also reviewed and/or discussed events outlined on the School District's calendar.*

There were no changes to the remaining schedule of School Board workshops/meetings for November:

- Regular Meeting, November 14, beginning at 5:30 p.m.\*

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

- Special Workshop, December 7, beginning at 9:00 a.m.\*

*Purpose: Open discussion & presentations*

- Regular Workshop, December 8, beginning at 9:00 a.m.\*  
*Purpose: Discussion of items on the December 12 Regular Meeting agenda*
- Regular Meeting, December 12, beginning at 5:30 p.m.\*

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

- FHSAA Football Playoffs – *Slayton\**

*\*Mr. Slayton submitted this topic for discussion, and although he was not present, the Superintendent decided to move forward with the presentation since staff was already prepared to do so. Mr. Roger Mayo, District Athletic Director, reviewed information regarding the new Florida High School Athletics Association (FHSAA) football playoff structure, including how teams would now earn points, and the qualifying criteria for the point system.*

- School Crossing Guards – *Adams*

Upon inquiry by Mr. Adams, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, explained how the School District administration determines whether a school requires the assistance of a crossing guard. He noted that a number of factors, including location and traffic volume, were considered when making that determination.

- Warrington Middle School Turnaround Plan – *Superintendent*  
*[Handouts provided to School Board Members]*

The Superintendent updated the School Board on the status of the Warrington Middle turnaround situation. The Superintendent advised that, according to House Bill 7069, the School District was limited to only three options if Warrington Middle did not earn a school grade of C or higher in 2018:

*REASSIGN - Reassign students to another school and monitor the progress of each reassigned student.*

*CHARTER - Close the school and reopen the school as one or more charter schools, each with a governing board that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness.*

*EXTERNAL OPERATOR - Contract with an outside entity that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness to operate the school.*

The Superintendent advised that contracting with outside entity was the option selected; and School District staff would work through the Department of Education to qualify Turnaround Solutions, Inc. as an external operator. (Over the last couple of years, the School District had invested in the services provided by Turnaround Solutions, Inc. for Warrington Middle and the increase in student performance had been steady.) The Superintendent noted however, that should Turnaround Solutions not be qualified as an external operator, the School District would be forced to identify a different entity.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

-None

IV. MINUTES

-No items discussed

**ADD**

V. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-Escambia Charter School

Principal Ms. Taravell McKinnies and Board Chair Ms. Jacqueline Smith were present to respond to questions and/or concerns regarding the information outlined in the school's monthly update, provided to the Superintendent and School Board Members during this session. Mrs. Hightower commented that it would have been helpful to have received this information in advance. Ms. Vicki Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, briefly reviewed the monthly update, which included the school's transportation corrective action plan and outlined the school's current financial status. The Superintendent advised that School District staff would continue to work with representatives of Escambia Charter School to identify and properly account for various capital expenditures (i.e., property insurance), thereby freeing up a portion of Escambia Charter's general fund.

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

1. 2017-2018 School Advisory Council (SAC) Memberships

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent confirmed that all schools complied with SAC memberships as required by Florida Statutes.

3. The School District of Escambia County Strategic Plan 2017-2018

School Board Members commented favorably on the new user-friendly format of the School District's Strategic Plan.

L. Other

1. School District of Escambia County 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 School Calendars

Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, commented favorably on the process followed by the 2017 Calendar Committee in assembling calendars for the next five (5) school years.

2. Finance and Business Services

C. Budgeting

2. Resolutions to amend District School Budget:

a. Resolution 2 - General Operating Fund

Mr. Adams asked the Superintendent to look into whether certain School District “safe school” expenses could be reimbursed from the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement Trust (LET) fund.

E. Purchasing

8. Bid Award: Athletic Improvements for West Florida High School – Woodham Campus

In response to questions posed by several School Board Member, Mr. Anthony Noles, Director of Facilities Planning, spent a few moments reviewing the various elements of the base project.

3. Human Resource Services

-No items discussed

4. Operations

-No items discussed

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

-No items discussed

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

-No items discussed

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items submitted

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

-None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair