

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, OCTOBER 15, 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)  
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  
Superintendent of Schools (Incoming): Dr. Timothy A. Smith

Advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on September 25, 2020 – Legal No. [4388027](#)  
*General discussion occurred throughout this session amongst School Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff.*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Hightower called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. DISCUSSION:

Escambia High School Digital Design Academy

Students enrolled in the Digital Design Academy at Escambia High School, provided a virtual presentation regarding their experiences in this program.

Calendar

*October 2020* – No changes to the remaining schedule of workshops/meetings for October 2020.

*November 2020* – No changes to the current schedule of workshops/meetings for November 2020. Mrs. Hightower noted that the School Board designate their schedule of regular monthly workshops and meeting at the November 17, 2020 Installation Ceremony & Organizational Meeting. She asked School Board Members to be ready to discuss that matter at the November 12, 2020 Special “Open Discussion” Workshop.

Public Forum Update

-None

Capacity Issues in High Growth Areas

Mr. Adams initiated a discussion regarding school capacity issues in high growth areas such as District I and District V. (*Digital maps were projected for visual reference.*) There was much discussion as to Escambia County’s deliberations regarding the utilization of the acreage formerly known as Outlying Field (OLF) 8. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted on behalf of the School Board and School District requesting inclusion as partners in Escambia County’s design and review committee; and requesting that reasonable acreage set aside be included in the plan for the purpose of constructing a 1200 student school (cost to be borne entirely by the School District).

Legislative Items

Mr. Adams invited Mr. Rob Doss, retired Director-Transportation, to discuss continued efforts to see an improvement to Florida’s hazardous walking conditions criteria and higher prioritization of funding at the state and local levels for safe walking infrastructure.

Board Attorney: Internal/External

School Board Members agreed to schedule a Special Workshop for November 12, 2020, beginning at 1:00 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive. Purpose: *To discuss matters related to the vacant General Counsel position.*

Superintendent Transition Update

Update provided by Dr. Timothy A. Smith regarding various aspects of his transition, thus far, into the position of Superintendent of Schools. (*Transition period: October 5, 2020 through November 16, 2020*)

Professional Development Plan

-Presentation narrated by Brian Alaback, Director-Professional Learning

Hurricane Sally Restoration/Recovery Update

-Topic postponed to October 16, 2020 Regular Workshop

III. PUBLIC FORUM

-No registration forms submitted

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL