

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, DECEMBER 11, 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: Mr. William E. Slayton (District V)  
Vice Chair: Mr. Kevin L. Adams (District I)  
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

Advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on November 13, 2020 – Legal No. [4463375](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Slayton called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDEN

The Superintendent listed the changes made to the December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting agenda since initial publication and prior to this session.

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

CORRECT/AMEND -[Charter School Quarterly Report](#) -

Financial Issues – Jaqueline Harris Preparatory Academy

*August 2020 – Equity has decreased more than 5% since the prior month.*

*September 2020 – Equity has decreased more than 5% since the prior month.*

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, clarified that the equity decrease reported in August 2020 was due to a Depreciation Adjustment as of June 30, 2020; and the equity decrease reported in September 2020 was the result of an additional (third) payday in September.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

2. Permission to Advertise

A. [The School Board of Escambia County, Florida Notice of Intent to Advertise Renaming the Tate High School Football Field the Carl Madison Field](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, confirmed that principal of Tate High School had followed the renaming procedure outlined in School Board policy. It was noted that the School Advisory Council for Tate High School had initiated this renaming.

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

F. High School Education

1. [License Agreement Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Pel Industries, Inc.](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Roger Mayo, Athletics Director, gave a brief overview of the purpose and implementation of the license agreement with Pel Industries, Inc. Since its inception in 2014, the license agreement has garnered nearly \$8,000 in royalties, divided proportionately among the various high schools.

L. Other

1. [Spring 2021 Education Plan and Assurances](#)

[Summary document provided to School Board Members] At the request of Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Steve Marcano, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, gave a brief overview of the information outlined in this document. Mr. Marcano and his staff responded to general questions posed by individual School Board Members.

2. Finance and Business Services

A. Finance

3. [2020-2021 Miscellaneous Salary Schedule](#)

Mrs. Hightower had no questions specific to Item V.b.2.A.3., *2020-2021 Miscellaneous Salary Schedule*, but she did request an update on the current fill rate for substitute teacher positions. Mr. Keith Leonard, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services, reported that the District was able to fill only about 200 of today's 303 teacher/teacher assistant absences. Mr. Leonard advised that Superintendent Smith had recently charged the Human Resources department to work on substitute fill rates. Mr. Leonard hoped to have that report by January/February 2021.

3. Human Resource Services

A. Instructional/Professional

7. Special Requests

a. [Approve the following amended job description on the Administrative Salary Schedule: General Counsel](#)

Mrs. Hightower initiated a discussion regarding the process and timeline for filling/advertising the General Counsel position. In addition to School District's posting through the WinOcular portal, the job opening would also be advertised by the following agencies: Florida Association of School Administrators (FASA), Florida School Board Attorneys Association (FSBAA), The Florida Bar, Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association, and Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS). The job posting would open December 16, 2020\* and close January 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Discussion regarding the interview committee would occur at the January 14, 2021 Special Workshop. \*Provided the amended job description was approved by the School Board during the December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting.

4. Operations

A. Facilities Planning

2. Miscellaneous

a. [Tentative Facilities Work Program](#) (Five Year Plan)

Mr. Adams expressed his appreciation to Operations staff for drafting a cover letter to accompany this state-reporting document, clarifying that that the data was "theoretical" based on the report's formulaic approach.

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

1. Appointment of School Board Member to the Escambia Children's Trust

Mr. Slayton said he intended to offer a motion at the December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting, to appoint Mrs. Hightower to the Escambia Children's Trust. Mrs. Hightower confirmed that she was willing to serve in that capacity.

- d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT  
-No items discussed
- e. INTERNAL AUDITING  
-No items discussed
- f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL  
-No items submitted

VII. [PUBLIC FORUM](#)  
-No registration forms submitted

VIII. ADJOURNMENT  
There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL