

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MARCH 13, 2020

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 February 28, 2020 – Legal No. [4073504](#)

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

[*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. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- COVID-19 Preventative Measures (*updated since March 12, 2020 Special Workshop*)

The Superintendent reported on the latest guidelines* related to coronavirus COVID-19. The Superintendent advised that School District staff would continue to work closely with both local and state health officials to monitor actions and best practices related to COVID-19.

**Guidelines effective immediately from the Department of Health and the State of Florida:*

-Anyone who goes on foreign travel, to any country, must self-isolate for 14 days upon return.

-Anyone who goes on a cruise, anywhere, must self-isolate for 14 days upon return.

-There should be no mass gatherings, defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as "1,000-25,000 people, but the practical application is any gathering that would strain local resources." Local discretion will determine status for events with less than 1,000 people.

-If a student/faculty/staff has been exposed to a person with confirmed COVID-19, and that student/faculty/staff has been in a classroom, DOH recommends that Districts not close the school/college/program, but do recommend that the classroom is cleared and take necessary steps to sanitize the room.

APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH DISCUSSION (*moved forward as time certain*)

School Board Members discussed the following topics with Florida School Board's Association (FSBA) Superintendent Search Team (Andrea Messina and John Reichert):

- Process for Determining Finalists from Semi-Finalists
- Interview & Screening Process for Finalists

- Finalization of Search Brochure
- Citizen Advisory Committee Appointees Due March 27

Charter School Quarterly Report (moved forward as time certain)

Ms. Vicki Mathis, Director-Alternative Education, reported no issues with any of the charter schools. There were no questions/concerns from School Board Members regarding the information presented.

The Regular Workshop was recessed at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m., with all School Board Members, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters present.

- I. MINUTES
 - No items discussed
- II. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS
 - Charter School Quarterly Report
 - Handled earlier in the session
- III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - No items submitted
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES
 - 1. Rule(s) Adoption
 - No items submitted
 - 2. Permission to Advertise
 - a. School Board Rule Chapter 1.06

Mrs. Hightower advised that this proposed rule revision* would essentially delete a timeline not required by *Robert's Rules of Order* regarding the submission of Board meeting minutes. There were no questions or concerns regarding this item. [*Section 1.06(7), delete Item C: *In no instance shall the minutes of any meeting of the Board be presented to the Board for approval later than thirty (30) days following the date of the meeting.*]

March 24, 2020 Regular Meeting – The Superintendent listed changes made to the March 24, 2020 Regular Meeting agenda made since initial publication and prior to this workshop session. Mrs. Hightower advised that she would add an item entitled “Superintendent Search Brochure” under Section V.c, *Items from the Board*.

Certificates of Participation, Series 2020 (Item V.b.2.A.3. – March 24, 2020 Regular Meeting agenda)

Mr. George Smith, Jr., Esq. with Bryant Miller Olive P.A. (Bond Counsel to School Board), was present to respond to any questions and/or concerns regarding a resolution he had prepared on behalf of the School Board authorizing the issuance of Certificates of Participation, Series 2020 for the construction of new Pleasant Grove Elementary School. (*The Resolution awards the Certificates to Raymond James & Associates, Inc., as the underwriter, subject to a favorable recommendation of the Financial Advisor prior to execution of the same, and subject to compliance with other parameters established in the Resolution.*) There were no questions/concerns regarding this item.

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

C. Elementary Education

1. [The School District of Escambia County, Florida Summer School Programs - 2020](#)

Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent-Curriculum advised that the backup documentation for this item had been amended to correct the header on two pages.

Staff responded to questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding the new Robotics Summer Camp.

H. Professional Learning

1. [2019-2020 Instructional Materials Adoption](#)

The Superintendent advised that the subject areas covered in this recommendation were foreign language and Career & Technical Education (CTE).

2. Finance and Business Services

A. Finance

3. [Certificates of Participation, Series 2020](#)

-Handled earlier in this session

E. Purchasing

16. [Bid Award: Washington High School Concession and Restroom Building](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent clarified that this item referenced the construction of a concession and restroom building on the visitor side of Washington High School's football stadium. *(This construction was in response to a specific incident that occurred at Washington High's stadium in August 2019 during a football game between Washington and Pine Forest high schools.)*

3. Human Resource Services

-No items discussed

4. Operations

A. Facilities Planning

2. Miscellaneous

b. [Certification of Florida Inventory of School Houses \(FISH\)](#)

Mr. Fetsko requested that future FISH reports be provided in strike/add format but was agreeable to a simple summary of changes should the state's online system not allow for a strike/add format.

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

1. [Superintendent Search Citizen Advisory Committee Scope of Work](#)

Mrs. Hightower advised that the purpose of this document was to outline the "scope of work" for the Superintendent Search Citizen Advisory Committee prior to official appointment of that committee. There were no questions or concerns regarding this document.

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

-No items discussed

AMEND

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items discussed

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

V. PUBLIC FORUM

-No registration forms submitted

VI. APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH DISCUSSION

-Handled earlier in this session

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, the Superintendent reiterated his earlier report on COVID-19 preventative measures. There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL