

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

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)
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

Vice Chair Mr. Bill Slayton (District V) was not present.

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on January 27, 2020 – Legal No. [4020992](#)
Minutes prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m. She reminded those who wished to speak during public forum, to submit a registration form.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- [Pensacola High School Health Academy](#) – *Superintendent*
Students enrolled in the Health Academy at Pensacola High 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.*

-July 2020

July Workshops - Given that the School District would observe a four-day workweek during the summer, it was assumed that the Thursday, July 16 Special “Open Discussion” Workshop and the Friday, July 18 Regular Workshop sessions would be combined into one session on Thursday, July 16. Mrs. Hightower and the Superintendent expected their individual schedules might conflict with that date so there was mention of moving this combined workshop to Monday, July 20. This change in schedule was to be confirmed in March once all School Board Members were present.

July 28 Special Meeting/Public Hearing* – Mrs. Hightower thought it might be necessary to add discussion on the Superintendent search process to the agenda for the July 28 Special Meeting/Public Hearing. This matter was to be readdress in March once all School Board Members were present.

**To consider adoption of the 2020-2021 tentative millage and tentative budget.*

-September 2020

September 10 Special Meeting re: Annual Financial Report – There was mention of changing the time of this tentatively scheduled session from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. or 2:45 p.m., just prior to the 3:00 p.m. Special “Open Discussion” Workshop.

- Public Forum Update

The Superintendent advised there were no public speakers that required follow-up from the month of January.

- Update on Military Council – *Hightower*
(Previously discussed at the November 14, 2019 Special Workshop) The Superintendent updated the School Board on the creation of a webpage designed to provide important information for military families, with special emphasis on providing resources to military families transitioning into the Escambia County School District and highlighting opportunities for families considering a transfer to this area. The Superintendent also advised the School Board of the formation of a military council consisting of personnel and/or representatives from both the military and the School District. The Superintendent confirmed that the webpage and the council were structured essentially the same as those of Hillsborough County School District referenced during the November 14, 2019 Special Workshop.
- General Counsel Evaluation Update – *Hightower*
(Previously discussed at the January 17, 2020 Regular Workshop) School Board Members who were present elected to schedule a Special Workshop on March 12 to collectively evaluate Mrs. Waters’ performance in her role as the School Board’s General Counsel. That session would begin at 2:00 p.m., in the Director’s Conference Room, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive.
- Legislative Update – *Adams*
Mr. Adams provided a brief update on current legislative matters relevant to public education.
- Pleasant Grove Elementary Rebuild Financial Plan – *Superintendent*
Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent-Finance & Business Services, outlined the Superintendent’s recommended proposal for financing the Pleasant Grove Elementary rebuild.
- General Fund Balance Sheet Overview – *Superintendent*
Ms. Debbie Fussell, Director-Accounting Operations, provided a brief “training” for School Board Members regarding the various components of the School District’s General Fund balance sheet.
- Marketing Committee Presentation – *Superintendent*
Dr. Mona Amodeo, owner of the marketing firm *idgroup*, addressed the School Board regarding the process of creating, for the School District, a marketing/branding plan to enhance the School District’s reputation in the community. (*see*: Item V.b.2.E.23, Professional Services Agreement: Marketing Services – February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting agenda)
- G-Suite Migration – *Superintendent*
Staff from the School District’s Information Technology department gave a brief presentation regarding the School District’s upcoming migration from GroupWise to G-Suite.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

-Donna Harper, representing Escambia Education Association (EEA), registered to address the School Board regarding *5 Days of Activism for Public Schools Week* (February 24 through February 28).

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:05 p.m.