

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 18, 2019

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. Patricia Hightower (District IV)
Vice Chair: Mr. Bill Slayton (District V)
Board Members: Mr. Kevin L. Adams (District I)
Mr. Paul Fetsko (District II)
Dr. Laura Dortch Edler (District III)

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Not present: School Board General Counsel, Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on January 25, 2019 – Legal No. [3339931](#)

Minutes prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*

Video available at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/02182019-523>

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

-DA School Updates

School Board Members received updates from the following “priority” schools currently in the Differentiated Accountability process: Ensley Elementary School (principal Rhonda Shuford); Global Learning Academy (principal Judy LaBounty); Holm Elementary School (principal Kristin Cain), Navy Point Elementary School (principal Dr. Monica Ford-Harris), Warrington Elementary School (principal Tim Rose), Warrington Middle School (principal Brent Brummet). School Board Members were provided a [packet](#) of pertinent data relevant to each school.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:17 a.m. and reconvened at 10:27 a.m., with all School Board Members and the Superintendent present.

-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.

-February 2019

There were no changes to the remaining schedule of workshops/meetings for February.

-March 2019

There were no changes to the schedule of workshops/meetings for March.

-April 2019

There were no changes to the schedule of workshops/meetings for April.

-May 2019

There were no changes to the schedule of workshops/meetings for May.

For informational purposes, the Superintendent provided School Board Members with a copy of the proposed budget and TRIM [calendar](#) for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Mrs. Hightower suggested and there was no objection, to begin setting aside time at each Special “Open Discussion” Workshop and each Regular “Agenda Review” Workshop for an update on the appointed superintendent process.

-Hiring FSBA for Appointed Superintendent Search – Hightower

Mrs. Hightower initiated a discussion about the possibility of hiring a firm to assist the School Board in the search for an appointed superintendent. Mrs. Hightower said it appeared the cost for acquiring such services could range anywhere from \$20,000 to over \$100,000; however, being members of the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA), the School Board could enlist those services for around \$20,000-\$25,000. There being no objection, Mrs. Hightower said she would bring forth a contract with the FSBA that could be considered by the School Board at the next regular monthly meeting.

The School Board spent some time discussing the initial steps in the process for selecting the next superintendent, including but not limited to: determining the extent of community involvement/input (i.e., advisory committee, town hall meetings); and developing a job description, contract and policies for an appointed superintendent using existing job descriptions, contracts and policies from other Florida school districts with appointed superintendents as a starting point.

-Middle School Schedules – Slayton

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent confirmed that Ms. Vicki Gibowski, Director of Middle School Education, had recently conducted an initial meeting with principals to begin discussions about middle school schedules. As previously indicated in a [presentation](#) made during the [December 13, 2018 Special Workshop](#), the Superintendent said District staff and middle school principals would be working on finding a common, standardized schedule for all middle schools and also examining ways to provide band and orchestra to meet daily at schools with block schedules.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent introduced Ms. Wanda Kotick, who had recently assumed the position of Coordinator – Community Involvement. He then listed all changes made to the February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting agenda since initial publication and prior to this session.

IV. MINUTES

-No items discussed

V. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items discussed

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

-No items discussed

2. Permission to Advertise

-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

-No items discussed

- 2. Finance and Business Services
-No items discussed
- 3. Human Resource Services
-No items discussed
- 4. Operations
-No items discussed
- c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD
-No items submitted
- 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

- Ashley Bodmer, representing Every Child A Reader in Escambia (ECARE), registered to address the School Board regarding Item V.b.1.L.1, [Escambia District Schools 2019-20 Staffing Allocation Table](#).

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair