

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, NOVEMBER 14, 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)

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on October 21, 2019 – Legal No. [3848023](#)

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 Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m. She welcomed those in attendance as well as those watching by live streaming. She reminded those who wished to speak during public forum, to submit a registration form. Mrs. Hightower called for a moment of silent prayer for those affected by the school shooting at Sangus High School in Santa Clarita, California.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

Ernest Ward Middle School Culinary Arts – Superintendent

Students enrolled in the Culinary Arts Academy at Ernest Ward Middle 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.

-November 2019

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

-December 2019

The School Board agreed to the following schedule of workshops/meetings for December:

-Regular Workshop, December 12, 2:00 p.m., Room 160, J.E. Hall Educational Services Center
(agenda to include “open discussion” segment)

-Regular Meeting, December 17, 5:30 p.m., Room 160, J.E. Hall Educational Services Center

Public Forum Update - The Superintendent provided follow-up to/on issues raised by the following speakers during the Public Forum portion of the October 10, 2019 Special Workshop:

-Rodney Jones – Mr. Jones had registered to *discuss a special problem or issue*

-Ellison Bennett, representing National Movement for Civil and Human Rights – Mr. Bennett had registered to *discuss a special problem or issue*

-Jerry McIntosh, representing Movement for Change – Mr. McIntosh had registered to *discuss a special problem or issue: arrest of a 12 year old*

The Superintendent advised that Mr. Jeremy Tompkins, Coordinator-Student Engagement, had followed-up with all three individuals to discuss their concerns and to direct them to the location of certain documentation.

Board Committee Commitments

It was the consensus of the School Board to keep all board committee commitments “as is” for the coming year.

Middle School Schedules – Slayton

This item postponed to the December 12, 2019 Regular Workshop.

Legislative Update – Adams

Mr. Adams addressed the following matters associated with the upcoming 2020 legislative session:

-Senate Bill 130, Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, expanded to include all public schools: *Authorizing the Governor to approve workforce training grants to certain charter schools under the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund; authorizing certain public schools to apply for specified grant funds; requiring grant funds to be used toward specified expenses, etc.*

-House Bill 553: Safe-School Officers: Requires district school boards to approve employment of school resource officers & school safety officers by specified charter schools; & authorizes district school boards to oversee & manage employment of school resource officers & school safety officers by charter schools within district & provide specified best practices.

Support of Military Community – Hightower

Mrs. Hightower initiated a discussion on this topic. She acknowledged the many things done to accommodate military families, but noted that it was often difficult to find such information on the School District website. She suggested the creation of a “Support for Military Families” portal on the School District’s homepage containing links to important information for military families, with special emphasis on providing resources to military families transitioning into this school district and highlighting opportunities for families considering a transfer to this area. Once this portal was available for display, the Superintendent’s staff was to provide a presentation to the School Board.

Minority Vendor Update – Superintendent

Ms. Alison Watson, Senior Purchasing Agent, narrated a brief presentation on the School District’s Minority Vendor Outreach Initiative, in response to concerns expressed by Brian Wyer, Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce during the December 14, 2018 Regular Workshop. *Purpose: To pursue the School Board’s goal to ensure that all segments of the community, including minority and/or service disabled veteran small business enterprises, have an effective opportunity for increased participation in the School Board’s Purchasing Program; and to counter perceptions in the community that business opportunities are not available for minority vendors with the School District.*

Learning in a Digital World – Superintendent

Mr. Tom Ingram, Director-Information Technology and Ms. Diane Taylor, TSA-Instructional Technology Mentor, gave a brief presentation on a project entitled Learning in a Digital World – *Digital Citizenship from Classroom to Career: Cyberbullying, Security, Digital Footprint, Privacy, and beyond.*

State Board Required Instructional Plans – Superintendent

Mr. Silvio Fina, Coordinator-Mental Health, narrated a brief presentation that served as an update on the School District’s response to the State Board of Education’s new required instructional plans:

- *Mental and Emotional Health Education (Grades 6-12), Florida Rule 6A-1.094121*
- *Substance Use and Abuse Health Education (Grades K-12), Florida Rule 6A-1.094122*
- *Child Human Trafficking Prevention Education (Grades K-12), Florida Rule 6A-1.094123*

The following individuals registered to address the School Board regarding this item:

Stacey Kostevicki*, Executive Director-Gulf Coast Kid’s House

Leslie Donovan, Prevention Educator-Gulf Coast Kid’s House

Paula Y. Doty, Prevention Educator-Gulf Coast Kid’s House

Although all three representatives registered to address the School Board, only Ms. Kostevicki actually spoke. Ms. Kostevicki commented that Gulf Coast Kid’s House was happy to collaborate with the Escambia County School District on this initiative.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

-No registration forms submitted

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL