

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, NOVEMBER 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

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*

Video available at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/11152019-582>

[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

Class Size Compliance – The Superintendent advised that all schools, with the exception of Myrtle Grove Elementary, were compliant with Class Size Amendment requirements for the current school year. The non-compliance at Myrtle Grove Elementary was due to student mobility issues, which the School District would address through the FLDOE’s appeal process.

November 19, 2019 Regular Meeting Agenda - The Superintendent listed changes made to the agenda since initial publication and prior to this session.

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No item 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

C. Elementary Education

1. [Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Mayville State University](#)
2. [Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the University of South Alabama](#)

Mr. Fetsko thanked staff from the Curriculum & Instruction department, particularly Dr. Patti Thomas, Director-Elementary Education, for their efforts in negotiating these agreements.

H. Professional Learning

1. [Master Inservice Plan \(MIP\) 2018-2023 Revisions](#)

At the request of Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent provided a brief explanation on this item: *Each year DOE requires the Professional Learning Department to present changes to the Master Inservice Plan (MIP) for review and approval. Several components have been added to the MIP for the 2019-2020 school year to comply with State required trainings (New Clinical Educator Training, Mental Health, and Reading Endorsement. New components are incorporated into the existing MIP. All components must be approved by the School Board and DOE.*

K. Workforce Education

1. [Agreement Between National Math and Science Initiative K-12 CS Aligned Program and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Dr. Michelle Taylor, Director-Workforce Education, provided a brief explanation as to why this agreement was being presented for School Board approval retroactive to July 1, 2019.

2. Finance and Business Services  
-No items discussed

3. Human Resource Services

- A. Instructional/Professional

7. Special Requests

- a. [Amend the 2019-2020 Department Personnel Planning Document for the following cost center: 4406 – Continuous Improvement & School Choice](#)

The Superintendent commented that this amendment to the 2019-2020 Department Personnel Planning Document was a result of the School District having received a new DODEA grant, which staff had discussed with the School Board at a previous session.

- A. Instructional/Professional

5. [Resignations/Retirements/Other](#)

- B. Educational Support Personnel

3. [Resignations/Retirements/Other](#)

There were no questions/concerns specific to the resignations/retirements as outlined in Item V.b.3.A.5 or V.b.3.B.3, but Mr. Fetsko did initiate a discussion regarding employee resignations, in general. That discussion segued into a conversation about the various reasons, both internal and external to the School District, which might cause an employee to the resign.

4. Operations

- A. Facilities Planning

2. Miscellaneous

- a. [Tentative Facilities Work Program \(Five Year Plan\)](#)

Mrs. Hightower advised that a public hearing on this item would be held at the November 19, 2019 Regular Meeting.

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

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

Mrs. Hightower advised that an amendment to this item was forthcoming to change the travel time and cost for a School Board Member's travel request.

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

4. Other Items

A. [Agreement for Legal Services Between The School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Beggs & Lane, RLLP and Frazer Law, PLC](#)

At the request of the Superintendent, representatives from Beggs & Lane, RLLP addressed the School Board regarding this retainer agreement in connection with litigation regarding vaping and the damages sustained by the School Board attributable to vaping by students and on school campuses. There were no concerns expressed by School Board Members about entering into this agreement.

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items submitted

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

1. [Final Order: DOAH Case No. 18-2270, Escambia County School Board vs. Justin Warren](#)

Mrs. Waters gave a brief explanation of this Final Order, which was prepared in response to a formal hearing held on October 9, 2019.

VII. [PUBLIC FORUM](#)

-No registration forms submitted

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:22 a.m. and reconvened at 10:32 a.m. with all School Board Members, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters present.

VIII. DISCUSSION ON APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT PROCESS

*-Brochure* – Board Members reviewed/discussed a document provided by Mrs. Hightower that outlined information/verbiage to be included in the Superintendent Search brochure. The Superintendent confirmed that students from the School District's digital academies would be competing on the brochure design/format, with the top three finalists receiving a cash prize from the Superintendent's Circle fund. Presentation of the Superintendent Search brochures would occur at the School Board's Regular Workshop in January 2020.

*-Input Sessions* – There was no report from either the November 13 Focus Group session with ESP employees or the November 14 Community Forum (Town Hall).

*-Challenges for District & Superintendent* – Discussion on this topic postponed to a future session.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair