

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JULY 15, 2021

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: Mr. William E. Slayton (District V)
Vice Chair: Mr. Kevin L. Adams (District I) – *entered at 9:10 a.m.*
Board Members: Mr. Paul Fetsko (District II)
Dr. Laura Dortch Edler (District III)
Mrs. Patricia Hightower (District IV)

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Ellen D. Odom

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Timothy A. Smith

Advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on June 16, 2021 – Legal No. 4782743

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Slayton called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:02 a.m.

The School Board and Superintendent presented a certificate in special recognition of Mrs. Leola Smith, retired teacher and librarian, who celebrated her 99th birthday on July 4, 2021. Mrs. Smith served the Escambia County School District for 35 years before retiring in May 1986. Mr. Adams entered at 9:10 a.m. immediately following this recognition.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Calendar

There were no changes to the remaining schedule of workshops/meetings for July.
There were no changes to the current schedule of workshops/meetings for August or September.
There was no review of the schedule of workshops/meetings for October.
The School Board made the following changes to the schedule for November:
Canceled: November 11 Special “Open Discussion” Workshop (due to Veteran’s Day holiday)
Rescheduled: November 12 Regular Workshop to November 15, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive (agenda to include “open discussion” segment)
Scheduled: November 16 Organizational Meeting, beginning at 5:00 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive.

- Public Forum Update

The Superintendent provided updates on issues addressed by the following individuals who addressed the School Board during the June 15, 2021 Regular Meeting:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Brian Tilton | Issue: Sending immune students home due to COVID exposure |
| Darzell Warren | Issue: ARP/ESSER Funds |

- School Board Travel Requests FY 2021-2022 – Slayton

School Board Members were asked to submit their travel requests (both in state and out-of-state) for fiscal year 2021-2022 for placement on the August 17, 2021 Regular Meeting agenda.

- Employee Access to Sporting Events – Hightower

Ms. Lesa Morgan, Director-High School Education and Casey Thiele, District Athletic Director, responded to questions and comments from Mrs. Hightower regarding the School District’s move to a

digital ticketing solution for access to sporting events. Several School Board Members expressed that they would like General Counsel to review the agreement/contract with Go Fan and to respond to the question of denying access to someone who chooses not to participate in the cashless system, but would prefer to use cash instead.

- Portable Classrooms – Adams

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, responded to questions and comments from Mr. Adams regarding portable classrooms.

- Interlocal Agreement, Infrastructure & Growth – Adams

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, responded to questions and comments from Mr. Adams regarding interlocal agreement, infrastructure and growth.

- Update on Pleasant Grove Elementary – Fetsko

At the request of Mr. Fetsko, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, provided an update on the construction projection at Pleasant Grove Elementary.

- Substitute Teacher Pilot Program Update – Superintendent

The following individuals provided an update on the Substitute Teacher Pilot Program: Courtney Combs, Human Resource Coordinator, Ms. Lesa Morgan, Director-High School Education, and Ms. Connie Farrish, Director-Elementary School Education.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:57 a.m. and reconvened at 11:07 a.m., with all School Board Members, the Superintendent, and Mrs. Odom present.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent-Finance & Business Services, provided a brief update on the 2021-2022 budget.

IV. MINUTES

-No items discussed

V. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items discussed

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

-No items discussed

2. Permission to Advertise

-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

I. Student Services

2. Escambia County School District Mental Health Allocation Plan 2021-2022

There were no concerns regarding this particular item; however, several School Board Members took a moment to thank Dr. Lisa Joyner, Director-Student Services and her staff for their work on this plan.

2. Finance and Business Services

-No items discussed

3. Human Resource Services

-No items discussed

4. Operations

-No items discussed

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

1. Selection of School Board Member to Serve on the Early Learning Coalition

Dr. Edler advised that she would resign as the School Board's representative to the Early Learning Coalition, as she had been unable to fulfill that commitment due to scheduling conflicts. Selection of another School Board Member to serve on the Early Learning Coalition would occur at the July 20, 2021 Regular Meeting.

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

-No items discussed

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items submitted

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

1. Appointment of Hearing Officer

Mrs. Odom advised that an advertisement for hearing officers was published; however, given there were no responses to that advertisement, she reached out to Ms. Tracy Robinson-Coffee, who agreed to serve. A copy of Ms. Robinson-Coffee's application was to be posted to the July 20, 2021 Regular Meeting agenda.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

-No registration forms submitted

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, the School Board and Superintendent discussed several topics, including:

- Recent State Board of Education meeting regarding Warrington Middle School
- Florida School Boards Association – Legislative Platform: Mr. Adams would submit this as a topic for the August 12, 2021 Special Workshop. The deadline for submissions to the FSBA Legislative Platform is September 1, 2021.

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:40 p.m.