

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MAY 17, 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)

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on May 1, 2019 – Legal No. [3519738](#)

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

Video available at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/05172019-600>

[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. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

At the request of the Superintendent, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent – Finance & Business Services, gave a brief update on the budget by reviewing information outlined in a PowerPoint® [presentation](#) entitled *2019-20 Budget Overview Legislative Session: District Outlook for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020*.

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

5. FCAN FAFSA Challenge Award

At the request of Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent briefly explained the FCAN FAFSA Challenge. *Florida College Access Network (FCAN) started the Florida FAFSA Challenge three years ago to encourage all Florida schools and districts to increase the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion by 5% over the previous year.*

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

-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

A. Alternative Education

1. [Cooperative Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and AMIkids Pensacola, Inc. DBA Escambia Boys' Base](#)

In response to questions posed by Mr. Adams, Ms. Vicki Mathis, Director – Alternative Education, confirmed that the School District would pay nothing to AMIkids Pensacola, Inc. under this cooperative agreement; however, the School District would furnish classroom teachers and support staff, to provide instruction to the students enrolled at Escambia Boys' Base. Mr. Adams understood there may be no exchange of funds with AMIkids Pensacola, Inc.; however, there was certainly a cost to the School District in terms of the salary and benefits for those teachers and support staff. He questioned why such costs were not specified in the backup documentation provided to the School Board. Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent – Finance & Business Services, said that simply citing costs would give an inaccurate portrayal given that there was also an offset to those costs in terms of the FTE revenue generated by the students enrolled in that program. The Superintendent said the Finance department could always provide additional information, in terms of a detailed cost report, if requested.

H. Professional Learning

1. [Memorandum of Understanding Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Walch Education 2019-2022](#)

2. [Memorandum of Understanding Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Pearson K-12 Learning LLC 2019-2022](#)

Mr. Adams' concern with these items was that there were no costs specified in the backup documentation provided to the School Board. The Superintendent clarified that these memorandums of understanding (MOU's) involved no exchange of money, rather they were simply written commitments from the vendors, to deliver, particularly on technology. The Superintendent said the money to be exchanged with these companies would come via the actual textbook orders. He further explained that the School Board's approval of the instructional material adoption at the March 26, 2019 Regular Meeting (see: [V.b.1.H.1., 2018-2019 District Instructional Materials Adoption](#)) was the signal for schools to compile their textbook orders. Mr. John Dombroskie, Director – Purchasing, confirmed that neither Florida Statutes nor School Board Rule (see: Chapter 4 – Instruction, Section 4.03 Instructional Materials) required a purchase order to be presented to the School Board; rather textbooks could be ordered directly from the Florida School Board Depository (FSBD) once the School Board had approved the instructional materials adoption as that adoption was in essence, the purchase authorization. The Superintendent said beginning with the next textbook adoption cycle, at the time the instructional materials were presented to the School Board for adoption, staff could provide chart specifying the estimated costs.

2. Finance and Business Services

E. Purchasing

23. [Bid Award: West Florida High School – Drivers Ed Range and Parking Upgrades](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Steve Harrell, Director – Transportation, explained that currently the state-approved bus driver's training facility was located at the old Woodham Middle School site on Burgess Road. He said the School District was in the process of creating a new bus driver's training facility at the current West Florida High School site on Longleaf Drive. (In essence, the two facilities were being "switched" such that the current driver's ed range at West Florida High School on Longleaf Drive would be resurfaced to become the new bus driver's training facility and the current bus driver's training facility on Burgess Road would become the new driver's ed range for the West Florida High School upon their relocation there.)

3. Human Resource Services
 - A. Instructional/Professional
 7. Special Requests
 - c. Amend the 2019-2020 Department Personnel Planning Document for the following cost centers:
 - 4006 – Escambia County Public Schools Foundation
 - 4208 – Information Technology
 - 4430 – Subject Area Specialists

(NOTE: *Dr. Edler left at 11:00 a.m. during discussion of this item.*) Mrs. Hightower advised that the School Board’s approval of the recommended changes to the DPPD concerning 4006 – Escambia County Public Schools Foundation, would necessitate an amendment to the previously approved [Memorandum of Understanding Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the Escambia County Public School Foundation, Inc.](#) (April 17, 2018 Regular Meeting agenda). The Superintendent advised that an amendment to the MOU could be presented in either June or July.

Mrs. Hightower understood the Superintendent and the Foundation were requesting that the money the School District had been paying for salary and benefits of the Administrative Aide position (\$45,375) would now be put toward the Executive Director position instead. Mrs. Hightower questioned whether this was to be a continued obligation of the School District to pay the set dollar amount of \$45,375 towards the Executive Director’s salary and benefits (same amount the School District had been paying for salary and benefits of the Administrative Aid position) or a specific percentage of 64% School District and 36% Foundation as indicated in the footnotes. If the School Board’s intent was to assist the Foundation over time with increased costs for that employee, the Superintendent believed the percentage was appropriate; however, if their intent was not to assist with any future increases, he suggested they commit only to a specific dollar amount which would thereby require to Foundation to fund any future increases. The Superintendent suggested it was fairest for the School Board to obligate to a specific dollar amount rather than a percentage, given that the Executive Director was at a higher salary than the Administrative Aide. He had no problem committing what the School District had been spending for the Administrative Aide towards the Executive Director, but did not believe the School District should be incrementally increasing its costs in the future. Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent – Finance & Business Services, confirmed that the percentage split of 36% Foundation and 64% District was specified in the footnote of the proposed DPPD for 4006 – Escambia County Public Schools Foundation. There was no support from School Board Members to change those percentages to a specific dollar amount instead.

4. Operations
 - G. Protection Services
 2. Coach Aaron Feis School Guardian Program Agreement by and between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the Sheriff of Escambia County, Florida

Upon inquiry by Mr. Adams, the Superintendent said over 70 individuals had applied thus far and the School District was hoping to identify at least 30 individuals who could successfully complete the extensive prescreening process and then move on to the 144-hour School Guardianship Training. Both the Superintendent and Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent – Operations, confirmed that all applicants were informed up-front of all prescreening requirements, including the School District’s tobacco policy (see: Chapter 2 – Human Resource Services, Section 2.47 – Tobacco/Cotinine/Nicotine-Free Hiring Policy). The Superintendent confirmed that the School District was working jointly with the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office on the prescreening process; however, final decision as to who enters the School Guardian Program would rest solely with the Sheriff as he must certify that an individual had met the requirements of the program and successfully completed the required

training. Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent confirmed that charter schools would be permitted to hire individuals who were trained in this program. Upon inquiry by Mr. Adams, the Superintendent confirmed that charter schools would receive a proportion of funding, based on their student count, from the Safe Schools Allocation that could be used to help offset the cost of security; however, just like the School District, charter schools would spend more money for security than they receive from that allocation. Mr. Adams questioned whether the School District could be held liable if a charter school did not provide adequate security coverage. The Superintendent said the School District would ensure there were a sufficient number of trained Guardians and trained campus safety officers available for them to hire, but should a charter school choose to ignore the requirement of having day-to-day bell-to-bell security coverage, he saw no obligation to the School District. Mrs. Waters advised that in general, one could only be found liable for something that one actually had control over and yet the School District did not have control over a charter school's hiring decisions. Yet, on the other hand, Mrs. Waters advised that if the School Board became aware that a charter school was not complying with the law, they had a duty to report. Mrs. Waters suggested that a provision be added to all charter school renewals, that they must comply with all school safety statutes and regulations. Mrs. Hightower asked that information to be included in the charter school quarterly report, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

AMEND

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

2. General Counsel Contract Renewal 2019-2021

It was noted that the School Board had discussed the renewal of the General Counsel's contract at a previous session. (see: Minutes – December 13, 2018 Special Workshop).

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

2. Student Discipline

-No items discussed

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items discussed

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

-No registration forms submitted

VIII. DISCUSSION ON APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT PROCESS

It was noted that the School Board would begin their conversation with the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) superintendent search team at the May 22, 2019 Special Workshop. Mrs. Hightower was hopeful that by the end of that session, the School Board will have established a timeline for the search process.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair