

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 14, 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 August 19, 2018 – Legal No. [3106962](#)  
Minutes prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*  
Video available at <http://escambiablueprint.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 9:02 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Traffic Light at Intersection of Highway 297A and Kingsfield Road – The Superintendent reported that the new light would “go live” after a seven-day period to acclimate traffic.

Florida Statute 1003.421, Recitation of the Declaration of Independence - The Superintendent said parents would receive a call advising that to emphasize the importance of Celebrate Freedom Week, at the beginning of each school day, all schools will share a portion of the preamble of the Declaration of Independence during the Pledge of Allegiance and the moment of silence.

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- [Charter School Quarterly Report](#)

Ms. Vicki Mathis, Director of Alternative Education, noted the following correction to the Charter School Quarterly Report for September 2018: Under 9, *Inspections*, Jackie Harris should have been marked “Yes” as the school’s inspections were in fact received by Ms. Mathis’ office, yet were inadvertently filed under another school’s records. Ms. Mathis reported that Beulah Academy had received notice over the summer of their 5-year accreditation through AdvancED.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

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

Mrs. Hightower understood this item had been deleted from the September 18, 2018 Regular Meeting agenda; however, she reminded everyone that the public had been noticed (via Legal No. 3040981) that a hearing would be held on this matter during that session. Mrs. Waters suggested that during the September 18, 2018 Regular Meeting, the School Board Chair simply take a moment to explain to the public why the item was deleted, but still allow individuals to speak to the matter, if they so desired.

2. Permission to Advertise  
-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum  
-No items discussed
2. Finance and Business Services

C. Budgeting

8. [Schedule of Litigated Refunds to Tax Collector-Beach Taxes](#)

Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, clarified that the Escambia County Tax Collector's office, working from a court order, would calculate and invoice the School District for its proportionate share of beach tax refunds; the School District would then simply pay the invoice, and the Tax Collector's office would handle the refund distributions. Mr. St. Cyr was unable to provide any additional information as there was still much uncertainty regarding the process.

E. Purchasing

6. [Amendment I: i-Ready Diagnostic and Instruction Agreement](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, clarified that the School District had insisted that all elementary schools, as well as Warrington and Bellview middle schools, use the i-Ready Diagnostic and Instruction software during the 2018-2019 school year. Ransom Middle School had actually requested to participate, which was the purpose for this amendment; other middle schools had chosen not to participate primarily due to scheduling challenges.

12. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #6241900037 - Lakeview Center, Inc.](#)

Upon inquiry by Ms. Hansen, Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, advised that when initially negotiating the contract with Lakeview Center, Inc., School District staff had neglected to consider the cost of services over the summer; and as such, an increase of \$22,150 was now necessary.

15. [Change Notice #3 to Purchase Order #5421800083 – Athletic Improvements for West Florida High School – Woodham Campus](#)
16. [Change Notice #4 to Purchase Order #5421800045 – Woodham Middle School Stormwater and Site Improvements](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Anthony Noles, Director of Facilities Planning, said he would need to refer to project schedule as to the exact date; however, final completion of the renovations at Woodham Middle was expected sometime in May (2019). Mr. Noles also mentioned that the project was currently about 30 days ahead of schedule. In response to

questions posed by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Noles confirmed that a majority of the change notices had resulted from “owner requests” but reminded School Board Members that this renovation project was for an older building, so staff was continually discovering issues that need to be addressed.

3. Human Resource Services
  - A. Instructional/Professional

Mr. Keith Leonard, Director of Human Resource Services, responded to Mr. Slayton’s request for an update on the number of instructional positions currently vacant: four (4) at elementary, five (5) at middle, three (3) at high, and one (1) in Exceptional Student Education (ESE). The Superintendent commented that a number of those vacancies occurred after the 8-day count when units were added.

- C. Risk Management
  1. [Employee Benefits Changes Effective January 1, 2019](#)

The Superintendent expressed appreciation to everyone involved in the bargaining process, including the Employee Benefits Committee and the Union’s Bargaining Councils.

4. Operations
  - A. Facilities Planning
    1. Final Payments

- a. [Bellview Elementary School Outdoor Covered Play Area and Multi-Purpose Room](#)
- b. [McArthur Elementary School Outdoor Covered Play Area and Multi-Purpose Room - Quina Grundhoefer Architects, P.A.](#)
- c. [McArthur Elementary School Outdoor Covered Play Area and Multi-Purpose Room - A.E. New, Jr., Inc.](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boone, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, said there were only seven (7) elementary schools (including Escambia Westgate) still in need of covered physical education (PE) play areas. Mrs. Hightower commented that these construction projects were possible due to proceeds from the Half-Cent Sales Tax.

- c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD
  1. [Appointment of Allison Jones as the School Board’s Appointee to Escambia County School District Audit Committee](#)

School Board Members agreed that Ms. Allison Jones’ attendance at the September 18, 2018 Regular Meeting was certainly welcome, but not required.

- d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
  2. Student Discipline

- A. [Disciplinary Reassignments](#)
- B. [Expulsions](#)

1. Recommend that consistent with the decision of the due process committee, student discipline number 18-162-951 be expelled from all public schools of Escambia County for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year and all of the 2018-2019 school year with the option to enroll, if qualified and if space is available, in an alternative educational program exclusive of regular school placement. Placement to be at the discretion of the Superintendent and to be available as an alternative during the full expulsion time frame.

[AMEND](#)

The Superintendent advised School Board Members that a formal hearing officer's recommended order was included in the secure backup for student discipline number 18-162-951.

- e. INTERNAL AUDITING  
-No items submitted
- f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL  
-No items submitted

VII. PUBLIC FORUM  
-No registration forms submitted

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair