

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 16, 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

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters (*not present*)

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on August 20, 2019 – Legal No. 3742822

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

Video available at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/09162019-544>

[*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. She reminded those who wished to speak during public forum, to submit a registration form.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

-Northview High School Graphic Arts Academy – Superintendent

Students enrolled in the Graphic Arts Academy at Northview High School addressed the School Board regarding their experienced in this program.

-Calendar

At the request of the Superintendent, the School Board agreed to schedule a Special Meeting for October 4, 2019, beginning at 8:15 a.m., in the Superintendent’s Conference Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building. Purpose: To consider approval of out-of-field teachers prior to FTE week, October 7-11, 2019.

-Public Forum Update

The Superintendent advised there were multiple attempts to follow-up with an individual who addressed the School Board during the Public Forum portion of the August 20, 2019 Regular Meeting, but staff had been unable to make contact with the individual at the phone number provided on the registration form.

-Placement of Items on the District Website – Hightower

As requested by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent agreed to have IT staff reformat the home page of the District website such that important school highlights appeared higher on the page.

-Legislative Update – Adams

Mr. Adams provided a brief update from the recent Florida School Board’s Association (FSBA) Legislative Platform Committee meeting. He was to ensure that School Board Members received a copy of the final version of the Legislative Platform once available.

-Water Testing Results – Superintendent

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, narrated a Power Point® presentation, which included the results and reaction to the proactive testing for lead in samples of water from 42 school sites.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent listed any changes made to the [September 17, 2019 Regular Meeting agenda](#) since initial publication and prior to this session.

IV. MINUTES

-No items discussed

V. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

CORRECT

-Charter School Quarterly Report

Ms. Vicki Mathis, Director-Alternative Education, September Charter School Quarterly Report, confirmed there were no charter schools currently under a progress-monitoring plan. In response to questions posed by individual School Board Members, Ms. Mathis provided the following information:

-Given that this was the first quarterly report of a new school year, there were not enough financial statements to conduct a financial analysis; however, after the 8-day count, if enrollment had increased/decreased by 5% or more, a charter school's monthly payment would be recalculated.

-*Contract Obligation 5 – FTE Recalculation after 8 day Count (5% +/-)* – Both Capstone and Byrneville were recalculated due to a reduction in enrollment.

-*Contract Obligation 13 – Board Approval of Out-of-Field Teachers* – Given that Jackie Harris did not have any out-of-field teachers, this particular obligation was not applicable.

-*Contact Obligation 15 – Employee Fingerprinting/Background Check* – Given that Pensacola Beach did not have any new employees, this particular obligation was not applicable.

Mrs. Celestine Lewis, principal of Jackie Harris Preparatory Academy (JHPA) and Mr. Alexander, Board Chair, were present to respond to any questions or concerns from School Board Members regarding JHPA's 15-year charter renewal contract (*see*: Item V.b.1.A.3., [Contract Renewal Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and New Road to Learning, Inc. DBA Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy](#)).

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

-No items discussed

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

A. Alternative Education

3. [Contract Renewal Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and New Road to Learning, Inc. DBA Jacqueline Harris Preparatory Academy](#)

This item referenced earlier in the session under Charter School Quarterly Report.

J. Title I

1. [Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the Community Action Program Committee, Inc.](#)

Mrs. Hightower mentioned that Dr. Edler intended to abstain from voting on this item.

2. Finance and Business Services

E. Purchasing

12. [Architectural/Engineering Services for Beulah Elementary School Outdoor Covered Play Area and Multipurpose Room](#)

13. [Architectural/Engineering Services for Longleaf Elementary School Outdoor Covered Play Area and Multipurpose Room](#)

14. [Architectural/Engineering Services for Pine Meadow Elementary School Outdoor Covered Play Area and Multipurpose Room](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Adams, Mr. Anthony Noles, Director-Facilities Planning, reported that after three outdoor covered play areas were complete, there were four additional remaining.

15. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #5421900091 – Architectural/Engineering Services for Repurpose West Florida High School to Success Academy, Buildings #25 and #26](#)
19. [Roof Replacement for Repurpose West Florida High School to Success Academy, Building #9](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Keith Wasdin, Project Manager, confirmed that Building #9 was actually the gymnasium at Success Academy located on Longleaf Drive.

3. Human Resource Services

There were no questions or concerns regarding any items under this section; however, at the request of School Board Members, staff provided updates on hiring for teachers and school bus drivers.

4. Operations

G. Protection Services

1. [Interlocal Agreement between the Escambia County School Board and Escambia County, Florida Relating to Public Sheltering Facilities](#)

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, advised that the previous agreement, approved by the School Board at the January 15, 2019 Regular Meeting, was not fully executed by the County pending development and agreement on feeding procedures at the University of West Florida shelter. This agreement removes the American Red Cross Memorandum of Understanding for sheltering services and establishes the School District as food services provider at the University of West Florida shelter.

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

-No items submitted

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

2. Student Discipline

A. Disciplinary Reassignment

B. Expulsion

School Board Members had no questions or concerns regarding any specific recommendation for disciplinary reassignment or expulsion; however, Dr. Edler did address the following matters:

*School Board Agenda Executive Summary* - Dr. Edler pointed out that the executive summary sheets for both Item V.d.2.A and Item V.d.2.B reflected the previous title of Court Liaison, though the School Board had changed that title to Coordinator-Student Engagement.

*Student Summary Sheet* - Dr. Edler noticed that the principal's recommendation for each student was comprised of essentially the same verbiage. The Superintendent confirmed an attorney provided standardized verbiage.

*Escambia County Schools Discipline Log* – Dr. Edler believed this log should also summarize the various interventions utilized in an effort to help the student redirect their behavior.

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items discussed

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

-No registration forms submitted

AMEND

IX. DISCUSSION ON APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT PROCESS

Mrs. Hightower addressed the following matters:

- September 9 - News Release: *Escambia County School Announces the Release of Online Survey and the Opening of the Superintendent Search Portal, Time for Input – Public Input Invented to Guide Superintendent Search*
- September 20 - Discussion with Florida School Boards Association Superintendent Search Team

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair