

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, FEBRUARY 11, 2016

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. Bill Slayton
Vice Chair: Mrs. Linda Moultrie
Board Members: Mr. Jeff Bergosh
Mr. Gerald Boone

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Board Member Patricia Hightower was not present for this session.

Meeting was advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on January 26, 2016 – Legal No. 1653270

NOTE: The minutes from this session have been prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.
The video from this session is available at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/02112016-687>

[*General discussion among School Board Members, the Superintendent, and staff occurred throughout this session.*]

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Slayton called the Special Workshop to order at 3:04 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- [Pine Forest High School Cybersecurity Academy](#) – Superintendent

Students enrolled in the Pine Forest High School Cybersecurity Academy addressed the School Board regarding this program. (*Students: Ben Kent, Andrea Bivens, Jackson Hatcher, and Josiah Robinson*)

- [Overview of Bond Issue/Facilities](#) – Superintendent

Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Business Services, along with Mr. Will Reed, Ford & Associates, briefed the School Board regarding the sale of Sales Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2016:

- November 2014 – Voters approved ten (10) year sales tax referendum beginning January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2027
- April 2015 – The School Board authorized a bond sale for an amount up to \$75 million. Sale was to commence at the most advantageous time for the School District.
- December 2015 – The School District proceeded with preliminary work with Ford & Associates (Financial Advisor) to prepare for the sale of bonds to net \$60 million in proceeds for the targeted construction projects.
- January 6, 2016 – Bonds were sold under ideal market conditions and drew heavy subscriptions of 17 times available bonds. [*Details: Bonds sold for a par amount of \$51,910,000; Bond Premium: \$8,641,751; Bond Coupons ranged from 2% to 5%; Net interest costs: 2.16%; Delivery date of bonds: January 26, 2016; First coupon: September 1, 2016; Last maturity: September 1, 2027; Average debt Service: \$5.861 million; Bond Ratings: Aa3 (Moody's)/AA- (Fitch).*]
- Actual Sales Tax Revenue 2014-2015: \$23.4 million

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, Facilities, advised that the \$60 million in proceeds would be spent on three major components:

- Construction of new middle school (located on Nine Mile Road) – *The new middle school would accommodate 1,206 student stations. This project was currently in the design/development phase. Construction was expected to begin October 2016 with an anticipated occupancy date of June 2018.*
- Woodham Middle School retrofit/repurpose (to accommodate movement of West Florida Tech to that campus) - *The ed-spec for the existing facility study was completed. The School District would be advertising for architects, engineers and construction managers in approximately thirty (30) days. Phase renovations were expected to begin the first quarter of 2017 until West Florida Tech took occupancy in June 2018.*
- West Florida Tech retrofit/renovation (to accommodate the move of Brown Barge to that campus) - *The ed-spec for the existing facility study was nearing completion. The School District would advertise for architects, engineers, and construction managers in approximately sixty (60) days. Phase renovations were expected to begin the second quarter of 2017 until Brown Barge took occupancy in June 2018.*

- Calendar Updates

There were no changes to the remaining schedule of School Board workshops/meetings for February:

- Regular Workshop, February 12th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.*
 - Regular Meeting, February 16th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.*
- *To be held in Room 160 at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center*

It was noted that School Board Members were provided a copy of the [proposed budget and TRIM calendar](#) for informational and planning purposes.

- Compass Classroom Credits for H.S. and Athletic Scholarship Implications – *Bergosh*

In light of an email message he had received from a constituent, Mr. Bergosh had questions and concerns regarding the implications of Compass Classroom credits for athletic scholarships. Specifically, he was concerned that student athletes who used Compass Classroom for course recovery in order to finish high school would be ineligible for NCAA scholarships. The Superintendent clarified that the NCAA did not take issue with Compass Classroom specifically; rather, the NCAA would not approve/give credit for “virtual” coursework, in general whether from Compass Classroom, Florida Virtual, etc.

- Discussion regarding progress toward implementation of Physical Security Task Force Committee Recommendations from 2013 – *Bergosh*

Mr. Bergosh said it was his desire that the School Board hold a special “shade” session for the purpose of discussing the School District’s progress toward implementation of the Physical Security Task Force’s recommendations from 2013. It was agreed that a session would be scheduled in the near future.

- Policy for Allowing Board Members to Vote by Telephone – *Slayton*

Mr. Slayton said this topic was briefly addressed by attorney Leonard Dietzen during a recent Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) Ethics Training session. At the request of Mr. Slayton, Mrs. Waters addressed this matter, though it was noted that she had previously done so via a memorandum, dated February 1, 2016, to School Board Members and the Superintendent.

- National Association of Charter School Authorizers - *Superintendent*

Ms. Carly Bolger, evaluator from National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), narrated a brief Power Point® [presentation](#) which included a brief overview about NACSA and its authorizer evaluation process, reported the findings from the School District’s evaluation that was conducted in August

2015, and provided a suggested work plan for the future. Following her presentation, Ms. Bolger responded to questions from several School Board Members.

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Slayton called for public forum; however, there were no speakers.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL