

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, OCTOBER 14, 2021

The School Board of Escambia County, Florida, convened in Special Workshop at 2:00 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)

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Ellen D. Odom

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Timothy A. Smith

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on September 22, 2021 – Legal No. [4923660](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. DISCUSSION:

- Update on Warrington Middle School – Superintendent

Mr. Denny Wilson, principal of Warrington Middle School, shared data related to student academic performance, student discipline, student attendance, and teacher vacancies. Ms. Stephanie Terrell, from Learning Sciences International (LSI), reviewed data from the September 2021 Rigor Diagnostic. (Next Rigor Diagnostic slated for November 2021.) Ms. Terrell also reviewed the School Instructional Maturity Model (SIMM), as well as information related to leadership coaching, faculty coaching, and academic teaming. Throughout the update, Mr. Wilson and/or Ms. Terrell responded to questions posed by School Board Members regarding the information provided.

- Northview High School Graphic Arts Academy – Superintendent

Students enrolled in the Graphic Arts Academy at Northview High School, provided a video presentation outlining their experiences in this program.

- Calendar

Confirmed: Joint Redistricting Workshop with Escambia County Board of County Commissioners, November 2, beginning at 5:01 p.m., in the Board Chambers (1st Floor), Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, 221 Palafox Place.

Scheduled: Special School Board Meeting, November 3 beginning at 5:01 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive. Primary purpose: To discuss redistricting after November 2 Joint Redistricting Workshop with Escambia County Board of County Commissioners.

Tentatively Scheduled: Special School Board Workshop, December 9, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Regular School Board Workshop, December 10, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Regular School Board Meeting, December 14, beginning at 5:30 p.m. (All sessions in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center, 30 East Texar Drive.)

- Public Forum Update

-None

- Payment of Security Officers at Sporting Events – *Hightower*
Mrs. Hightower shared that a parent had contacted her concerned that some booster clubs were paying for security at school sporting events, while others were not. There was discussion among School Board Members, Mrs. Odom, and the Superintendent’s staff regarding security requirements and security costs for school sporting events. Mrs. Hightower wanted to ensure there was consistency with regard to the party responsible for security costs at school sporting events. She also questioned the feasibility of requiring reasonable contributions by all parties, including the School District. Superintendent Smith was to provide an update on this matter at the School Board’s next “open discussion” workshop (including itemization of the various costs associated with school sporting events).
- Mentors & Volunteers – *Adams*
Upon inquiry by Vice Chair Adams, Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, advised that a press release* was issued October 11, announcing that on-campus visitors, such as volunteers and mentors, will be allowed access to School District campuses effective October 12.
*ECSDcs PR 20211011 - *Escambia County, FL School District Revises COVID-19 Precautionary Measures*
- Legislative Update – *Adams*
Vice Chair Adams, as the School Board’s representative to the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA), gave a brief update on recent and upcoming legislative matters.
- Recruiting Employees – *Adams*
Vice Chair Adams suggested that job postings/advertisements explicitly state that the School District welcomes applications from individuals terminated as the result of COVID-19 vaccine mandates in locations across the country. Upon inquiry by Vice Chair Adams, Mr. Keith Leonard, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resource Services, advised that the School District was now sharing job postings on the social media platform, LinkedIn. At the request of Vice Chair Adams, Ms. Elizabeth Oakes, Director-Personnel Services, provided an update on various recruiting initiatives, including a job fair planned for early November.
- Strategic Initiative – Core Identity Statement Discussion – *Superintendent*
Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, provided an update on the strategic initiative, outlining the revisions made to the core identity statements based on input from School Board Members following the September 16, 2021 Special Workshop. Mr. Dennis asked School Board Members to be prepared for a facilitated discussion on the strategic initiative during the November 15, 2021 Special Workshop.
- Superintendent Evaluation Process - *Slayton*
Due to time constraints, discussion on this topic was postponed to the October 15, 2021 Regular Workshop.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

-None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:00 p.m.