

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, JANUARY 19, 2021

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Regular 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: Mr. William E. Slayton (District V)
Board Members: Mr. Paul Fetsko (District II)
Dr. Laura Dortch Edler (District III)
Mrs. Patricia Hightower (District IV)

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Timothy A. Smith

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

Not present: Mr. Kevin L. Adams, Vice Chair (District I)

Advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on January 4, 2021 – Legal No. [4505107](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Slayton called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

a. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

(NOTE: *It is the tradition of the Escambia County School Board to begin their business meeting with an invocation or motivational moment followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.*) Mrs. Hightower called for a moment of silence honoring victims of COVID-19. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

b. Adoption of Agenda

Superintendent Smith listed all changes made to the agenda since initial publication and prior to this meeting. *In addition, he advised of the need to correct a Scrivener's error on Item I.c.3, *Escambia Literacy Ambassador Resolution*. Mr. Slayton advised that Florida Statutes and School Board Rule require that changes made to an agenda after publication be based on a finding of good cause, as determined by the person designated to preside over the meeting, and stated in the record. Motion by Mrs. Hightower, seconded by Dr. Edler, to adopt the agenda *as amended*, carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Adams absent for vote.

c. Committee/Departmental Reports

1. PTA Presentation

Representatives of Escambia County Council PTA (ECCPTA) addressed the School Board regarding the recent and upcoming activities of the ECCPTA.

2. Stellar Employee of the Month

Ms. Cathy Finch, Administrative Clerk at Bellview Elementary School, was recognized as the Escambia County School District's Stellar Employee for the month of January.

CORRECT*

3. [Escambia Literacy Ambassador Resolution](#)

Superintendent Smith read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Mr. Sandy Sansing has been a dedicated advocate for student achievement and success through his myriad sponsorship efforts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sansing's deep commitment to the entire educational community is evidenced by his extensive service and participation in numerous endeavors, including Cram the Van, the Golden Apple Awards, and Take Stock in Children Scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sansing has sponsored the Sandy Sansing Spelling Bee for more than four decades, awarding thousands of dollars in prizes to deserving students and championing classroom literacy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sansing's on-going support of public education has helped the Escambia County School District succeed in its mission to provide an environment that creates opportunities for all students to achieve their highest potential while building a foundation for continuous learning; and

WHEREAS, the Escambia County School District does hereby observe January 25-29, 2021 as *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida*; and

WHEREAS, because spelling knowledge facilitates reading and writing, the Escambia County School District designates January 27, 2021 as "*Words that Wow Wednesday*"; and

WHEREAS, Escambia County schools will host spelling bees this year, commemorating Sandy Sansing's 45th year of continued support and commitment to literacy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Escambia County, Florida, does now publicly recognize, thank, and commend Mr. Sandy Sansing for his long-standing initiatives aligned to strengthen student literacy in Escambia County and the surrounding areas by declaring him the first "Escambia Literacy Ambassador."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this proclamation be spread upon the minutes of the regular meeting of said Board and that a copy be tendered to Mr. Sandy Sansing, Lisa Marsh, English Language Arts Specialist and Jessica Rowell, English Language Arts Specialist.

Motion by Mrs. Hightower, seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to adopt a resolution declaring Mr. Sandy Sansing the first "Escambia Literacy Ambassador," carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Adams absent for vote. It was noted that this resolution would be formally presented to the Mr. Sandy Sansing during the February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting.

4. [National FFA Week Resolution](#)

Superintendent Smith read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is an organization of more than seven hundred thousand students studying agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education at the local, state, and national level; and

WHEREAS, nationally more than seventy-five percent of FFA members enroll in a two-year or four-year program of higher education following graduation from high school in preparation for one of the more than three hundred career opportunities in agriculture, which include more than eight thousand job titles; and

WHEREAS, Florida agriculture represents a two hundred twenty-billion-dollar industry within the State of Florida and serves as an economic engine for the state economy, while nationally, agriculture employs over eleven percent of the national workforce; and

WHEREAS, the FFA motto, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve" epitomizes those high standards and qualities of leadership possessed by FFA members; and

WHEREAS, the Escambia County FFA and the agriscience education programs in the Escambia County School District are tremendously successful and extremely valuable in improving the quality of life for Escambia County citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Escambia County FFA Programs recognize the observance of National FFA Week, February 20-27, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Escambia County, Florida, does hereby recognize and commend Escambia County FFA Organization members, their advisors,

school administrators, parents, and all who support, promote, and encourage these students of agricultural education as we celebrate the observance of National FFA Week, February 20-27, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the regular meeting of said Board and that a copy be tendered to Mr. Steven T. Harrell, Director, Workforce Education.

Motion by Mr. Fetsko, seconded by Mrs. Hightower, to adopt a resolution observing National FFA Week, February 20-27, 2021, carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Adams absent for vote.

5. Career and Technical Education Month Resolution

Superintendent Smith read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, profound economic and technological changes require workers who are trained in skilled professions; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education ensures that competitive and skilled workers are ready, willing, and capable of performing in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of career and technical educators, businesses, and industry stimulate the growth and vitality of our local, state, and national economies by preparing graduates for careers that are forecast to experience the largest and fastest growth in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education provides students with a school-to-career connection, helping students experience practical and meaningful applications of a variety of skills; and

WHEREAS, sixty-six percent of Escambia County School District middle school students and sixty-six percent of high school students are enrolled in a career academy; and

WHEREAS, six hundred eighty-nine students are enrolled in George Stone Technical College for adult education and career certificate programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Escambia County, Florida does hereby observe the month of February, 2021 as

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the regular meeting of said Board and that a copy be tendered to Mr. Steven T. Harrell, Director, Workforce Education.

Motion by Mrs. Hightower, seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to adopt a resolution observing the month of February 2021 as Career and Technical Education Month, carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Adams absent for vote.

II. PUBLIC FORUM

The following individuals registered to address the School Board during Public Forum:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Special Problem/Issue**</u>
Laura Hobbs, Escambia County School Librarian Association	FL House Bill 641
Vera Wiley	<i>Yielded time to Laura Hobbs</i>
Dawn Merritt	<i>Yielded time to Laura Hobbs</i>
Nikki Cole	
John Cole	<i>Yielded time to Nikki Cole</i>
Patricia Rockwell	
David Elzbeck, Union of ESP	<i>Yielded time to Patricia Rockwell</i>
Lisette Guttery	
Frances Hinely	Veteran Teacher Pay
Cheryl Ziegler	
Carol Cleaver, Escambia Education Association (EEA)	Legislative Delegation
Stacy Cihak	Pay Raises
Dorie Nickerson	Bargaining Impasse

Natasha Davis
Chelsea Alberda
Alex Rigsby
Cheri Stoker

FSA Testing Concerns
EEA Salary Negotiations

Teacher Raises

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

III. MINUTES

- a. [12-10-20 Special Workshop](#)
- b. [12-11-20 Regular Workshop](#)
- c. [12-15-20 Regular Meeting](#)

Motion by Mr. Fetsko, seconded by Mrs. Hightower, to approve the minutes as listed (Items a through c), carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Adams absent for vote.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

A. [Resolution to Rename the football field at J.M. Tate High School the Carl Madison Field](#)

Motion made by Mr. Fetsko and seconded by Mrs. Hightower, to adopt a resolution to rename the football field at J.M. Tate High School the Carl Madison Field. Mr. Slayton called for public hearing; however, no individuals requested to speak. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Adams absent for vote.

B. [Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to the District School Board: Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures \(SP&P\)](#)

Motion made by Mr. Fetsko and seconded by Mrs. Hightower, to adopt amendments to the District School Board: Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures (SP&P). Mr. Slayton called for public hearing; however, no individuals requested to speak. Motion carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Adams absent for vote.

2. Permission to Advertise

A. [The School Board of Escambia County, Florida Notice of Intent to Advertise Naming the Sports Complex at Pensacola High School the David M. Williams Sports Complex](#)

Motion by Mrs. Hightower, seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to approve Notice of Intent to Advertise Naming the Sports Complex at Pensacola High School the David M. Williams Sports Complex, carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Adams absent for vote.

AMEND

b. CONSENT AGENDA

School Board Members pulled no items from the Consent Agenda for separate vote. Motion by Mr. Fetsko, seconded by Mrs. Hightower, to approve the Consent Agenda (*as amended*), carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Adams absent for vote.

1. Curriculum

A. Alternative Education

-No items submitted

B. Continuous Improvement

1. [School Choice Student Transfers](#)

C. Elementary Education

-No items submitted

- D. Evaluation Services
 - No items submitted
 - E. Exceptional Student Education
 - 1. [Transportation Reimbursement Request](#)
 - F. High School Education
 - No items submitted
 - G. Middle School Education
 - No items submitted
 - H. Professional Learning
 - No items submitted
 - I. Student Services
 - No items submitted
 - J. Title I
 - No items submitted
 - K. Workforce Education
 - 1. [Interlocal Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Escambia County, Florida](#)
 - L. Other
 - No items submitted
2. Finance and Business Services
- A. Finance
 - 1. [Legal Services – General Fund](#)
 - a. Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell \$ 1,009.47
 - b. Carver, Darden, Koretzky, Tessier, Finn, Blossman & Areaux LLC \$ 997.50
 - 2. Legal Services - Risk Management Fund – No item submitted
 - 3. [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report \(CAFR\) of the District School Board of Escambia County, Florida for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020](#)
 - 4. [Escambia County School District Charter School Audit Reports for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020](#)
 - 5. [The Escambia County Public Schools Foundation for Excellence, Inc. Audit Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020](#)
 - B. Accounting Operations
 - 1. [Check Register for December 2020](#)
 - C. Budgeting
 - 1. [Recap of General Fund Reserves \(Non-Categorical\)](#)
 - 2. [Resolutions to amend District School Budget:](#)
 - a. Resolution 4 – General Operating Fund
 - b. Resolution 4 – Special Revenue – Federal Program
 - c. Resolution 4 – Capital Projects Fund
 - d. No item submitted – Special Revenue - Food Service Fund
 - e. No item submitted – Debt Service Fund
 - f. Resolution 4 – Cares Act Fund
 - 3. [Scrap List I and II for January 2021](#)
 - 4. Auction List I – No item submitted
 - 5. [Financial Statements by Fund](#)
 - D. Payroll and Benefits Accounting
 - 1. [Financial Status Report: Employee Benefit Trust Fund](#)
 - E. Purchasing
 - ITEMS PREPARED BY PURCHASING:*
 - 1. [Bid Award: Ala Carte Snacks and Beverages for Direct Delivery to School Cafeterias, Bid #210802](#)
 - 2. [E-Rate RFP Award: Campus Edge Switches and Supporting Equipment](#)
 - 3. [E-Rate RFP Award: WLAN Access Points and Supporting Equipment](#)

4. [E-Rate RFP Award: UPS Systems and Supporting Equipment](#)
5. [E-Rate RFP Award: Campus Core Switches and Supporting Equipment](#)
6. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #6422100059 - Software Licenses for Middle School Certification Programs](#)
7. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #6242100011 – Speech Language Pathologist Services](#)
ITEMS PREPARED BY FACILITIES PLANNING:
8. [Bid Award: Tate High School – Stadium Structural Repairs](#)
9. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #5422000111 – Warrington Middle School – Locker Rooms and Chiller Plant HVAC Renovations](#)
10. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #5422100023 – N.B. Cook Elementary School – Building Envelope Repair](#)
11. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #5422100065 – C.A. Weis Elementary School – Roof Replacement](#)
12. [Change Notice #2 to Purchase Order #5422000034 – Tate High School Chiller Plant](#)
13. [Bid Award: Tate High School – Gymnasium and ROTC HVAC Replacements](#)
14. [Student Furniture for Holm Elementary School](#)

ADD

3. Human Resource Services
 - A. Instructional/Professional
 1. [Appointments](#)
 2. Reappointments
-No items submitted
 3. Transfers
-No items submitted
 4. Out-of-Field
-No items submitted
 5. [Resignations/Retirements/Other](#)
 6. [Leaves of Absence](#)
 7. Special Requests
-No items submitted
 - B. Educational Support Personnel
 1. [Appointments](#)
 2. Temporary Promotions
-No items submitted
 3. [Resignations/Retirements/Other](#)
 4. [Terminations](#)
 5. [Leaves of Absence](#)
 6. Special Requests
-No items submitted
 - C. Risk Management
 1. [Campus Security Resident Lease-Ransom Middle School](#)
 - D. Employee Services
-No items submitted
 - E. Affirmative Action
-No items submitted
4. Operations
 - A. Facilities Planning
 1. Final Payments
 - a. [Brown-Barge Middle School New Gymnasium and Track-Hewes and Company, LLC](#)
 - b. [Brown-Barge Middle School New Gymnasium and Track-Quina Grundhoefer Architects, PA](#)

2. Miscellaneous
 - a. [Sales Agreement between the School Board of Escambia, County, Florida and Florida Hindsight Investments, Inc.](#)
 - b. [AIA Document A133-2019 - Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Construction Manager as Constructor](#)
 - c. [AIA Document B133-2019 - Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect, and Construction Manager as Constructor](#)

- B. School Food Services
 - No items submitted
- C. Maintenance and Custodial Services
 - No items submitted
- D. Transportation
 - No items submitted
- E. Central Warehouse
 - No items submitted
- F. Information Technology
 - No items submitted
- G. Protection Services
 - No items submitted
- H. Energy Management
 - No items submitted

- c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD
 - No items submitted

- d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. Administrative Appointments
 - No items submitted

2. Student Discipline

- A. [Disciplinary Reassignments](#)

Motion by Mrs. Hightower, seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for student discipline as outlined in Item V.d.2.A., *Disciplinary Reassignments*, carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Adams absent for vote.

CORRECT/AMEND

- B. [Expulsions](#)

Motion by Mr. Fetsko, seconded by Mrs. Hightower, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for student discipline as outlined in Item V.d.2.B., *Expulsions*, carried 4 to 0, with Mr. Adams absent for vote.

1. Recommend that consistent with the decision of the due process committee, student discipline number 21-26-951 be placed on extended suspension, pending court adjudication, from all public schools of Escambia County for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and all of the 2021-2022 school year with the option to enroll, if qualified and if space is available, in an alternative educational program exclusive of regular school placement. Placement to be at the discretion of the Superintendent and to be available as an alternative during the full expulsion time frame.
2. Recommend that consistent with the decision of the due process committee, student discipline number 21-36-1251 be placed on extended suspension, pending court adjudication, from all public schools of Escambia County for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and all of the 2021-2022 school year with the option to enroll, if qualified and if space is available, in an alternative educational program exclusive of regular school placement. Placement to be at the discretion of the Superintendent and to be available as an alternative during the full expulsion time frame.

- 3. Recommend that consistent with the decision of the due process committee, student discipline number 21-40-281 be placed on extended suspension, pending court adjudication, from all public schools of Escambia County for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and all of the 2021-2022 school year with the option to enroll, if qualified and if space is available, in an alternative educational program exclusive of regular school placement. Placement to be at the discretion of the Superintendent and to be available as an alternative during the full expulsion time frame.
- 3. Employee Discipline
-No items submitted
- 4. Other Items
-No items submitted
- e. INTERNAL AUDITING
-No items submitted
- f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL
-No items submitted

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, School Board Members addressed the following business matters:

- February 2, 2021 Planning Board & School Board Joint Workshop – Mrs. Hightower advised that the Planning Board had canceled this session but would reschedule for a later date.
- Joint Meeting: County Commissioners & School Board – Mr. Slayton advised that Mr. David Stafford, Escambia County Supervisor of Elections would be requesting a joint meeting with the County Commissioner and the School Board in order to discuss district boundaries. Mr. Slayton suggested the School Board discuss this matter at an upcoming special “open discussion” workshop.

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair