

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MARCH 15, 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 February 19, 2019 – Legal No. [3391654](#)

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

Video available at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/03152019-563>

[*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

The Superintendent reported no changes to the agenda for the March 26, 2019 Regular Meeting. It was noted that staff had hoped to present an update on the budget, but since the House had yet to release its version of a budget proposal, that update would be delayed until next month.

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-Charter School Quarterly Report

Ms. Vicki Mathis, Director – Alternative Education, Charter Schools, and Juvenile Justice, confirmed there were no significant issues that would require a progress monitoring plan for any of the charter schools. Mrs. Hightower commented that she was pleased with how the charter schools were being managed.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Edler felt as though she was never aware as to the resolution of issues presented by public forum speakers in previous School Board sessions; as such, she asked that the School Board begin including an item on each monthly agenda regarding follow-up from public forum. She felt it important that the resolution of those issues be addressed during a public setting, given that each speaker had initially presented his/her issue in a public setting. During discussion, it was suggested that public forum follow-up could be included on the monthly “open discussion” workshop.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

-No items submitted

2. Permission to Advertise

-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

E. Exceptional Student Education

2. [Cooperative Agreement Between Autism Pensacola and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Fetsko, Ms. Terri Szafran, Director - Exceptional Student Education (ESE), clarified that Autism Pensacola typically hired teachers from both Escambia and Santa Rosa county school districts for their summer camp and would provide a week-long in-service training prior to the start of camp, as well as ongoing professional development opportunities during camp.

H. Professional Learning

1. [2018-2019 District Instructional Materials Adoption](#)

(NOTE: *Prior to the Governor's Executive Order**, new K-12 Math Instructional materials were reviewed and were scheduled to be presented to the School Board for adoption during the 2018-2019 school year. The subject area committees K-12 Mathematics instructional materials recommendations were to be presented at the February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting. Due to the Executive Order, the adoption of new materials was delayed until this month and had been modified to specify this was a "district" instructional materials adoption since the state had suspended its math adoption.)

**On January 31st, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 19-32 calling for the following items:*

-The standards review will include Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA), and will be conducted during 2019, with recommendations due to Governor DeSantis by January 1, 2020.

-There will be no changes to statewide assessment or the school grades calculation in 2018-19 and 2019-20 as a result of the executive order.

-Opportunities for input will be available for educators and the public before the recommendations are submitted and again through the State Board of Education rulemaking process (state law requires standards exist in section 1003.41, Florida Statutes; the State Board approves standards through Rule 6A-1.09401, Florida Administrative Code).

In light of the suspension of the math adoption, Mr. Fetsko questioned whether it was appropriate to move forward with this non-state adoption and subsequent purchase of instructional math materials. The Superintendent responded with comments about the School District's progress in elementary math being hampered by woefully inadequate and out-of-date instructional materials. He felt strongly that the School District needed to move forward on this in order to provide teachers and students with materials that were more appropriately aligned to the current state assessments. Mr. Adams questioned the need to move forward given that changes to the state standards were coming over the next few years. Mr. Fetsko said it was his desire to provide teachers and students with instructional math materials that were better aligned to the current state assessment and Mr. Slayton was of the opinion that teachers should be given the materials they desired.

L. Other

1. [School District of Escambia County 2023-2024 School Calendar](#)

2. [Amendment to the School District of Escambia County 2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Fetsko, the Superintendent clarified that school must be in session 180 days or the equivalent on an hourly basis (no less than 900 hours). He confirmed that each of the proposed calendars had 178 student days and both exceed the hourly requirement.

2. Finance and Business Services

C. Budgeting

4. [Auction Lists I and II for March 2019](#)

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent – Operations, responded to questions posed by Mr. Fetsko regarding the auction of school buses. Mr. Dennis said the transition from physical to online auctions had helped tremendously in terms of broadening the audience and buyer pool; as such, the average sale price for auction buses had increased, but of course could vary from several thousand dollars to several hundred depending on the condition of the bus.

E. Purchasing

32. [Change Notice #4 to Purchase Order #5421800028 - ECSD Hall Center – ESE Renovation](#)

Mr. Fetsko had no specific questions/concerns with this particular item; however, he wondered if the renovations occurring in the ESE Department at the Hall Center might provide an opportunity to address issues with the water filtering system for the entire complex. Mr. Anthony Noles, Director – Facilities Planning, explained the reason for this change order was to provide new 3” water main, vault, and backflow preventer to service new renovation/addition due to severe corrosion that was discovered during demolition.

3. Human Resource Services

-No items discussed

4. Operations

A. Facilities Planning

2. Miscellaneous

b. [Temporary Work Agreement – Longleaf Elementary School](#)

Dr. Edler inquired as to the testing of water at Longleaf Elementary School and other schools in the Wedgewood area given the on-going environmental issues with the Rolling Hills landfill. Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent – Operations, said the School District, as well any resident in the community, had a reasonable expectation for the water supply to be managed through the area’s water service providers. In other words, he said there was an obligation on the part of a water service provider to conduct periodic testing of the water they provide. However, he noted that even with that expectation, if there was indication – be it discoloration, odor, or just in general, a report that “something isn’t right about the water” – the School District would immediately conduct its own “reactive” testing of the potable water at the affected site(s). Given that the Escambia County Commission was currently executing a study on the Rolling Hills landfill due to on-going environmental concerns, the Superintendent suggested that staff initiate communication with them to gain an understanding of their level of concern and any potential impact on area schools. (NOTE: *Throughout this discussion, Mr. Dennis repeatedly clarified that this item, Temporary Work Agreement – Longleaf Elementary School, was a separate matter, not related to any on-going environmental issues with the Rolling Hills landfill or the potable water at any of the schools in the Wedgewood area. In fact, the temporary work agreement was simply to allow for the installation of piezometer to measure pressure and volume of the ground water in that general region.*)

B. School Food Services

1. [2019 Exemption from Ms. Willie Ann Glenn Act 595.407, Fla. Statutes](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Fetsko, Ms. Jaleena Davis, Director - Food Services, explained that this year, as in years past, the School Food Services Department was requesting 2019 exemption from the Ms. Willie Ann Glenn Act because the proposed 2019 Summer School configuration could not comply because there was not a summer site within 10 miles of all elementary schools that are 50% or higher in free and reduced, and no site would be in operation 35 consecutive days.

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

Though not listed as an item on the current agenda, Dr. Edler wanted to discuss a recent [email](#) from Doug Brown, Executive Director of the Community Action Program Committee, Inc. which she believed was relevant to recent discussions concerning the McMillan Learning Center. Of particular interest to Dr. Edler, was that the McMillan Learning Center was not included as one of the Title I Centers referenced in that email - Bratt Elementary, Ensley Elementary, Montclair Elementary, O.J. Semmes Elementary, and Weis Elementary. Dr. Laura Colo, Director – Title I & Related Activities, clarified that the schools referenced in the email were those that the School District currently serves for Head Start. She advised that McMillan Learning Center was not, and never had been a Head Start center. Dr. Edler's concern was that the email appeared to contradict information she initially received in terms of the Community Action Program Committee potentially not being able to fund students at the McMillan Learning Center. Dr. Colo explained that the School District collaborates with the Community Action Program Committee for 185 Head Start student slots among the five campuses referenced in the email. She further explained that all students in the pre-k programs managed by the School District receive three hours per day paid for by VPK. Because the School District runs full-day programs, the rest of the day had to be paid for with Title I or Head Start funds. The Head Start funds would go to the five schools listed in the email. Dr. Colo clarified that McMillan Learning Center had been targeted because it was the most reasonable way to save the most student slots for continued pre-k services next year. In order to maximize the most spaces, McMillan Learning Center's classes (with a per-student cost of approximately \$30,000) were being moved to a school campus (with a per-student cost of approximately \$7,000). The other option was to close three of the five programs to absorb that offset of the cost we are trying to recover to ensure we can maintain as many slots as possible next year.

1. [Professional Services Agreement: Florida School Boards Association – Appointed Superintendent Search](#)

It was noted that once the School Board had approved this agreement, the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) would help establish a timeline for the appointed superintendent search process. There was brief reference to a previous discussion when the School Board had considered extending the duration of its regular monthly workshops to accommodate any necessary discussion on the appointed superintendent search process. There being no objection, the School Board was to begin the extended workshop sessions in April. There was discussion regarding the fixed fee of \$25,000 that would be paid to the FSBA per this agreement. It was noted that the contract included a description of services covered by the \$25,000 fixed fee (*see*: paragraph 1, Description of Services). It was also clarified that travel and additional on-site expenses were not included in that \$25,000 fixed fee (*see*: paragraph 3, Compensation and Payment). It was also noted that a separate fund within the School District budget [*General Fund 1110 – 02410 (Superintendent of Schools)*] had been established to track costs related to the appointed superintendent search process. Mr. Slayton thought it important for the School Board to know at any given time, what amount had been spent so they could relay that information to constituents when asked.

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](#)

-No registration forms submitted

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL