

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

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

**School Board Member, District III: Vacant*

School Board General Counsel: Mrs. Donna Sessions Waters

Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Malcolm Thomas

Meeting advertised in *Pensacola News Journal* on August 15, 2017 - Legal No. [2341131](#)

NOTE: Minutes from this session have been prepared according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.
Video from this session is available at <http://escambiacountysdfl.swagit.com/play/09142017-742>

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Boone called the Special Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. OPEN DISCUSSION

- Career Academy Presentation - West Florida High School Agriscience Technology Academy -
Superintendent

Students enrolled in the Agriscience Technology Academy at West Florida High School addressed the School Board regarding their experiences in this program.

- Achieve Escambia - *Superintendent*

The Superintendent introduced Kimberly Krupa, Director-Achieve Escambia, who gave a brief overview of the community's first cradle to career collective impact effort focused on the complex system of education and workforce development.

- Calendar

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

- Special Meeting, September 14, beginning at 5:01 p.m.*
- Regular Workshop, September 15, beginning at 9:00 a.m.*
Purpose: To discuss items appearing on the September 19 Regular Meeting agenda
- Regular Meeting, September 19, beginning at 5:30 p.m.*

School Board Members reviewed their schedule of workshops/meetings for October:

- Special Workshop, October 12, beginning at 3:00 p.m.*
Purpose: Open Discussion & Presentations
- Regular Workshop, October 13, beginning at 9:00 a.m.*
Purpose: To discuss items appearing on the October 17 Regular Meeting agenda
- Regular Meeting, October 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m.*

At the request of the Superintendent, the School Board agreed to an additional meeting in October:

- Special Meeting, October 6, beginning at 8:00 a.m.*
Purpose: To consider approval of out-of-field teachers

**To be held in Room 160 at the J.E. Hall Educational Services Center*

- Future Considerations for Transportation in Escambia County – *Slayton*

(NOTE: A preliminary discussion on this matter occurred at a previous session.) At the request of Mr. Slayton, the Superintendent updated School Board Members on the School District's efforts to recruit and hire additional school bus drivers. The Superintendent said those efforts would include hosting a job fair on September 28, establishing a recruiting budget, and if necessary, contracting with a recruiting (aka "headhunter") firm. In addition, the Superintendent said he would be asking for an adjustment* to the pay rate for bus driver trainees (see: Item V.b.2.A.3, [2017-2018 Miscellaneous Salary Schedule](#) on September 19, 2017 Regular Meeting agenda). The Superintendent reminded the School Board once again, there were essentially just two solutions to the current shortage of school bus drivers: hire additional drivers or reduce student transportation services. (*Increasing the pay rate from \$8.10/hour to \$11.52/hour.)

- Re-visit Customer Service – *Hightower*

Mrs. Hightower expressed concerns with the School District's customer service, noting she had received many more calls from frustrated parents at the beginning of this school year than any other since she began serving on the School Board. The primary complaint from those parents she said was they had tried to contact various people/departments and had not received a returned call in a timely manner. Mrs. Hightower suggested, and the Superintendent agreed to consider, hiring an intern to provide assistance to departments such as Transportation, that tend to receive an overwhelming number of phone calls at the beginning of a school year.

- FSBA BOD Alternate - *Hightower*

It was noted that Mrs. Linda Moultrie, former School Board Member for District III had been serving as the School Board's alternate to the Florida School Boards Association Board of Directors for District I (Escambia & Santa Rosa school boards). Since Mrs. Moultrie was no longer on the School Board, it was necessary for the School Board to appoint someone else to serve in that capacity. The Superintendent said he would ensure an item to that effect was included under the "Items from the Board" section on the October Regular School Board Meeting agenda.

- Community Action Appointee – *Hightower*

It was the consensus of the School Board, to allow Mrs. Linda Moultrie, former School Board Member for District III, to continue serving the current term as the School Board's appointee to the Community Action Committee/Program.

- Discussion of District Cost Differentials (DCD) - *Superintendent*

The Superintendent said there were currently several Florida school districts lobbying for a change or outright elimination of the District Cost Differential (DCD). For Escambia, however, the Superintendent said any consideration of eliminating the DCD should take into account the potential elimination of all other

equalization components. In response to a previous request by Mrs. Hightower, the Superintendent asked Mr. Terry St. Cyr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, to spend a few minutes explaining the purpose and effect of the DCD in Escambia. It was noted that the Florida Senate was currently undertaking a study of the DCD and whether the methodology of the Florida Price Level Index (FPLI) remains sound.

- Triumph Project Requests – *Superintendent*

At the request of the Superintendent, staff gave a brief [presentation](#) outlining the School District's Triumph Project requests.

III. [PUBLIC FORUM](#)

-None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Workshop adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Superintendent

Chair