

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, APRIL 11, 2019

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: 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 March 26, 2019 – Legal No. [3453508](#)

NOTE: Minutes from this session have been prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Video available at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/04112019-1083>

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- West Florida High School Criminal Justice Academy

Students enrolled in the Criminal Justice Academy at West Florida High 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.

-April 2019

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

-May 2019

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

-June 2019

There were no changes to the schedule of workshops/meeting for June.

- Public Forum Follow-Up

The Superintendent provided follow-up on issues raised by the following speaker during the Public Forum portion of the March 26, 2019 Regular Meeting:

- *David Elzbeck, president of the Escambia Educational Support Professionals* - Mr. Elzbeck had registered to address the School Board regarding DOT Physicals/Marathon Health.

The Superintendent said the School District was currently working with representatives of the Escambia Educational Support Professionals on improving the process with Marathon Health.

Dr. Edler requested a follow-up to issues raised by the following speakers during the Public Forum portion of the February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting:

- *Kelly Henderson, speaking as an individual* – Ms. Henderson had registered to address the School Board regarding a drainage issue on Hernandez Street & Grandview Street. Ms. Henderson said she had been experiencing overflow on her property presumably from Oakcrest Elementary.

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent – Operations, said the School District’s Facilities Planning department had contacted Ms. Henderson, the homeowner who asserts that sheet flow coming off of the construction work done at Oakcrest Elementary with the covered play area and additional retention pond, had made a pre-existing bad drainage situation even worse. Mr. Dennis said the School District’s staff of architects and engineers reviewed the project to confirm all was done in accordance with that which was proposed, permitted, and approved. In an abundance of effort to be good neighbors, one staff member actually walked the neighborhood, reviewing the actual flow plans in that neighborhood, and identified some impediments up the road from the area where the homeowner lives that had unfortunately been installed to slow down traffic and its actually keeping some of the water from flowing where it was originally designed. There were also some design flaws that we observed in the way the roadway in the subdivision that have obviously been there for many years. That information is being relayed to the County and to homeowner in hopes that they can rectify those circumstances, but we have confirmed that inside our fence line is not contributing.

- *Joe Williamson, speaking as an individual*
- *Terry Robinson, representing Escambia Educational Support Professionals* – Both Mr. Williamson and Mr. Robinson had requested to address the School Board regarding pay inequity for drivers.

The Superintendent noted that these two individuals had in essence tried to direct bargain with the School Board on a matter that was already on the bargaining table as part of contract negotiations.

- Board Budget Changes – *Hightower*

Mrs. Hightower recommended the School Board consider increasing its in-state travel budget, given that for the past several years, the School Board’s travel had consistently exceeded the budgeted amount. There being no objection, Mrs. Hightower was to submit the School Board’s budget for 2019-2020 reflecting an increase from \$7,500 to \$15,000 for in-state travel.

- Board Planned Travel for 2019-2020

NOTE: A new law going into effect on July 1, 2019 provides that school board members traveling outside their districts must receive prior approval from the entire board if the cost is to exceed \$500. For out-of-state travel, school board members would be required to provide, in advance, an itemized list detailing all anticipated expenses. The Superintendent suggested that the Coordinator of Board Affairs prepare a listing of each School Board Member’s anticipated travel plans for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, including itemizations of out-of-state travel expenses and/or travel expenses expected to exceed \$500. It was noted that the listing could be reviewed by the entire School Board during an “open discussion” workshop prior to being placed on a regular meeting agenda for the School Board’s consideration for approval.

- Appointed Superintendent Search Budget – *Hightower*

Mrs. Hightower advised that the Superintendent’s staff had assisted with establishing a \$40,000 budget for the appointed superintendent search. It was noted that the object/project numbers could be used to keep track of spending.

- Strategic Plan Discussion – *Fetsko*

Mr. Fetsko decided he would postpone discussion on this topic until such time as the Superintendent's staff was beginning to work through the annual strategic planning process (September/October – November/December). His desire was to discuss a more efficient manner by which the School District's strategic plan was shared with school personnel.

- Security Update – *Superintendent*

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent – Operations, and Ms. Jennifer Ellis, School Safety Specialist, provided an update on student safety and security. The Superintendent prefaced this update by noting that School Board Members had already received a briefing on this information during a recent executive session. This abbreviated version for the general public was void of any details that that could not be shared publicly.

- Graduation Rate and Graduation Process – *Superintendent*

Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum, narrated a brief PowerPoint® [presentation](#) on the School District's on-time graduation rate and graduation process. Graduation Rate - Mr. Marcanio announced that the on-time graduation rate for 2017-2018 was 80.7% - a 1.2 percentage point increase from 2016-2017, a 14.6 percentage point increase within the past five years, and a 23 percentage point increase since 2009. His presentation included a review of historical on-time graduation rates for each high school and on-time graduation rates for majority sub groups. Graduation Process - Mr. Marcanio's presentation included a brief review of both the standard operating procedure (SOP) and security measures associated with the upcoming graduation ceremonies, particularly those to be held at the Pensacola Bay Center.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

-No registration forms submitted

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair