

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 3:00 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)
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

Not present: Board Member Dr. Laura Dortch Edler (District III)

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on January 26, 2021 – Legal No. 4020992
General discussion occurred throughout this session amongst School Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. DISCUSSION:

- Ernest Ward Middle School Fabrication and Engineering Academy
Students enrolled in the Fabrication and Engineering Academy at Ernest Ward Middle School, provided a virtual presentation outlining their experiences in this program.
- Redistricting: What and When - Slayton
Escambia County Supervisor of Elections David Stafford addressed the School Board regarding redistricting the five school board boundaries after the 2020 Census to stay in line with the county's district boundaries. School Board Members agreed to work with the Supervisor of Elections Office on the process.
- Calendar
Scheduled: Special Workshop – March 3, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive
Scheduled: Special Meeting – March 3, 2021, immediately following 9:00 a.m. Special Workshop, in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive
Canceled: June 10, 2021 Special "Open Discussion" Workshop
Rescheduled: June 2021 Regular Workshop from June 11 to June 14
Canceled: July 15, 2021 Special "Open Discussion" Workshop
Rescheduled: July 2021 Regular Workshop from July 16 to July 15
- Public Forum Update
-None
- Graduation Update - Slayton
Ms. Lesa Morgan, Director-High School Education, provided an update regarding 2021 high school graduation ceremonies.

- Master Board Reinstatement – *Slayton*

Chair Slayton initiated a discussion regarding Master Board certification. Mrs. Hightower was to confirm with the Florida School Board Association that the School District's leadership team was required to complete the Master Board Reinstatement Program since it had added a new member. The School Board intended to follow-up on this matter at the February 12, 2021 Regular Workshop.

- Legislative Update – *Adams*

Mr. Adams, as the School Board's representative to the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA), gave a brief update on recent and upcoming legislative matters.

~~— Learning Supports Leadership – *Hightower*~~

- Interlocal Agreement: Meeting to Discuss - *Hightower*

Mrs. Hightower suggested the School Board consider scheduling a Special Workshop sometime in March, to discuss the interlocal agreement amongst themselves, prior to any joint session with the Escambia County Planning Board.

- Book Study Possibilities – *Hightower*

During the last Master Board training, the School Board talked about doing the Trust Edge as a group book study. Wanted to know if her fellow were still interested in doing that – Mrs. Hightower asked her fellow School Board Members to consider whether they were still interested in doing that. If so, the book selection would be discussed at a later time.

~~— Student Data: Baker Act – *Hightower*~~

- Snacks at Friday Workshops – *Hightower*

Given current social distancing guidelines due to COVID-19, fewer people were attending the School Board's monthly workshops and as such, fewer refreshments being consumed. School Board Members agreed that beginning with the March Regular Workshop, they would cease to provide refreshments until normal attendance resumed.

- Substitute Teacher Shortage Update – *Superintendent*

Ms. Courtney Combs, Coordinator-Human Resource Services, outlined a proposed pilot program that would increase the pay of substitute teachers in five schools and could help the School District address a low rate of subs accepting jobs in certain schools. Five schools with a fill rate of less than 60%, meaning that on average, less than 60% of the classrooms that need a substitute teacher on a given day will get one. This proposed pilot program would increase the single-day pay of substitutes with a bachelor's degree to \$115 and those with an associate's degree to \$100 per day. The schools in the pilot program would be Holm Elementary, which has a 50% fill rate, Bellview Middle with a 40% fill rate, Ferry Pass Middle with 33%, Workman Middle with 40% and Escambia High with 55%. The district's average as a whole is about 75%. Under the program, a substitute teacher with a bachelor's degree would earn \$115 in a day, up about \$32 from the current rate. Those with an associate degree or some college would make \$100 per day, an increase of \$28.

- BoardDocs Update – *Superintendent*

[Handout provided to School Board Members] Mr. Tom Ingram, Director-Information Technology, shared a proposal to implement BoardDocs, a software package designed for managing school board agendas. The use of this software would solve two technical issues with the School District's current processes: meeting the request for School Board members to vote through a digital system; and making the School Board agenda fully accessible. Mr. Ingram reviewed the proposed implementation plan/timeline. Several School Board Members were concerned with the suggested removal of non-accessible older content from the School District's public website. The School Board intended to follow-up on this matter at the February 12, 2021 Regular Workshop.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Special Problem/Issue*</u>
Darzell Warren, Escambia Education Association (EEA)	Pension

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

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL