The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special 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)

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Not present: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters, School Board General Counsel  
Also present: Mr. Joseph L. Hammons, Esquire - Hammons Law Firm

Meeting advertised in the Pensacola News Journal on August 17, 2020 – Legal No. 4331327

I. CALL TO ORDER
   Mrs. Hightower called the Special Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
   a. Pledge of Allegiance
      Mrs. Hightower led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
   b. Adoption of Agenda
      Motion by Mr. Slayton, seconded by Mr. Adams, to adopt the agenda, carried unanimously.

II. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD
1. Discussion of Appointed Superintendent Finalists
   The following individual registered to address the School Board regarding this matter:
      Jennifer Grov
      Mrs. Hightower advised that finalist Keith Rittel had withdrawn himself from consideration for the position. Throughout this session, School Board Members engaged in discussion regarding each of the remaining finalists: Dr. Earl Johnson, Dr. Timothy Smith, and Keith Leonard.

2) Selection of Appointed Superintendent
   Motion made by Mr. Adams and seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to offer the position of Superintendent to Keith Leonard, and authorize the Chair and Counsel to begin contract negotiations, failed 3 to 2, with Mr. Slayton, Mrs. Hightower, and Dr. Edler voting “No.”
   Motion made by Mr. Slayton and seconded by Mrs. Hightower, to offer the position of Superintendent to Dr. Timothy Smith, carried 3 to 2, with Mr. Adams and Dr. Edler voting “No.”
   There was a brief recess during which Mrs. Hightower contacted Dr. Smith to confirm his acceptance of the School Board’s offer. Motion was then made by Mr. Slayton and seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to authorize the Chair and Counsel to begin contract negotiations. Motion carried 4 to 1, with Dr. Edler voting “No.”
III. PUBLIC FORUM
   - No registration forms submitted

IV. ADJOURNMENT
   There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned 6:54 p.m.

   Attest:                                               Approved:

   ________________________________________________  ____________________________
   Superintendent                                      Chair