

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, DECEMBER 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: 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)

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on November 22, 2018 – Legal No. [3262591](#)

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

Video available at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/12142018-1095>

[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.

Legislative Priorities – postponed from December 13, 2018 Special Workshop – The Superintendent advised the School Board of the School District's priorities for the 2019 legislative session: funding for employee raises; clarification of safety rules outlined in Senate Bill 7026; criteria for hazardous walking; teacher certification, specifically with regard to the Florida Certified Teacher Exam. It was noted that these priorities would be shared with Rutledge-Ecenia, the firm providing legislative consulting/lobbying services on behalf of the Superintendent, the School District, and the School Board.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Operation: Help Our Neighbors' Schools – The Superintendent announced that this district-wide initiative raised just over \$14,000, which was distributed evenly between Gulf and Bay County school districts, to help with devastation caused by Hurricane Michael.

Garden Street Property Sale Update – (last update provided at the [November 8, 2018 Special Workshop](#))

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, reported that the buyer's group had secured approval from the Architectural Review Board for demolition of the building located on the 215 West Garden Street property. It was now incumbent upon the buyer's group to establish a closing date within ninety (90) days.

III. MINUTES

- a. [10-11-18 Special Workshop](#)
- b. [10-12-18 Regular Workshop](#)
- c. [11-13-18 Regular Meeting](#)
- d. [11-20-18 Installation Ceremony & Organizational Meeting](#)

There were no changes to any of the meeting minutes, as presented. In light of conversation that occurred during the [December 13, 2018 Special Workshop](#), Mrs. Hightower took a moment to advise

newly elected Board Members of the essential components of meeting minutes, as prescribed by *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised**. Mrs. Waters summarized that in general, *Robert's Rules* and parliamentary associations indicate that minutes should be a record of what was done at a meeting, not what was said. (NOTE: *During the [November 20, 2018 Installation & Organization Meeting](#), the latest version of *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* was designated as the parliamentary procedure to be followed for the conduct of official business of the School Board.)

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

[-Charter School Quarterly Report](#)

There were no questions or concerns with any information outlined in the report. Charter School representatives were introduced to the newly elected School Board Members.

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 3 – School Operations](#)

Mr. Adams reiterated comments he had made at previous sessions. It was his belief that a local school board did not have the constitutional authority to approve any policy in violation of federal law – in this case, a policy that would allow a substance deemed illegal by federal law, to be brought onto a school campus. Mr. Adams suggested that the School Board seek an opinion from the Attorney General regarding interplay between federal and state law governing the use of medical marijuana in the development of policies related to such use by students. Following discussion, it was noted that the item to that affect would be added under “Items from the Board” on the December 18, 2018 Regular Meeting agenda.

B. [Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 7 – Students](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Fetsko, the Superintendent confirmed that the addition of Section 7.21, Religious Expression Public Schools, was not necessitated by a complaint/incident, but rather because the Florida Legislature had directed the Florida Department of Education to develop a model policy that each school district in Florida was to adopt and implement.

2. Permission to Advertise

A. [Approval to Advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to Rules and Procedures of the District School Board: Chapter 5 – Business Services](#)

The Superintendent advised that the amendments to Section 5.08 Travel, were made simply to mirror state law regarding rates of per diem, subsistence and mileage allowance. *The purpose of the amendments was to ensure that School Board policy remained in compliance with Florida Statutes by simply referencing applicable statutes rather than specifying specific rates within the policy.*

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

C. Elementary Education

1. [Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the University of West Alabama](#)

2. [Amendment to the Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Capella University](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, confirmed that the agreements associated with Item V.b.1.C.1. and Item V.b.1.C.2. would allow the School District to accept practicum students. Mr. Marcanio clarified that Item V.b.1.C.2. was actually an amendment to an agreement with Capella University that was previously approved at the September 18, 2018 Regular Meeting. The purpose of the amendment was to remove the Certification Regarding Debarment addendum that should not have been included in the original agreement.

F. High School Education

1. [Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the Office of Student Financial Assistance, Data Sharing Security Agreement](#)

At the request of Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent and his staff explained that the purpose of this agreement was to establish the conditions under which the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) would provide to the District certain data received or generated by OSFA concerning Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) applicants in order to determine the completion status of a student's FAFSA and facilitate providing assistance to such students in completing the FAFSA.

2. Finance and Business Services

E. Purchasing

21. [Furniture for West Florida High School](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, confirmed that new furniture was being purchased for the new location of West Florida High School on Burgess Road; furniture that had been used at the current location on Longleaf Drive would remain there for use by other programs to be housed at that location in the future.

23. [Change Notice #2 to Purchase Order #5421800186 – Ransom Middle School HVAC Renovations](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Fetsko, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, confirmed that Ransom Middle and Kingsfield Elementary were sharing an HVAC system. Mr. Dennis explained that Kingsfield Elementary could have been built with a standalone HVAC system, but the School District's engineering and facilities staff, decided instead to build a central plant capable of managing the HVAC for both of these co-located schools.

3. Human Resource Services

C. Risk Management

4. [Amendment to the School Resource Officer Agreement-Escambia County, Florida Sheriff's Office](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent explained that this amendment to the School Resource Officer Agreement with the Escambia County Sheriff's Office (ECSO) represented the restoration of a supervisor position. (NOTE: *This position existed during the 2016-17 school year, but was deleted when the number of School Resource Officers were reduced for the 2017-18 school year due to the ECSO's cuts. The 2018-19 original contract reinstated the number of School Resource Officers from 11 to 15, but did not reinstate the supervisory position.*)

ADD

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

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

- Brian Wyer, representing Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce, requested to address the School Board regarding metrics for minority business in bid purchasing.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair