

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, APRIL 16, 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)

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Ellen Odom

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Timothy A. Smith

Advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on March 18, 2021 – Legal No. [4642874](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent-Finance & Business Services, provide an update on the following:

Escambia County School District – Comparison of FY 2021 to FY 2020, FYE 6/30/21

Escambia County School District – FEFP Calculations, FYE 6/30/22

CARES Act – Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

[Interlocal Agreement](#) – Superintendent [topic postponed from April 15, 2021 Special Workshop]

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, reviewed proposed changes to the following documents:

Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning

Escambia County 2030 Comprehensive Plan

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

At this time, the Superintendent listed changes made to the April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting agenda, since publication and prior to this session.

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items discussed

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. 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

1. Curriculum

B. Continuous Improvement

2. [Contract for External Operator for Holm Elementary School Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the Rensselaerville Institute](#)
3. [Contract for External Operator for Warrington Elementary School Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and the Rensselaerville Institute](#)
4. [Contract for External Operator for Warrington Middle School Between the School Board of Escambia County, Florida and Learning Sciences International](#)

Representatives from Learning Sciences International responded to questions posed by School Board Members as to how they intended to provide support to improve the academic performance of Warrington Middle School.

2. Finance and Business Services

E. Purchasing

6. [Bid Renewal: Security and Crossing Guard Services, RFP #170603](#)

In response to questions posed by Mr. Fetsko, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, clarified that the School District employs Securitas Security Services USA, Inc. for security at its ancillary facilities (including the McDaniel Building) and for crossing guard services at Ferry Pass Middle School. He also clarified that the Protection Services department administers state-required training for all elementary staff members who participate as crossing guards.

7. [Drug Screening Services](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Fetsko, Mr. Kevin Windham, Director-Risk Management, confirmed that this item was associated with “as-needed” pre-employment drug screenings. It is estimated that Risk Management will need \$65,000.00 and Transportation will need \$16,000.00 for these screenings.

15. [Annual Agreement Amendment: Group Medical Benefits \(Including Prescription Drugs\)](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Kevin Windham, Director-Risk Management, clarified that this amendment represented improvements negotiated for the 2021 plan year resulting in savings in the prescription drug plan with RX rebate revenue.

27. [Flooring for Lakeview/Judy Andrews Renovation](#)

30. [Roof Replacement for Lakeview/Judy Andrews Renovation](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, clarified that these renovation projects were funded by excess One-Half Cent Sales Tax proceeds, from either interest or savings from other projects that came in under budget.

3. Human Resource Services

A. Instructional/Professional

7. Special Requests

- b. [Approve the following job description on the Administrative Salary Schedule, effective July 1, 2021: Coordinator – Marketing and Public Relations](#)

Mrs. Hightower expressed the following concerns with this particular job description:

Reports to: *Deputy Superintendent* – Mrs. Hightower believed this position should report directly to the Superintendent. After much discussion, the Superintendent agreed to amend this item to specify that this position would report to the Superintendent or Designee rather than the Deputy Superintendent.

Minimum Requirements: *Master’s Degree from an accredited educational institution in Public Relations, Communications, Marketing, School Administration, or a related field, or an equivalent combination of training and experience* – Mrs. Hightower

was concerned that individuals possessing only a Master's Degree in School Administration may think themselves qualified for this position. There was much discussion on this matter; however, no changes were suggested.

- f. [Approve the 2021-2022 Department Personnel Planning Document 4010-School Volunteers & Business Partnerships \(Page 7 of 53\)](#) – Footnote: *One Project Coordinator – Mentor Program was held vacant in 2020-2021, and will continue to be held vacant in 2021-2022.* Mrs. Hightower noted there were many individuals eager to get back into schools as volunteers and mentors. Mr. Keith Leonard, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resources Services, confirmed that should the need arise, it was possible for the School Board to consider approving this position to be filled at a later date. For now, several departments including this one had requested to keep the position on the Department Personnel Planning Document, but to hold it vacant at this time.

- 4. Operations
 - No items discussed

- c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD
 - No items submitted

- d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT
 - No items discussed

- e. INTERNAL AUDITING

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

There were no questions or concerns concerning this specific item; however, several School Board Members and the Superintendent took a moment to commend the Internal Auditing staff for the manner in which they conduct ongoing inventories of the District's assets. They also commended principals/department heads for safeguarding those assets especially during COVID-19.

- f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL
 - No items submitted

At this time, Chair Slayton took a moment to introduce Mrs. Ellen Odom, who recently assumed the position of General Counsel.

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

- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, there was discussion regarding upcoming high school graduations and various end-of-year activities. The Regular Workshop adjourned at 11:42 a.m.