

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, AUGUST 11, 2017

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:

Vice Chair*: Mr. Gerald W. Boone (District II)
Board Members**: Mr. Kevin L. Adams (District I)
Mrs. Patricia Hightower (District IV)
Mr. Bill Slayton (District V)

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

**Mr. Boone served as Chair for this session.*

***School Board Member, District III: Vacant*

Meeting advertised in the *Pensacola News Journal* on July 27, 2017 - Legal No. [2303393](#)

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/07132017-573>

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Boone called the Regular Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Calendar

School Board Members reviewed, but made no changes, to the schedules of workshops/meetings for September 2017 and October 2017.

School Board Members made the following changes to the schedule of workshops/meetings for November 2017:

Special Workshop, previously scheduled for November 16, beginning at 3:00 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center – *Canceled*

Regular Workshop, previously scheduled for November 17, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center – *Rescheduled to November 9, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Agenda would include an “open discussion” segment.*

Regular Meeting, previously scheduled for November 21, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in Room 160, at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center – *Rescheduled to November 14*

- Board Organization – *Boone*

In light of the recent resignation/retirement of School Board Chair Mrs. Linda Moultrie (District III), Mr. Boone felt it appropriate for the School Board to select a new Chair and Vice-Chair prior to the annual School Board organization in November. School Board Members agreed that the matter should be addressed at the August 15, 2017 Regular Meeting. The Superintendent was to add the appropriate item(s) to the agenda for that session.

- Schools of Hope – Slayton

At the request of Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent took a few moments to provide some insight on the ‘Schools of Hope’ charter school plan.

- School Resource Officers – Adams

At the request of Mr. Adams, the Superintendent provided an update on the School Resource Officer (SRO) situation with the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office (ECSO). The Superintendent said both agencies had reached resolution whereby the ECSO would continue to provide a SRO for every middle and high school campus; however, in order to do so, it was necessary for the ECSO to make an overall reduction of five SRO’s. This reduction would result in elimination of three SRO’s from high schools which previously had two (Tate, Pine Forest, Escambia), elimination of an SRO Sergeant, and reduction in the number of SRO’s serving the very north-end of the county from two to one, with that one SRO serving both Northview High and Ernest Ward Middle (*see*: Item V.b.3.C.2., School Resource Officer Agreement-Escambia County, Florida Sheriff’s Office, August 15, 2017 Regular Meeting agenda). The Superintendent said the Sheriff had also advised that the ECSO would no longer be able to provide law enforcement security for the School Board’s workshops and meetings; as such, effective August 15, 2017, that security coverage would be provided entirely by the Pensacola Police Department. Mr. Slayton said he appreciated the resolution that had been made by the two agencies, but wanted it on the record, that if the number of SRO’s provided was ever increased, he would like to see one restored to the very north-end of the county such that both Northview High and Ernest Ward Middle would each have their own SRO.

- Legislative Update – Superintendent

[Handouts provided to School Board Members] Mr. Jim Hamilton, Mixon & Associates, thanked the School Board and the Superintendent for the opportunity to bring them a brief report on various legislative issues impacting public education. Mr. Hamilton focused his discussion primarily on financial matters, particularly those related to the School District’s budget for 2017-2018.

- ECSD Families Mobile App – Superintendent

At the request of the Superintendent, staff from the Information Technology (IT) Department took a few moments to demonstrate the free* ECSD Families Mobile App, a new way for students’ families to access information from a smart phone. *The primary purpose for the ECSD Families App to make the Focus Parent Portal information system easily available and portable, as well as put District news and announcements right in your hand. The secondary goal is to make ECSD news more easily available to everyone interested in ECSD information, such as the calendar of events and sports. *Available in the Apple App Store or on the Google Play Store for Android phones.*

- SAZAC Update – Superintendent

Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and facilitator for the School Attendance Zone Advisory Committee (SAZAC), provided an update from the Committee by narrating a brief PowerPoint presentation.

After a short recess, the Regular Workshop reconvened and Mrs. Waters took a moment to make an important announcement regarding the Jani-King case. She reported that the School District had won the Jani-King case, given that Jani-King’s appeal was dismissed and no further appeal was possible.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

First Day of School: The Superintendent commented that the first day of school had been “productive start” to the 2017-2018 school year. He noted student attendance was high and teachers appeared to have been very well prepared; however, a number of transportation issues occurred later in the day. The Superintendent said a major contributing factor to the issues experienced, was lack of bus drivers. He reported that the School District was down twelve (12) bus drivers, which inhibited the Transportation Department’s ability to recover from unexpected events/situations or unusual delays. The Superintendent said District staff would be working with school administrators to develop a plan for recruiting bus drivers. He noted that other than recruiting additional bus drivers, the only other solution to the shortage was to reduce transportation services, which would thereby reduce the number of bus drivers needed.

Solar Eclipse – [Handouts provided to School Board Members] The Superintendent reminded School Board Members that for the first time since 1918, a solar eclipse would be visible in Escambia County on August 21, between 11:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. while schools were in normal session. In order to ensure student safety, the School District would be establishing guidelines for classroom teachers who wished to take their students outside to safely view the solar eclipse as part of their instruction. In addition, parental permission would be required for students to participate in outdoor solar eclipse viewing activities. The Superintendent said the guidelines and accompanying permission slip would be submitted to the School Board’s General Counsel for legal review.

The Superintendent listed the changes made to the August 15, 2017 Regular Meeting agenda since publication and prior to this session.

IV. MINUTES

-No items discussed

V. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-No items submitted

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-No items submitted

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RULES

1. Rule(s) Adoption

-No items submitted

2. Permission to Advertise

A. [Approval to Advertise Notice of Intent to Modify, Change and/or Delete School Attendance Zone Boundaries](#)

This item was addressed as part of the *SAZAC Update*, which occurred during the “Open Discussion” segment of this session.

B. [Approval to Advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to the School District of Escambia County Student Progression Plan](#)

Staff responded to general questions posed by Mrs. Hightower regarding proposed amendments to various sections of the Student Progression Plan.

C. [Approval to Advertise Notice of Intent to Adopt Amendments to the District School Board Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures \(SP&P\)](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Ms. Terri Szafran, Director of Exceptional Student Education (ESE), advised that the Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures (SP&P) was amended so that verbiage would be consistent with recent Legislative changes and also to ensure it reflected current annual data.

b. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Curriculum

-No items discussed

2. Finance and Business Services

E. Purchasing

1. [Bid Award: Chiller Preventative Maintenance, RFP #172503](#)

Upon inquiry by Mrs. Hightower, Mr. Shawn Dennis, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, said the School District could never afford a comprehensive preventative maintenance contract to cover all 83 chiller systems throughout the School District; however, this contract would provide for quarterly inspection and preventative maintenance for the most challenging of those 83 chiller systems.

9. [Bid Award: Stormwater and Site Improvements – Woodham Middle School](#)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Slayton, Mr. Anthony Noles, Director of Facilities Planning, said the purpose of the stormwater improvements was to address flooding on the west-end of the campus and site improvements were necessary to alleviate long-overdue traffic problems.

3. Human Resource Services

-No items discussed

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 for fifty-five \(55\) cost centers](#)

2. [2016-2017 Summary of Inventory Reports Submitted](#)

School Board Members applauded School District staff who, in cooperation with the Internal Auditing Department, had continued to exhibit fiscal responsibility in the safeguarding of School District assets.

f. ITEMS FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

-No items submitted

VIII. [PUBLIC FORUM](#)

-None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Workshop adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL