

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MARCH 16, 2018

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: Mr. Gerald W. Boone (District II)
Vice Chair: Mrs. Patricia Hightower (District IV)
Board Members: Mr. Kevin L. Adams (District I)
Ms. Lee H. C. Hansen (District III)
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 March 1, 2018 – Legal No. [2748341](#)

NOTE: Minutes from this session have been prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Video from this session is available at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/03162018-501>

[*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 9:05 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

House Bill 495 – The Superintendent advised that verbiage advocated by the Escambia County School District, making it illegal to trespass on a school bus, had passed both the House and Senate as a provision included in House Bill 495. The Superintendent expressed his appreciation to Representative Frank White for helping to push this matter through the legislation session. (*Prior to this passage of this law, if someone would not get off a school bus, law could not charge him or her with trespassing. The new law includes school buses within the definition of the term “school” in the state’s school trespassing statutes.*)

Budget Update – The Superintendent said that school superintendents across the state of Florida were calling for the Governor to veto the budget proposal for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, as the proposed base student allocation, with an increase of only 47 cents per student, was insufficient to maintain school district operations. At the request of the Superintendent, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, outlined the School District’s budget outlook for the 2018-2019 fiscal year based on the first FEFP calculation from the March 8, 2018 Final Conference Report.

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-Charter School Quarterly Report

School Board Members received a copy of the Charter School Quarterly Report for March 2018 prior to this session. Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy and Escambia Charter School remained under a Progress Monitoring Plan.

Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy

Mrs. Celestine Lewis, Principal of Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy (JHPA) reported that after considering all available options, JHPA's board of directors, had decided to continue providing transportation for the school's students; as such, the idea of privatization of JHPA transportation was null and void. She noted that JHPA would be considering the feasibility of purchasing additional buses.

Escambia Charter School

No representatives present. Ms. Mathis advised that Escambia Charter was continuing to monitor their financial situation and would report when there were any changes.

At this time, the Superintendent took a moment to list all changes made to the March 20, 2018 Regular Meeting agenda since publication and prior to this session.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

-No items discussed

2. Permission to Advertise

A. Approval to Advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 3 – School Operations

Section 3.04, Extra Curricular Activities

(2) ~~Twenty-five (25)~~ Fifty (50) cents from each regular season football ticket (student and adult) sold shall be retained by the school for its band program. ~~To cover this added cost, 25 cents may be added to the price of student and adult tickets.~~

The Superintendent informed the School Board that the price of regular season football tickets would increase by \$1.00 for the upcoming season. He noted that for quite some time, School Board policy had attached a band fee of \$0.25 to the football ticket price. Since that price would now increase by \$1.00, the Superintendent was asking that policy be amended to specify the football team would retain \$0.75 of the additional \$1.00 and the remaining \$0.25 would be retained for the band program.

B. Approval to Advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 5 – Business Services

The Superintendent and his staff responded to numerous questions posed and/or comments made by individual School Board Members regarding the proposed amendments to Chapter 5 – Business Services, specifically those outlined in Section 5.02, Purchasing. *No changes requested.*

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

-No items discussed

2. Finance and Business Services

E. Purchasing

20. [Change Notice #5 to Purchase Order #5421600227 – Architectural/Engineering Services for Beulah Middle School](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Adams, Mr. Anthony Noles, said this additional expenditure was for further coordination services for the procurement of furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) for Beulah Middle School. Mr. Noles clarified that the original scope was simply coordination of colors and spaces, not actual furniture selection. He noted that there had been a great deal of effort by this architect to help us and there had been considerably more billable hours than actually charged.

23. [Running Track Reconditioning for Washington High School](#)

Mr. Slayton wanted to know how the only rubber running track in the School District had held up after years of usage. Mr. Anthony Noles, Director of Facilities Planning, said damaged areas would be patched and the track would then be completely resurfaced with two layers of new rubber surfacing. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, said this was the first full resurfacing since it was constructed, which meant its durable life was actually far greater than originally anticipated. Mr. Slayton questioned the possibility of adding a second rubber running track at another school. The Superintendent responded that adding a second rubber running track would be an expensive proposition; and with all the other factors the School District was facing, primarily those involving school security, this would be a challenging time to even consider that. Mr. Slayton requested that the Superintendent and his staff at least bring a report on the approximate cost of adding a second rubber running track.

AMEND/ADD

25. [Off Duty Law Enforcement Officers – Armed Campus Security Services](#)

ADD

26. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #5511800001 – Security and Crossing Guard Services](#)

The Superintendent briefly addressed his plan to provide armed security in all District schools. He said the School District would work with local law enforcement agencies; the Escambia County Sheriff's Office and the Pensacola Police Department, as well as contract security vendors to achieve the objective of providing armed security in elementary schools while maintaining the School Resource Officers already assigned to middle schools and high schools. The Superintendent cautioned that achieving that objective would take time to build the capacity and availability of security personnel, so rather than waiting for the new school year to start in August, this effort would be initiated on Monday, March 19, 2018. Each

School Board Member took a moment to thank the Superintendent and his staff for this proposal.

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

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

The following individual registered to address the School Board:

- Randy Thompson
Special Problem or Issue: School Safety/Gun Violence

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair