

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 16, 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)
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

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on January 26, 2021 – Legal No. [4020992](#)

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.*) Mr. Slayton called for a moment of silent prayer. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

b. Adoption of Agenda

Superintendent Smith listed changes made to the agenda since initial publication and prior to this session. 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 Mr. Adams, seconded by Mrs. Hightower, to adopt the agenda *as amended*, carried unanimously.

c. Committee/Departmental Reports

1. Stellar Employee of the Month

School Board Members joined Superintendent Smith in recognizing Ms. Suzanne Barnes, Administrative School Secretary at Brown Barge Middle School, as the Escambia County School District's Stellar Employee for the month of February. Ms. Barnes received a plaque and pin from the School District and a check for \$100 from Members First Credit Union.

2. Presentation of Escambia Literacy Ambassador Resolution

School Board Members joined the Superintendent in presenting to Mr. Sandy Sansing, a copy of the [Escambia Literacy Ambassador Resolution](#) that was adopted during the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting. The purpose of the resolution was to publicly recognize, thank, and commend Mr. Sandy Sansing for his long-standing initiatives aligned to strengthen student literacy in Escambia County by declaring him the first "Escambia Literacy Ambassador."

3. [Military Recognition Day Resolution](#)

Superintendent Smith read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the first Navy volunteer program was established between the Naval Air Station Pensacola and the School District of Escambia County, Florida, in 1983; and

WHEREAS, over twenty (20) military commands have established partnerships with local schools in the School District of Escambia County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the men and women who served in the armed forces provide countless hours of volunteer service each year to students and teachers; and

WHEREAS, military personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marines stationed at Corry Field participate as tutors with fourth and fifth grade students in the Saturday Scholars Program, which is the longest active Saturday Scholars Program in the country; and

WHEREAS, military volunteers serve as Youth Motivator Mentors and are matched one-on-one with students and spend one hour a week at the schools; and

WHEREAS, military men and women who volunteer in our schools are an integral part of the education of our students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the School Board of Escambia County, Florida, by this resolution, recognize and proclaim Thursday, February 25, 2021, as

MILITARY RECOGNITION DAY

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 Dan McCort, President, Pensacola Council of Navy League

Motion by Mr. Fetsko, seconded by Mr. Adams, to adopt a resolution recognizing and proclaiming Thursday, February 25, 2021 as Military Recognition Day, carried unanimously.

4. Escambia County School District Teacher of the Year

The School Board and Superintendent Smith honored Ms. Briana McCreary, Escambia County School District's new Teacher of the Year. Ms. McCreary received a plaque and a copy of the statement read by Florida representative Matt Gaetz into the Congressional Record to honor her selection.

5. Black History Month Presentation

Miss Ayiana Courtney, a senior attending Northview High School read her winning essay (on video). (an excerpt) "But I wouldn't have gotten to where I am today if it weren't for six important figures in my life. My life has been influenced so much by my ROTC instructors; Chief Jeffrey Simpkins and Commander Shane Ahalt, my parents; Leon and Paris Courtney and the two true pioneers; Madame CJ Walker and Shirley Chisholm."

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

Superintendent Smith read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the criteria contained in the Florida Education Code in Section 1006.23, Florida Statutes does not provide safe passage for students who have hazardous pathways to school; and

WHEREAS, school districts like Escambia County are left to fully fund the transportation of students who would encounter hazardous walking conditions between home and school yet are ineligible for transportation service under the current criteria; and

WHEREAS, that in spite of Florida’s perennial ranking as the most dangerous state in America for pedestrians, and the fact that the sixth most dangerous and the eighth most dangerous metropolitan areas for pedestrians are located in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the current inadequate hazardous walking conditions statute fails to rise to its purpose: to identify conditions that are hazardous to all students and satisfy the Constitutional and statutory requirement to provide for safe access to public education; and

WHEREAS, professionals within the Florida Department of Transportation, not the Florida Department of Education, should be charged with the responsibility for identifying and publishing in the Florida Greenbook the criteria and standards for determining walking conditions that are hazardous for minor children; and

WHEREAS, Florida is long overdue for revenue-neutral legislation that provides for a common-sense criteria for determining hazardous walking conditions for minor children while giving local school boards the latitude to weigh budgets, local conditions, and logistical capacity to determine when and how to fully implement the criteria; and

WHEREAS, Florida House Bill 229, “The Safe Walkways to School Act,” directly and comprehensively remediates the shortcomings in the hazardous walking conditions statute that currently present such a grave hazard to Florida students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Escambia County, Florida does hereby support Florida House Bill 229

HAZARDOUS WALKING CONDITIONS FOR K-12 STUDENTS

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 The Honorable Senator Douglas Broxson, The Honorable Representative Alex Andrade, and The Honorable Representative Michelle Salzman as members of the Escambia County Legislative Delegation.

Motion made by Mrs. Hightower and seconded by Mr. Adams, to adopt a resolution supporting Florida House Bill 229 Hazardous Walking Conditions for K-12 Students. Motion carried unanimously.

II. PUBLIC FORUM

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Special Problem/Issue**</u>
Rebecca Brown, School Bus Operator	Experience with Marathon Health
Paul Brown	<i>Yielded time to Rebecca Brown</i>
Dawn Brake, School Bus Operator	<i>Yielded time to Rebecca Brown</i>
Shelby Lewis	Salaries – School Bus Operators
Saralynn Young, School Bus Operator	<i>Yielded time to Shelby Lewis</i>
Kevondre Brown, School Bus Operator	Salaries – School Bus Operators
Cheryl Bozeman-Barnes	<i>Yielded time to Kevondre Brown</i>
Anna Hench, School Bus Operator	<i>Yielded time to Kevondre Brown</i>
Patricia Amos, School Bus Operator	Experience with Marathon Health
Debrah Springer, Teacher	Remote/Hybrid Teaching
Darzell Warren, Escambia Education Association (EEA)	Bargaining/Proposed 2020-2021 Salary Schedules/Substitute Teacher Pilot Initiative

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

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS MOVED FORWARD: V.d.1., [Administrative Appointments](#)

Motion by Mr. Fetsko, seconded by Mr. Adams, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation as outlined in Item V.d.1., *Administrative Appointments**, carried unanimously.

**Dr. Dana Boddy, from Administrator on Special Assignment - Escambia Virtual Academy (12 months) to High School Assistant Principal – Escambia High (12 months).*

III. MINUTES

- a. [01-14-21 Special Workshop](#)
- b. [01-15-21 Regular Workshop](#)
- c. [01-19-21 Regular Meeting](#)
- d. [02-04-21 Special Meeting](#)

Motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to approve the minutes as listed (Items a through d), carried unanimously.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

- 1. Rule(s) Adoption
-No items submitted
- 2. Permission to Advertise
-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Edler advised that she would pull Item V.b.3.A.7.a. for separate vote. Motion by Mrs. Hightower, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve the Consent Agenda (*as amended*), carried unanimously.

1. Curriculum

A. Alternative Education

- 1. [Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and PACE Center for Girls, Inc.](#)

B. Continuous Improvement

- 1. [School Choice Student Transfers](#)

C. Elementary Education

-No items submitted

D. Evaluation Services

-No items submitted

E. Exceptional Student Education

-No items submitted

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
 - No items submitted
 - L. Other
 - 1. [Escambia District Schools 2021-2022 Staffing Allocation Table](#)
2. Finance and Business Services
- A. Finance
 - 1. [Legal Services – General Fund](#)
 - a. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 4,847.50
 - b. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 507.50
 - c. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 122.50
 - d. Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell \$ 1,180.00
 - e. Carver, Darden, Koretzky, Tessier, Finn, Blossman & Areaux LLC \$ 997.50
 - f. Sniffen & Spellman, P.A. \$ 2,615.64
 - 2. [Legal Services - Risk Management Fund](#)
 - a. The Hammons Law Firm \$ 7,682.26
 - 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](#)
 - 7. [2020-2021 Miscellaneous Salary Schedule](#)
 - B. Accounting Operations
 - 1. [Check Register for January 2021](#)
 - C. Budgeting
 - 1. [Recap of General Fund Reserves](#) (Non-Categorical)
 - 2. [Resolutions to amend District School Budget:](#)
 - a. Resolution 5 – General Operating Fund
 - b. Resolution 5 – Special Revenue – Federal Program
 - c. Resolution 5 – Capital Projects Fund
 - d. No item submitted – Special Revenue - Food Service Fund
 - e. Resolution 1 – Debt Service Fund
 - f. Resolution 5 – Cares Act Fund
 - 3. [Scrap List I for February 2021](#)
 - 4. [Auction List I for February 2021](#)
 - 5. [Financial Statements by Fund](#)
 - 6. [Disposal and Demolition of Portable #105 at Transportation Garage](#)
 - D. Payroll and Benefits Accounting
 - 1. [Financial Status Report: Employee Benefit Trust Fund](#)
 - E. Purchasing
 - ITEMS PREPARED BY PURCHASING:*
 - 1. [Bid Award: Fruits & Vegetables – Frozen, Canned & Packaged, Bid #210602](#)
 - 2. [Bid Award: Miscellaneous Paper Products for School Cafeterias, Bid# 211002](#)

3. [E-Rate RFP Award: SFP Modules](#)
4. [Bid Renewal: HVAC Air Filters, Bid #171403](#)
5. [Bid Renewal: Cleaning and Degreasing Kitchen Exhaust Systems, RFP #191703](#)
6. [Agreement Renewal and Amendment 5: Fiber Services for District Schools](#)
7. [Annual Agreement Renewal: External Auditing Services](#)
8. [Grounds Maintenance Equipment](#)
9. [Dell Computer Equipment for Escambia High School](#)
10. [Hurricane Sally Purchases](#)
ITEMS PREPARED BY FACILITIES PLANNING:
11. [Annual Agreement Renewal: Professional Civil Engineering Services](#)
12. [Annual Agreement Renewal: Professional Electrical Engineering Services](#)
13. [Annual Agreement Renewal: Professional Mechanical Engineering Services](#)
14. [Central Warehouse – Natural Gas Generator](#)
15. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #5422100024 – J.E. Hall Center – Window Replacement](#)
16. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #8072100027 – Kingsfield Elementary School – Canopy – Hurricane Sally Repairs](#)
17. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #8072100033 – Tate High School – Cafeteria Roofing - Hurricane Sally Repairs](#)
18. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #8072100034 – Brentwood Elementary School – Roofing – Hurricane Sally Repairs](#)
19. [Change Notice #1 to Purchase Order #8072100036 – Myrtle Grove Elementary School – Library Roofing – Hurricane Sally Repairs](#)
20. [Change Notice #2 to Purchase Order #5422000131 – Miscellaneous Repairs at Various Facilities – Package Two](#)
21. [Change Notice #2 to Purchase Order #5422000185 – Beulah Elementary School – Covered Play Area and Multipurpose Room](#)
22. [Change Notice #2 to Purchase Order #5422000186 – Pine Meadow Elementary School – Covered Play Area & Multipurpose Room](#)
23. [Google Education Licenses for Summer Chromebook Refresh for Various Schools](#)

ADD

3. Human Resource Services
 - A. Instructional/Professional
 1. [Appointments](#)
 2. Reappointments
-No items submitted
 3. [Transfers](#)
 4. Out-of-Field
-No items submitted
 5. [Resignations/Retirements/Other](#)
 6. [Leaves of Absence](#)
 7. Special Requests
 - a. [Approve the implementation of a Substitute Teacher Pilot Initiative, as reflected on the Miscellaneous Salary Schedule, to assist in increasing the substitute fill rate at targeted pilot schools](#)

Motion made by Mr. Adams and seconded by Mrs. Hightower, to approve Item V.b.3.A.7.a. Dr. Edler advised that she would not support the approval of this pilot

program, as she believed it would contribute to pay disparity. Motion carried 4 to 1, with Dr. Edler voting “No.”

- B. Educational Support Personnel
 - 1. [Appointments](#)
 - 2. [Temporary Promotions](#)
 - 3. [Resignations/Retirements/Other](#)
 - 4. [Terminations](#)
 - 5. [Leaves of Absence](#)
 - 6. Special Requests
 - No items submitted
 - C. Risk Management
 - 1. [Section 125 Plan Document](#)
 - D. Employee Services
 - 1. [Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Escambia County School District and the Escambia Education Association and the Union of Escambia Education Staff Professionals related to the continuation of COVID-19 leave, as outlined in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, for employees through June 30, 2021](#)
 - E. Affirmative Action
 - No items submitted
4. Operations
- A. Facilities Planning
 - 1. Final Payments
 - a. [Bratt Elementary and Ernest Ward Middle Schools-HVAC Upgrades](#)
 - b. [Ferry Pass Middle and Cordova Park Elementary Schools – Sitework](#)
 - c. [Navy Point Elementary School – Chiller Replacement](#)
 - d. [Tate High School – Band Building HVAC Replacement](#)
 - e. [Warrington Middle School – Sitework](#)
 - 2. Miscellaneous
 - a. [Pre-Qualification of Contractor](#)
 - b. [Underground Distribution Easement for Electric Service](#)
 - 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

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

Motion made by Mrs. Hightower to “approve the travel requests of the School Board Members as it is important that members continue to be trained in and be educated on their roles as School Board Members.” Motion seconded by Mr. Fetsko and approved unanimously.

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. [Administrative Appointments](#)

-Handled earlier in the session

2. Student Discipline

A. [Disciplinary Reassignments](#)

Motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Fetsko, to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation for student discipline as outlined in Item V.d.2.A., *Disciplinary Reassignments*, carried unanimously.

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 unanimously.

1. Recommend that consistent with the decision of the due process committee, student discipline number 21-46-862 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

A. Recommend to rescind the termination of employee #0000006120 effective April 17, 2019, as outlined in the Settlement Agreement between the Superintendent of the Escambia County School District and the former employee, and accept a resignation effective April 17, 2019

B. [Agreement for Legal Services Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Carver, Darden, Koretzky, Tessier, Finn, Blossman & Areaux, LLC](#)

Motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Mrs. Hightower, to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation as outlined in Item V.d.4.A. and Item V.d.4.B., carried unanimously.

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

1. [Inventory Adjustment Reports twenty-seven cost centers](#)

Motion by Mrs. Hightower, seconded by Mr. Adams, to approve Item V.e.1., *Inventory Adjustment Reports twenty-seven cost centers*, carried unanimously.

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL