

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 3:00 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)
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 August 19, 2018 – Legal No. [3106962](#)
Minutes prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*
Video available at <http://escambiacountysdf1.swagit.com/play/09142018-896>

[*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 3:00 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Workman Middle School Multimedia Academy – *Superintendent*

Students enrolled in the Multimedia Academy at Workman Middle School, addressed the School Board regarding their experiences in this program.

- Calendar

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

- Special Meeting

At the request of the Superintendent, the School Board agreed to schedule a Special Meeting on October 5, 2018, beginning at 8:30 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, to consider approval of out-of-field teachers.

- Elementary School Capacity & Class Size Update – *Adams*

The Superintendent said from initial reports, it appeared that the School District would be in compliance with class size requirements, but some charter schools would not. He noted however, that due to their small size, those charter schools would just pay the penalty, rather than hire an additional teacher for only a few students.

- School Sidewalk & Road Infrastructure Concerns – *Adams*

Mr. Adams noted that current code in Escambia County, which required developers to install sidewalks for all new subdivisions located within two miles of a school, had resulted in a “patchwork” of sidewalks that essentially led nowhere. He suggested that County Commissioners should be encouraged to allow developers to pay an equivalent fee, in lieu of installing a sidewalk that would not connect to anything or seemed unlikely to do so in the near future. In turn, that fee could be used to expand existing sidewalk

infrastructure, thereby connecting area schools to the community. Mr. Adams also suggested Commissioners be petitioned to restore \$1 million in funding for the Safe Routes to School program used over past many years to extend the County's sidewalk infrastructure.

Several School Board Members requested data showing the costs incurred by the School District for providing "courtesy bus transportation" to students residing outside the limits specified by the State's hazardous walking conditions.

- Update on Plumbing Issues at Pensacola High School – Hansen

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, confirmed that recent plumbing issues at Pensacola High School had been resolved. He commented that it was a challenge for the School District's plumbers to follow the old iron plumbing systems, but they were ultimately able to locate and repair what they believed to be the source of leakage.

- Update on Issues/Solutions Concerning Buses Being Routinely Late – Hansen

The Superintendent commented that the beginning of a new school year was always a challenge in terms of bus transportation. Mr. Steve Harrell, Director of Transportation, said it typically takes a few days to stabilize timing of the routes and equalize the number of routes per bus driver. He noted that the School District continued to struggle with recruiting bus drivers, so until additional bus drivers were hired, route managers had been covering routes. It was noted that certain routes were still be adjusted due to: major traffic issues in Beulah, in proximity of the Nine Mile Road corridor; and road construction on Nine Mile Road and Highway 29 (Pensacola Boulevard). Mr. Harrell said that GPS had confirmed that only a few buses had been repeatedly late.

- Escambia County School District Capital Improvement Plan Going Forward Ten or More Years – Hansen

Ms. Hansen acknowledged that she had recently received the District's Tentative Facilities Work Program (Five-Year Plan). The Superintendent said the School Board would be asked to approve the Five-Year Plan at the September 18, 2018 Special Meeting; in the meantime, he and his staff were prepared to answer any questions or respond to any concerns. The Superintendent noted that while the timeline for capital improvement planning extended 10 to 20 years, all plans were contingent upon revenue, primarily from the One-Half Cent Sales Tax.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

-No registration forms submitted

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair