

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, MARCH 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) [*present via speakerphone*]
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

Advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on February 24, 2021 – Legal No. [4604316](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

[-Letter from Commission of Education](#) - Mr. Steve Marcanio, Assistant Superintendent-Curriculum, provided School Board Members a copy of a letter that Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran recently sent to textbook publishers regarding adjusted prices of the ELA textbook adoption.

[-Letter to Commission of Education](#) – Superintendent Smith shared a letter he had composed to Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran, requesting a waiver of accountability consequences* based on results of the 2020-2021 state exams, given the learning environment for students had been significantly impacted by COVID. This letter was requested by Mr. Adams during the March 11, 2021 Special Workshop and was to be signed by each School Board. (*including mandatory retention for third grade students, school grades, and district grades)

III. MINUTES

-No items discussed

IV. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

[-Charter School Quarterly Report](#)

Ms. Kerri Coots, Director-Alternative Education, advised that two charter schools had contractual concerns in need of corrective action:

Byrneville Elementary – There was no representative from Byrneville Elementary present; however, Ms. Coots, advised that Ms. Dee Wolfe-Sullivan, principal of Byrneville Elementary, had responded that corrective actions had been taken to address the concerns cited in the quarterly report.

Pensacola Beach Elementary – Mr. Jeff Castleberry, principal of Pensacola Beach Elementary, addressed the School Board to confirm that corrective actions had been taken to address concerns cited in the quarterly report.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

-No items discussed

2. Permission to Advertise
-No items submitted

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

- H. Professional Learning

1. [2020-2021 Instructional Materials Adoption Escambia County School District](#)

Ms. Michelle White, Coordinator-Media Services, gave a brief overview of the District's instructional materials adoption process and timeline. If approved by the School Board at the March 23, 2021 Regular Meeting, the public would then have 30 calendar days to contest the adoption.

2. Finance and Business Services

- E. Purchasing

ITEMS PREPARED BY PURCHASING:

1. [Bid Award: Grounds Maintenance, RFP #211303](#)

It was noted that Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, had reached out to each School Board Member to advise them of this annual agreement (renewable annually for a period of up to five (5) years) to provide grounds maintenance services.

3. [Amendment III to Annual Agreement: School Health Services](#)

There were no questions on this item; however, School Board Members and the Superintendent took a moment to thank Ms. Martha Hanna, Coordinator-Health Services and her team as they continued to help navigate the School District through the COVID-19 crisis.

5. [Football Helmets](#)

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, gave a brief overview concerning the life span of football helmets.

22. [Energy Savings Performance Contract – Bellview Middle School](#)

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent-Operations, provided a brief overview concerning this Energy Savings Performance Contract for Bellview Middle School.

3. Human Resource Services

-No items discussed

4. Operations

-No items discussed

c. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

1. [General Counsel Contract](#)

Chair Slayton gave a brief overview of the process by which the General Counsel contract was developed. He noted only one item of concern, being that which dealt with termination without cause. There was much discussion regarding this item; however, no changes were requested.

d. ITEMS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

2. Student Discipline

- B. [Expulsions](#)

There were no questions or concerns specific to any items under V.d.2.B., *Expulsions*; however, the Superintendent and School Board Members engaged in lengthy discussion regarding student behavior and student discipline.

e. INTERNAL AUDITING

-No items submitted

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

-No registration forms submitted

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Ms. Kim Stefansson, Coordinator-Public Relations, advised that information had been added to the Food Services webpage and pinned to the Public Relations Facebook page advising families that public schools would not be providing meals over Spring Break (March 15 – March 19), and suggesting they visit summerbreakspot.org or call 211 to locate meal sites near them. There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 11:15 a.m.