

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, AUGUST 14, 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

*Also present: Mr. Joseph L. Hammons, Esquire - Hammons Law Firm*

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

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

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 9:00 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent and/or his staff briefed the School Board on the following:

Intent to Return: Traditional, Remote Learning, Virtual School, Unknown ([data as of August 13, 2020](#))

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items submitted

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

-No items discussed

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

-No items discussed

2. Finance and Business Services

-No items discussed

3. Human Resource Services

There were no questions specific to the items submitted under Human Resource Services; however, Mr. Keith Leonard, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resource Services, was asked for a comparison of resignations/retirements and leaves of absence from last year to current.

A. Instructional/Professional

7. Special Requests

- a. [For Board Information: Report the death of Charlene U. Pinto, Administrative Specialist – School Food Services at District Office Food Services, on July 17, 2020](#)

Mr. Fetsko asked those in attendance to join in a moment of silence in remembrance of Ms. Pinto.

4. Operations

A. Facilities Planning

2. Miscellaneous

- a. [Deed of Conservation Easement – Pleasant Grove Elementary School Replacement](#)  
b. [Hold Harmless Agreement – Pensacola High School](#)

Mrs. Hightower advised that this particular agreement was not in typical format, given it did not originate from the School Board's legal office.

B. School Food Services

There were no questions specific to the items submitted under Operations, Section B, School Food Services; however, Ms. Jaleena Davis, Director-Food Services, was asked to update the School Board on how the School District is handling school meals for distance learners.

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

1. Selection of Appointed Superintendent Finalists

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

-No items submitted

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items submitted

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

VII. [PUBLIC FORUM](#)

-No registration forms submitted

VIII. APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT DISCUSSION

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 speakerphone)]:

1. Discuss the method/process for the selection of finalists.
2. Review areas that are assigned to the Board members for finalists' questions.
3. [Discuss contract development and contract negotiation process](#)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 11:25 a.m.