

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, APRIL 17, 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 April 7, 2020 – Legal No. [4138133](#)

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 9:10 a.m.

I. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent gave a brief update on the continued implementation of instructional activities via the School District's Educational Continuity Plan for distance learning. Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent-Finance & Business Services, provided the latest information on the budget. The Superintendent listed changes made to the April 21, 2020 Regular Meeting agenda made since initial publication and prior to this workshop session.

Calendar – Canceled: May 14 Special “Open Discussion” Workshop.

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

School Board Members discussed the following topics with Florida School Board's Association (FSBA) Superintendent Search Team [Andrea Messina, John Reichert, and Dr. Bill Vogel (all present via phone)]:

- [Additional Advertising Venues for Appointed Superintendent Search\\*](#)
- [Escambia County School Board Superintendent's Search Citizen Advisory Committee Resolution](#)
- [Timeline Update & Revisions](#)

\*Amendment forthcoming to clarify that the “Total cost reflects sixty (60) day advertisement on all venues.”

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m., with all School Board Members, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Waters.

II. MINUTES

d. [03-24-20 Regular Meeting](#)

Dr. Edler was to request at the April 21, 2020 Regular Meeting that the minutes from the March 24, 2020 Regular Meeting be revised as follows under Item V.a.2.A., *School Board Rule Chapter 1.06*: Dr. Edler believed this matter necessitated further study, ~~but chose not to make any motion and made a recommendation rather than a motion~~ regarding such.

III. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items submitted

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

-No items submitted

2. Permission to Advertise

a. [Approval to Advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to the School District of Escambia County, Florida Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#)

The Superintendent and his staff discussed additional changes to the Right and Responsibilities Handbook reflected in a forthcoming amendment to this item. Staff reviewed the specific changes to be made under Chapter 5: Student Conduct, Section E, Personal Property of Students and Chapter 7: Safe Schools, Section F, Interview of Students by Other Law Enforcement Officers (Not School Resource Officers). Discussion ensued amongst School Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff. There were no objections from the School Board regarding the additional changes.

b. [Approval to Advertise Notice of Intention to Rename the Ransom Middle School Innovation Center](#)

*Notice of Intention to Rename the Ransom Middle School Innovation Center the "Sandra Goldsby Ames Innovation Center."* Dr. Edler posed the following questions regarding this item: Was anyone else recommended? Had anyone from the School District spoken to the Ransom family regarding their feelings about this renaming? The Superintendent responded as follows: the name of Sandra Goldsby Ames was the only name proposed; and Ransom Middle had followed the steps outlined in the renaming process in terms of appropriate advertisement to the community and involvement of the Ransom Middle school advisory council.

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

-No items discussed

2. Finance and Business Services

C. Budgeting

2. [Resolutions to amend District School Budget:](#)

c. Resolution 7 – Capital Projects Fund

Upon inquiry by Mr. Fetsko, the Superintendent clarified that the \$307,787.19 transfer from *Reserve For Contingencies* to *Land Purchase* project, was used for the purchase of land for Escambia High School; a purchase which had been approved by the School Board at a previous meeting.

E. Purchasing

10. [Dell Chromebooks Refresh for Various Schools](#)

Mr. Slayton commended the School District for using money efficiently such that every school was able to receive Chromebooks.

13. [Annual Agreement: Professional Architectural Services](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, confirmed that the list of architectural firms included in the backup documentation for this item was not a comprehensive list of all architectural firms under annual contract with the School District.

21. [Bid Award: Ferry Pass Middle and Cordova Park Elementary Schools – Sitework](#)
22. [Bid Award: Oakcrest and Beulah Elementary Schools – Sitework](#)

Mr. Slayton asked that future executive summary sheets specify the project for each site.

3. Human Resource Services  
-No items discussed

4. Operations  
-No items discussed

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

1. [Additional Advertising Venues for Appointed Superintendent Search](#)  
-Addressed earlier in this session

2. [Escambia County School Board Superintendent’s Search Citizen Advisory Committee Resolution](#)  
-Addressed earlier in this session

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT  
-No items discussed

e. INTERNAL AUDITING  
-No items submitted

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL  
-No items submitted

VI. [PUBLIC FORUM](#)  
-No registration forms submitted

VII. DISCUSSION ON APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT  
-Addressed earlier in this session

VIII. ADJOURNMENT  
There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL