

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, AUGUST 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)
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) – *entered at 3:05 p.m.*

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas – *entered at 3:25 p.m.*

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

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on August 3, 2020 – Legal No. [4305947](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Calendar

August 13, 2020 through October 20, 2020 - reviewed [calendar](#); no changes.

September 10, 2020 Special School Board Meeting – There was consensus to add for discussion, the *Agreement between the Escambia County School Board and Donna Sessions Waters, Esquire*, which was set to expire on June 30, 2021.

- Public Forum Update

-No update necessary as the Superintendent and his staff had responded to public forum issues/concerns during the July 21, 2020 Regular Meeting.

- Joint Military Council Update – *Fetsko*

The School Board received an update from the July 30, 2020 organizational meeting of the Escambia County School District and Naval Air Station Pensacola Joint Military Council. The Council's first public meeting scheduled for September 3, 2020, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center.

Email Concerns on Technical Devices – *Slayton*

In response to concerns expressed by Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent and Mr. Tom Ingram, Director-Information Technology (IT), advised that any employee of the School Board or School District could obtain technology support from the IT way of a [web form](#), an email request (support@ecsd.zendesk), or by phone (850-462-9493).

- District Communication with Parents Regarding COVID 19 and School Events – *Hightower*
In response to concerns expressed by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent confirmed that reopening information was accessible via link (<http://escambiaschools.org/reopening>) from the home page of the School District website. He was to confirm that each school’s webpage also included a link to that information.

- Update on Legal Services – *Hightower*
(Previously discussed at the July 20, 2020 Regular Workshop) Mrs. Hightower advised the School Board that Mrs. Waters would remain on leave through the end of August. Mrs. Hightower also advised that Mrs. Waters had offered to work from home; however, School Board Members did not wish to grant her the ability to do so. There was discussion about the possibility of retaining separate counsel to represent the School Board while Mrs. Waters remained on leave. Currently, the Superintendent’s counsel, Mr. Joseph L. Hammons, was also providing counsel for the School Board; however, should a conflict arise between the School Board and Superintendent, the School Board would need to obtain separate counsel for the School Board for that matter.

- Turnaround School Supplemental Services Allocation (TSSSA) Update – *Superintendent*
Ms. Jennifer Montoya, Specialist-Continuous Improvement & School Choice, provided a brief update regarding House Bill 7070, Turnaround School Supplemental Services Allocation (TSSSA) 2020-2021.

- Professional Development for Remote/Virtual Instruction – *Superintendent*
Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent-Curriculum & Instruction, gave a brief update on the various professional development opportunities the School District continued to provide with regard to remote/virtual instruction. He encouraged School Board Members to check out the Professional Learning Department’s webpage, which included links to the Remote Learning Professional Development website and ECSD New Teacher Resource website.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

-No registration forms submitted

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, the Superintendent responded to Mr. Slayton’s inquiry regarding the fall sports schedule. The Superintendent advised that staff would provide School Board Members with a briefing shortly after the August 14, 2020 meeting of the Florida High School Athletic Association.

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 4:45 p.m.