

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, APRIL 21, 2020

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Regular Meeting at 5:30 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) [*arrived at 5:40 p.m.*]

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on April 7, 2020 – Legal No. [4138133](#)  
NOTE: Minutes from this session have been prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

(NOTE: *It is the tradition of the Escambia County School Board to begin their business meeting with an invocation or motivational moment followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.*) Mr. Slayton asked everyone to join him in silent prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

b. Adoption of Agenda

The Superintendent listed all changes made to the agenda since initial publication. Mrs. Hightower advised that Florida Statutes and School Board Rule require that changes made to an agenda after publication be based on a finding of good cause, as determined by the person designated to preside over the meeting, and stated in the record. Mrs. Hightower called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the April 21, 2020 Regular Meeting, as amended for good cause. Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Adams, to adopt the agenda as amended, carried unanimously.

c. Committee/Departmental Reports

-No items submitted

II. [PUBLIC FORUM](#)

-No registration forms submitted

III. MINUTES

a. [03-12-20 Special Workshop](#) (2pm)

b. [03-12-20 Special Workshop](#) (3pm)

c. [03-13-20 Regular Workshop](#)

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

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to approve the minutes for the March 12, 2020 Special Workshop (2pm), March 12, 2020 Special Workshop (3pm), and March 13, 2020 Regular Workshop, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Adams and seconded by Mr. Slayton, to approve the minutes for the March 24, 2020 Regular Meeting. As discussed during the April 17, 2020 Regular Workshop, Dr. Edler requested the following revision 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. There was no objection to the requested revision. Motion to approve the minutes for the March 24, 2020 Regular Meeting, *as revised*, carried unanimously.

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](#)

Motion by Mr. Fetsko, seconded by Mr. Slayton, to advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to the School District of Escambia County, Florida Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (*as amended*), carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Adams, to advertise Notice of Intention to Rename the Ransom Middle School Innovation Center, carried unanimously.

b. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, carried unanimously.

1. Curriculum

A. Alternative Education

1. [Cooperative Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and AMIKids Pensacola, Inc. DBA Escambia Boys' Base](#)

2. [Contract for Educational Services Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Pace Center for Girls, Inc.](#)

3. [Memorandum of Understanding Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Pace Center for Girls, Inc.](#)

B. Continuous Improvement

1. [School Choice Student Transfers](#)

C. Elementary Education

-No items submitted

D. Evaluation Services

-No items submitted

E. Exceptional Student Education

1. [Cooperative Agreement Between Autism Pensacola and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)

2. [Contract Between Assistive Technology Services, Inc. and the School Board of Escambia County, Florida](#)

F. High School Education

-No items submitted

G. Middle School Education

-No items submitted

H. Professional Learning

-No items submitted

I. Student Services

-No items submitted

AMEND

- J. Title I  
-No items submitted
- K. Workforce Education  
-No items submitted
- L. Other  
-No items submitted
2. Finance and Business Services
- A. Finance
1. [Legal Services – General Fund](#)
    - a. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 175.00
    - b. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 2,590.00
    - c. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 122.50
    - d. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 3,605.00
    - e. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 140.00
    - f. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 140.00
    - g. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 105.00
    - h. Carver, Darden, Koretzky, Tessier, Finn, Blossman & Areaux LLC \$ 385.00
    - i. Resolutions in Special Education \$ 703.00
  2. [Legal Services - Risk Management Fund](#)
    - a. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 3,867.50
  3. [Statement from Florida School Boards Association for 2020-2021 annual dues](#)
- B. Accounting Operations
1. [Check Register for March 2020](#)
- C. Budgeting
1. [Recap of General Fund Reserves \(Non-Categorical\)](#)
  2. [Resolutions to amend District School Budget:](#)
    - a. Resolution 7 – General Operating Fund
    - b. Resolution 7 – Special Revenue – Federal Program
    - c. Resolution 7 – Capital Projects Fund
    - d. No item submitted – Special Revenue - Food Service Fund
    - e. No item submitted – Debt Service Fund
  3. [Scrap List 1 for April 2020](#)
  4. [Auction List 1 for April 2020](#)
  5. [Financial Statements by Fund](#)
- D. Payroll and Benefits Accounting
1. [Financial Status Report: Employee Benefit Trust Fund](#)
- E. Purchasing
- ITEMS PREPARED BY PURCHASING:*
1. [Bid Award: Breakfast and Lunch Entrees, Bid #201502](#)
  2. [Bid Renewal: Travel Agency Services, RFP #153303](#)
  3. [Annual Agreement Renewal: Agriculture Education Services and Technology](#)
  4. [Bid Renewal: Security and Crossing Guard Services, RFP #170603](#)
  5. [Drug Screening Services](#)
  6. [Family Engagement Reading and Math Packs for Title I Schools](#)
  7. [Office and Art Supplies](#)
  8. [Dell Equipment for Bellview Middle School](#)
  9. [Dell Networking Equipment](#)
  10. [Dell Chromebooks Refresh for Various Schools](#)
  11. [Change Notice #1 to Increase Purchase Order #6332000010 – School Psychologist Services](#)
  12. [Annual Agreement Amendment: Group Medical Benefits \(Including Prescription Drugs\)](#)
- ITEMS PREPARED BY FACILITIES PLANNING:*
13. [Annual Agreement: Professional Architectural Services](#)

14. [Annual Agreement: Professional Civil Engineering Services](#)
15. [Annual Agreement: Professional Electrical Engineering Services](#)
16. [Annual Agreement: Professional Mechanical Engineering Services](#)
17. [Annual Agreement: Professional Land Surveying Services](#)
18. [Annual Agreement: Professional Roofing Consultant Services](#)
19. [Annual Agreement: Professional Structural Engineering Services](#)
20. [Architectural/Engineering Services for Ensley Elementary School Central Plant and Media Center HVAC Upgrade](#)
21. [Bid Award: Ferry Pass Middle and Cordova Park Elementary Schools – Sitework](#)
22. [Bid Award: Oakcrest and Beulah Elementary Schools – Sitework](#)
23. [Bid Award: Tate High School Band Building HVAC Replacement](#)
24. [Bid Award: Warrington Middle School – Sitework](#)
25. [Change Notice #3 to Purchase Order #5421900184 – Tate High School Press Box](#)
26. [Roof Coating for Scenic Heights Elementary School – Buildings 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5](#)

3. Human Resource Services

A. Instructional/Professional

1. [Appointments](#)
2. Reappointments  
-No items submitted
3. Transfers  
-No items submitted
4. Out-of-Field  
-No items submitted
5. [Resignations/Retirements/Other](#)
6. [Leaves of Absence](#)
7. Special Requests
  - a. [Approve the following job descriptions on the Professional Salary Schedule, effective July 1, 2020:](#)  
Confidential Medicaid Administrative Specialist  
Manager – Senior Route
  - b. [Approve the 2020-2021 Department Personnel Planning Document](#)

AMEND

AMEND

B. Educational Support Personnel

1. [Appointments](#)
2. [Temporary Promotions](#)
3. [Resignations/Retirements/Other](#)
4. [Terminations](#)
5. [Leaves of Absence](#)
6. Special Requests
  - a. [For Board Information: Report the death of Janet M. McCall, School Bus Assistant, Transportation Services, on February 10, 2020](#)

C. Risk Management

1. [Campus Security Resident Lease – Ensley Elementary School](#)
2. [Auto Liability Settlement](#)

ADD

D. Employee Services

1. [Memorandum of Understanding between the Escambia County School District, the Escambia Education Association, and the Union of Escambia Education Staff Professionals relating to evaluations for the 2019-2020 school year](#)
2. [Memorandum of Understanding between the Escambia County School District and the Union of Escambia Educational Staff Professionals relating to a bonus for cafeteria workers scheduled to report to sites during the Instructional Continuity Plan](#)

E. Affirmative Action

- No items submitted

4. Operations
  - A. Facilities Planning
    1. Final Payments
      - a. [N.B. Cook Elementary School Reroofing](#)
    2. Miscellaneous
      - a. [Architectural/Engineering Services for Tate High School – Agriscience Building](#)
  - B. School Food Services
    1. [Cooperative Agreement for Donation of Leftover Food Items between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Ebonwood Community Center](#)
  - C. Maintenance and Custodial Services
 

-No items submitted
  - D. Transportation
 

-No items submitted
  - E. Central Warehouse
 

-No items submitted
  - F. Information Technology
 

-No items submitted
  - G. Protection Services
 

-No items submitted
  - H. Energy Management
 

-No items submitted

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

AMEND

1. [Additional Advertising Venues for Appointed Superintendent Search](#)  
 Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve Item V.c.1., *Additional Advertising Venues for Appointed Superintendent Search* (as amended), carried unanimously.
2. [Escambia County School Board Superintendent’s Search Citizen Advisory Committee Resolution](#)  
 Motion was made by Mr. Adams and seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to approve Item V.c.2., *Escambia County School Board Superintendent’s Search Citizen Advisory Committee Resolution*.  
 Ms. Sheila Romaine registered to address the School Board regarding this matter. She asked that a decision on this item be postponed allowing time for School Board Members to reconsider some of their appointments to the Superintendent’s Search Citizen Advisory Committee. Several School Board Members responded.  
 Motion to approve Item V.c.2., *Escambia County School Board Superintendent’s Search Citizen Advisory Committee Resolution*, carried unanimously.

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. Administrative Appointments
 

No items submitted
  2. Student Discipline
    - A. [Disciplinary Reassignments](#)  
 Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Adams, to accept the Superintendent’s recommendations for student discipline as outlined in Item V.d.2.A., *Disciplinary Reassignments*, carried unanimously.
    - B. [Expulsions](#)  
 Motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Slayton, to accept the Superintendent’s recommendations for student discipline as outlined in Item V.d.2.B., *Expulsions*, carried 4 to 1, with Dr. Edler voting “No.”
1. Recommend that consistent with the decision of the due process committee, student discipline number 20-161-281 be expelled from all public schools of Escambia County for the remainder

of the 2019-2020 school year with the option to enroll, if qualified and if space is available, in an alternative educational program exclusive of regular school placement. Placement to be at the discretion of the Superintendent and to be available as an alternative during the full expulsion time frame.

2. Recommend that consistent with the decision of the due process committee, student discipline number 20-162-281 be expelled from all public schools of Escambia County for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year with the option to enroll, if qualified and if space is available, in an alternative educational program exclusive of regular school placement. Placement to be at the discretion of the Superintendent and to be available as an alternative during the full expulsion time frame.

3. Employee Discipline

-No items submitted

4. Other Items

- A. Recommend that employee #0000017573 is suspended without pay beginning Wednesday, April 22, 2020, based on conduct as more specifically identified in the notice letter to the employee.

Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation as outlined in Item V.d.4.A, carried unanimously.

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items submitted

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair