

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 12, 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)
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](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Slayton called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Budget Update - Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent-Finance & Business Services, provided an overview of the Governor's budget impact: [2021-22 Budget Overview Governor's Proposal, District Outlook For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022](#). Ms. Theresa McCants, Director-Budgeting, gave a brief presentation regarding [Sales Tax Proceeds COVID Affected Revenue Receipts](#).

Legislative Update – Mr. Jim Hamilton, Mixon & Associates provided an update on and responded to questions about various legislative matters. Following the update, Superintendent Smith read aloud and then presented the following letter of appreciation to Mr. Hamilton:

On behalf of the Escambia County School District, I thank you for your generous donation of expertise, wisdom, and work to our recent labor impasse in January, 2021. The service you provided had a significant impact on our negotiations and helped our district to settle the matter before moving to a special magistrate. Positivity emanated from this settlement and has given the district a significant boost in good will and morale.

Your donation of \$5000.00 of services to our district directly reflects your care and advocacy for the children, teachers, and employees of our school district. Your kind generosity also displays your care for all Escambia County residents and our fine community as your donation saved taxpayer dollars.

I applaud your heart for kids and public education. I thank you very much for your helpful and meaningful donation to the Escambia County School District. I also appreciate and value the goodness and community that you exemplify and model for others.

The Regular Workshop recessed at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 10:52 a.m., with Chair Slayton, Mr. Adams, Mr. Fetsko, Mrs. Hightower, and Superintendent Smith present.

Follow-up matters from February 11, 2021 Special Workshop:

Calendar – Confirmed that live streaming was not required for 9:00 a.m. Special Workshop scheduled for March 3, 2021 Special Workshop (interview sessions for School Board General Counsel position). *Scheduled:* March 3, 2021 Special Meeting, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Special Workshop, in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive. Primary Purpose: *Selection of General Counsel.*

Master Board Reinstatement – Mrs. Hightower advised that she had confirmed with the Florida School Boards Association, that the School District's leadership team had added a new member, they would need to complete the Master Board Reinstatement Program since it had added a new member. There was no objection, to waiting to complete this until a later time.

Interlocal Agreement: Meeting to Discuss – Scheduled: March 23, 2021 Special Workshop, beginning at 4:00 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive.

Book Study Possibilities – Postponed until later time, perhaps the April 15, 2021 Special “Open Discussion” Workshop.

BoardDocs Update - Presentation by BoardDocs representative(s) at the March 11, 2021 Special “Open Discussion” Workshop.

Executive Session (re: Bargaining) – Date to be determined for March 2021.

February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda - The Superintendent reported no changes to the February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting agenda since publication and prior to this session. He noted however, that the various salary schedules listed under Finance & Business Services, would be available early morning on February 16, 2021.

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

6. [Safe Walkways to Schools Resolution](#)

Resolution supporting Florida House Bill 229 – Hazardous Walking Conditions for K-12 Students. Resolution created by Mrs. Hightower at the request of and with the help of Mr. Rob Doss, former Director-Transportation. If approved by the School Board, resolution to be tendered to members of the Escambia County Legislative Delegation. There were no changes requested to the “draft” version of the resolution.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

Follow-up from January 15, 2021 Regular Workshop: Mrs. Hightower had asked that future agendas indicate a public hearing for each rule adoption.

Mr. Adams left the Regular Workshop at 11:15 a.m.

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

L. Other

1. [Escambia District Schools 2021-2022 Staffing Allocation Table](#)

Mrs. Hightower expressed concern regarding several schools that were sharing one school-based technical support person. She believed that in these “digital times” it was important that each school had its own designated school-based technical support person. Mr. Keith Leonard, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resource Services, said he would confirm for certain, but believed there were only about 40 school-based technical support staff spread across all schools, with about 6-8 schools sharing one person. Mr. Leonard was to discuss school-based technology staffing with Superintendent Smith and his executive staff and hoped to follow-up with the School Board at the next Special “Open Discussion” Workshop.

2. Finance and Business Services

A. Finance

3. 2020-2021 Grandfather Instructional Salary Schedules, 2020-2021 Performance Instructional Salary Schedules, and 2020-2021 Instructional Supplements Schedule

4. 2020-2021 Administrative Salary Schedules

5. 2020-2021 Professional Salary Schedules
6. 2020-2021 Educational Support Personnel Salary Schedule

Ms. Kelly Krostag, Director-Human Resource Services, advised that posting of salary schedules for all classifications would occur once ratification results were received from the bargaining units for the Escambia Education Association and The Union of Escambia ESPs.

3. Human Resource Services
-No items discussed

4. Operations

- A. Facilities Planning

1. Final Payments

- a. [Bratt Elementary and Ernest Ward Middle Schools-HVAC Upgrades](#)

Though not related to this specific item, Mr. Keith Wasdin, Director-Facilities Planning, responded to Chair Slayton's inquiry regarding issues with the HVAC system at Bratt Elementary School. Mr. Wasdin advised that Mr. Roger McGraw, Mechanical Engineer, was aware of those issues and was seeking an appropriate resolution.

- b. [Ferry Pass Middle and Cordova Park Elementary Schools – Sitework](#)

- e. [Warrington Middle School – Sitework](#)

Mr. Keith Wasdin, Director-Facilities Planning, clarified the specific sitework for these school campuses was primarily storm water adjustments.

- c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

1. [School Board Member Travel Requests: Out of District FY 2020-2021](#)

No discussion on this item but Chair Slayton did mention that the School Board was required to approve individual School Board Member travel requests. *Florida Statutes § 1001.39 (2019) requires that any travel by a School Board member outside the district that exceeds \$500 receive prior approval by the district School Board to confirm that the travel is for official School Board business and that it complies with the rules of the State Board of Education.*

- 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 11:42 a.m.