

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 10, 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

Not present: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters, School Board General Counsel

Advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on August 17, 2020 – Legal No. [4331327](#)
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:

- Calendar

August 13, 2020 through October 20, 2020 – reviewed [calendar](#).

Scheduled: October 2, 2020 Special Meeting, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Superintendent's Conference Room, at the Dr. Vernon McDaniel Building, 75 North Pace Boulevard. Purpose: To consider approval of out-of-field teachers prior to October FTE survey.

- Public Forum Update

-None

- Legal Services for the School Board – Hightower

It was noted that Mrs. Waters would remain on leave through end of September. Discussion about whether to extend the current contract with Mrs. Waters would occur in October.

- Guidelines that Control the Performance of Bands at Football Games – Hightower/Slayton

Ms. Angela Barberi, Fine Arts Specialist, shared information with the School Board taken directly from the Fine Arts portion of the School District's Reopening Plan outlining the "guidelines" concerning band performance at football games: http://ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com/reopening_faq#band

- Quarantine Letter to Parents – Slayton

It was noted that a local online media site had published a "quarantine" letter issued by Ransom Middle School on August 27, 2020, which read as follows: *Someone from your student's classroom has reported testing positive for COVID-19. The Center for Disease Prevention and Control recommends that people who have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 quarantine for 14 days after possible exposure. The last exposure was 8/27/20. Therefore, your student will need to go home today and not return until 9/14/20. (Administrators will be contacting you to discuss remote options.) We encourage your student to quarantine from others and self-monitor for any symptoms during this time. If you have health-related questions, please contact your healthcare provider or the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County at 850-595-6500.* The Superintendent and Ms. Vicki Gibowski, Director-Middle School Education confirmed there was a mistake in that particular letter with regard to the dates of

quarantine (return date should have been 9/11/20). Parents/guardians were notified of the error on the evening the letter was issued and were informed of the correct return date. Ms. Martha Hanna, Coordinator-Health Services will now provide schools the specific dates to include in their “quarantine” letters. Because the letter was published on a local online media site, it received the attention of many readers and resulted in unnecessary confusion given that the situation had already been rectified.

At this time, there was discussion about the possibility of creating an online dashboard, similar to that of St. John’s County School District, to keep parents and staff informed of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

- Marketing Services Update – *Superintendent*

Representatives from idgroup addressed the “scope of work” associated with an agreement for marketing services, approved by the School Board at the August 18, 2020 Regular Meeting: Item V.b.2.E.12., Professional Services Agreement: Marketing Services (Initial agreement with idgroup was approved at the February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting: Item V.b.2.E.23., Professional Services Agreement: Marketing Services). To ensure that School Board Members remained aware of the process, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, was asked to provide monthly updates to the School Board.

- 2020-2021 School Year Update – *Superintendent*

School Board Members received data from the first few weeks of the 2020-2021 school year, including: student enrollment figures, percentage of student’s participating in the various learning models (traditional, remote, and virtual), number students/employees excluded from school/work due to COVID-19, number of students/employees, number of students/employees quarantined at home due to close contact with COVID-19.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

The following individual registered to address the School Board:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Special Problem/Issue*</u>
Darzell Warren, Escambia Education Association	Accountability (attendance) Traditional, Remote, Virtual Cutoff Date

**As specified by the individual on registration form submitted to the School Board.*

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

