

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, AUGUST 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

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on July 25, 2019 – Legal No. [3701295](#)

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

Video available at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/08162019-571>

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower welcomed everyone in attendance as well as those watching via live streaming and thanked them for their interest in public education. She called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m. On behalf of the School Board, Mrs. Hightower thanked the Escambia County Council of PTAs not only for providing breakfast prior to this session, but for all that they do on behalf of the Escambia County School District. Mrs. Hightower reminded those who wished to speak during public forum, to submit a registration form. Lastly, Mrs. Hightower said she was able to confirm October 3, beginning at 1:00 p.m. and October 4, beginning at 8:30 a.m., as the dates/times for the final two components of the Florida School Boards Association Master Board Training. (*Previously discussed during the August 15, 2019 Special Workshop.*)

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

At this time, the Superintendent and/or his staff gave an update on the following:

- TSSA Update (*postponed from August 15, 2019 Special Workshop*)

Ms. Jennifer Montoya, Specialist-Continuous Improvement, narrated a brief PowerPoint® presentation that outlined the following information regarding the Turnaround School Supplemental Services Allocation (TSSSA): eligibility, service models, requirements, timeline, and funding. The following schools would receive TSSSA funds for the 2019-2020: Ensley Elementary School (\$168,118), Global Learning Academy (\$255,900), Holm Elementary School (\$198,419), Montclair Elementary School (\$161,903), Myrtle Grove Elementary School (\$247,745), Navy Point Elementary School (\$225,951), Pine Forest High School (\$701,322), Warrington Elementary School (\$141,279), and Warrington Middle School (\$358,038). Dr. Edler was very appreciative of the School District's efforts to engage education and social work together, stating "I don't believe we can begin to address the academic needs of students until we can focus on those socio-economic needs." The Superintendent noted that the TSSSA application for each of the nine schools listed above was included on the August 20, 2019 Regular Meeting agenda for consideration for approval by the School Board (*see*: Items V.b.1.B.4 through Item V.b.1.B.12 – [August 20, 2019 Regular Meeting agenda](#))

- Student Transportation Issues/Improvements  
(Previously discussed during the August 15, 2019 Special Workshop.) The Superintendent advised that with each passing day, the typical new school year scheduling issues with student transportation were improving.
- Instructional Staffing  
At the request of Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Keith Leonard, Director-Human Resource Services, gave a brief update on instructional staffing as of August 16, 2019: 2,869 instructional positions filled, 11 instructional positions open. The Superintendent reminded everyone there would be some shifting at the eight-day FTE count.

The Superintendent listed any changes made to the [August 20, 2019 Regular Meeting agenda](#) since initial publication and prior to this session.

### III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

### IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items submitted

### 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
  - F. High School Education
    1. [Cooperative Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida](#)

[Handout provided to School Board Members] Ms. Paula Shell, Chief Executive Officer- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida, provided a brief update on the “School to Work” program. Mr. Adams and Mrs. Hightower each expressed their appreciation to nonprofit organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Northwest Florida, as well as their corporate partners, for mentoring initiatives that truly make a difference in the lives of students.

#### K. Workforce Education

Though he did not refer to a specific item number, Mr. Fetsko commented on the “remarkable” documents prepared and submitted by the Workforce Education department.

At the request of Mr. Slayton, Dr. Michelle Taylor, Director-Workforce Education, gave a brief update on George Stone Technical College: enrollment at nearly 500 students, waiting lists in most programs, and expanding adult high school education program.

#### 2. Finance and Business Services

E. Purchasing

12. [Annual Agreement Renewal: District-Wide Roofing Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Services](#)

Description of Purchase: *Recommend renewal of an annual agreement to provide services for district-wide roofing maintenance, repair and replacement on an “as-needed” basis. Terms and conditions of the agreement will remain the same as the original agreement. There is no guaranteed dollar amount associated with the agreement. Amount of Purchase: As-Needed*

Upon inquiry by Mr. Fetsko, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations clarified that this agreement for district-wide roofing maintenance, repair and repair services would be utilized on an “as-needed” basis, and although there was no not-to-exceed amount specified, the use of these services would be restricted by the budgetary limitations of the recurring roof replacement/roof repair line item in the Half Cent Sales Tax budget.

16. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #5421900203 – Brown-Barge Middle School Renovations](#)

Description of Purchase: *Request authorization to issue Change Notice #1 (CO#1) to Purchase Order #5421900203 to increase contract amount to add Alternate No. 1 (Building 3 Scope of Work), \$264,000.00 (Owner’s Request); add Alternate No. 3 (Building 4 Scope of Work), \$285,000.00 (Owner’s Request); and add Alternate No. 5 (Cafetorium Wall Panel System), \$79,000.00 (Owner’s Request). Additional Expenditure: \$628,000.00*

Upon inquiry by Mr. Fetsko, Mr. Anthony Noles, Director-Facilities Planning, explained that the Brown-Barge Middle School campus was comprised of a number of buildings. During the original bid process each of those buildings was set up as an alternate so that as additional funding was available those alternates could be added into the contract. Given that the School District now had access to additional funding that could accomplish the entire campus renovation, Mr. Noles said this change had been requested to add those alternates into the contract.

3. Human Resource Services

A. Instructional/Professional

7. Special Requests

- a. [Request to rescind the resignation of Robert G. Monda, Teacher, at Pine Forest High, effective May 29, 2019, that was approved during the Regular School Board Meeting on June 18, 2019, under Item V.b.3.A.5., Resignations/Retirements/Other.](#)
- b. [Request to rescind the resignation of Tara M. Weeks, Teacher, at Myrtle Grove Elementary, effective May 29, 2019, that was approved during the Regular School Board Meeting on June 18, 2019, under Item V.b.3.A.5., Resignations/Retirements/Other.](#)
- c. [Request to rescind the resignation of Mona H. Rust, Teacher, at Bailey Middle, effective May 29, 2019, that was approved during the Regular School Board Meeting on June 18, 2019, under Item V.b.3.A.5., Resignations/Retirements/Other.](#)

Mrs. Hightower noted several requests to rescind teacher resignations. The Superintendent responded by saying if an effective teacher decided they wanted to return to work, he was happy to have them do so.

4. Operations

A. Facilities Planning

1. Final Payments

- a. [Oakcrest Elementary School Covered Play Area and Multipurpose Room](#)

At the request of Mr. Adams, Mr. Anthony Noles, Director-Facilities Planning, gave a brief update on the number of covered play areas left to be completed. Mr. Noles advised that the following projects were in the design phase: Beulah, Bratt and Longleaf; and three to four additional projects would follow in the next school year.

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

1. [School Board Member Travel Requests: Out of District FY 2019-2020](#)

Mrs. Hightower advised this was only the in-state portion of the School Board's travel adoption; and that next month, the School Board's out-of-state travel adoption would be submitted for review/approval.

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

-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

-Rescheduling Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) Superintendent Search Team Visit - As mentioned during the August 15, 2019 Special Workshop, the School Board would be requesting September 19/September 20 as possible dates for rescheduling the FSBA Superintendent Search Team's visit that was originally scheduled for this August 16 session.

-Community Input Sessions (Community Forums/Town Hall) – It was noted that the School Board would need to determine the number of Community Input Sessions. It was suggested that the location of those sessions be spread out geographically to the north, west, and east areas of the county. The scheduling of the Community Input Sessions was to be discussed with the FSBA Search Team during their next visit. Dr. Edler mentioned that in addition to these Community Input Sessions, she also intended to hold “open discussion” sessions at several of the churches located within her District 3 community.

-Online Survey – Due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 2, the Superintendent Search Timeline had been adjusted such that a press release would be issued on Tuesday, September 3 announcing the opening of the Superintendent Search Portal and the release of the online survey. Dr. Edler suggested adding a counter to indicate the number of visitors (or hits) that the Superintendent Search Portal had received.

-Superintendent Search Timeline and Portal Updates – Mrs. Hightower confirmed that the School Board Office was responsible for updating the Superintendent Search Timeline as necessary and posting the latest news and documents to the Superintendent Search Portal.

-Composition of Citizens Advisory Committee – There was some discussion regarding the composition of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Mrs. Hightower relayed that the FSBA search team had suggested three appointees from each School Board Member, plus three additional appointments from the School Board as a whole. The Superintendent had suggested four appointees from each School Board Member, with at least one of the four having a background in education. Discussion ensued but no determination was made. This matter and other matters related to the Citizens Advisory Committee were to be discussed with the FSBA Search Team during their next visit.

-Superintendent Search Brochure – There was mention of including various photos in the Superintendent Search Brochure including photos of students engaged in school activities and photos of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels performing over Pensacola Beach. Mrs. Hightower asked School Board Members to consider whether

the Superintendent Search Brochure actually needed to be printed or could be published in electronic format only. There was mention that perhaps the Superintendent Search Brochure could be structured in such a way that it could also be used as a marketing tool to be distributed at various school and community events to highlight the good things happening in Escambia County public schools.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

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Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL