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## **ECSD News Release**

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### **ECSD (FL) March School Board Meeting News**

The following announcements and resolutions were on the agenda of the March Regular Meeting of the Escambia County School Board, held March 23, 2021. Photos and the video recording of the meeting are posted on the Facebook page, Escambia Schools Public Relations. The meeting can also be watched here: <http://escambiacountysdfi.swagit.com/play/03232021-1402>

**March 2021 Stellar Employee of the Month:** During the March regular Meeting of the Escambia County School Board, Superintendent Timothy Smith announced the Stellar Employee for the month of March is Ms. Audy Roper, a bilingual teacher assistant at Ensley Elementary School. This her first year at Ensley and with the school district. Roper quickly became a valued member of the Ensley team and has gained the respect of students, parents, faculty, staff, and administration. She sets the bar high when it comes to dedication, performance, and attitude. She plays an important role in supporting English language learners (ELLs) to receive the maximum benefit from day-to-day activities. She helps students with both educational and social development. They know that Ms. Roper cares about them because she takes the time to listen and understand what they are saying. She shows interest in the things that are important to them, demonstrates patience when working through lessons, and recognizes each student's unique qualities. As a result of her genuine caring attitude, students are motivated to engage in their learning activities. Roper is an effective communicator and she is sensitive to student needs. She has quickly established a good rapport with the students' parents, and she uses discernment when communicating with them. Because of these positive interactions with parents, faculty and staff, good relationships and unified partnerships are formed among students, parents and teachers.

Escambia County School superintendent, Dr. Timothy Smith said, "Ms. Roper is team player, showing flexibility and dedication to her position as she maintains steady performance, and she is always willing to accept new challenges with a positive attitude."

Doreen Wells, the ESOL teacher Ms. Roper assists, describes working with her as an absolute privilege. She sees Ms. Roper as a role model for students, staff and faculty.

Audy Roper is Stellar because of her excellent work ethic and dedication to the staff and students throughout the Escambia County School District. She exemplifies the pillars of “people” and “service” and it is for these reasons, and so many others, that she has been selected as ECSD’s Stellar Employee of the Month for March, 2021. During the Escambia County School Board meeting she received a plaque, a pin, and a check for \$100 from Members First Credit Union.

**CHOOSE WELLNESS CHALLENGE:** ECSD’s Director of Risk Management and Benefits, Kevin Windham and the Coordinator of Benefits and Employee Wellness, Pat Palmer, Attended the March School Board meeting to present the Choose Wellness Challenge winners with their checks.

Each year, the ECSD challenges employees to participate in the “Choose Wellness” challenge. The challenge is to see which school or major department achieves the highest percentage of employee participation in the “Choose Wellness” challenge. Since Covid-19 created new challenges this year, an extension of time through the end of 2020 was implemented. Schools and departments were challenged to achieve the highest percentage of improvement from one period to the next. Each site based administrator and wellness coordinator is tasked with motivating employees to complete all four steps of the health-screening program. The schools or departments with the highest achievement are recognized annually, and receive a financial incentive reward to be used for wellness initiatives at each location. Awards are paid from Wellness dollars, so no taxpayer dollars are used. The decision to create a district wellness center and program was made to promote employee wellness because a healthy workforce costs less in medical costs and lost work hours which in turn creates a more productive and higher achieving workforce.

Superintendent Tim Smith announced the winners during the March School Board meeting.

- The overall winner is Molino Park Elementary School at 68.5% participation. In addition, Molino Park Elementary also won this year’s “Most Improved” award with an increase of 13.3% over last year’s participation.

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Molino Park Elementary school received two plaques and two checks for a total of \$1,500.

To create a “healthy” competition between schools and major departments at each level, awards of \$250 were also awarded during the meeting to the highest percentage participation at each school or major departmental level.

- The highest percentage participation at the middle school level goes to ransom middle school at 55.1%.

- The highest percentage participation at the high school level goes to Northview High School again this year at 53.2%.
- The highest percentage participation at the major department goes to the McDaniels Administration Center at 66.4%.

Congratulations to all schools and departments for their success.

During the March School Board meeting, the following resolutions were presented by Superintendent Tim Smith and voted on, and passed, by the five members of the Escambia County School Board.

**MILITARY CHILD MONTH:** Whereas, Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola provides social, cultural, and financial benefits to the Pensacola community; and whereas, research shows that military families experience frequent relocations where families often move an average of every 2.9 years and children of military personnel can attend up to nine different schools by graduation; and whereas, deployments, which are necessary to the mission of our armed forces and are a normal cycle of the military lifestyle, can impact the educational outcome of children; and whereas, educators play a special role in the lives of children and school can serve as an oasis of stability for children, especially during a parent's deployment; now, therefore, be it resolved, that the School Board of Escambia County, Florida, does hereby recognize the month of April 2021, as MILITARY CHILD MONTH and calls upon families, schools, businesses, and communities to be our partners in announcing this resolution and to become active in celebrating our military children. Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the regular meeting of said Board and that a copy be tendered to Captain Timothy Kinsella, Commanding Officer of NAS Pensacola, and Carissa Bergosh, School Liaison Officer, NAS Pensacola, adopted this 23rd day of March, 2021.

**YOUTH SUCCESS WEEK:** Whereas, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice supports a balanced approach to juvenile justice and is committed to protecting Florida's citizens; responding to victims of juvenile crime, preventing juvenile crime, meeting the treatment needs of juvenile offenders, diverting youth from a life of crime and returning youth to their communities as productive citizens; and whereas, the Department's targeted services, coupled with appropriate consequences, accountability and treatment for juveniles who commit serious crimes, have resulted in significant reductions in juvenile crime; and whereas, law enforcement, the court system, program providers, local boards and councils, schools, volunteers, and other juvenile justice partners – including parents – work tirelessly with young offenders, leading to declining juvenile crime rates; and whereas, juvenile justice programs have assisted juvenile offenders in remaining crime free, leading to fewer crimes and more saved lives; and whereas, we as

part of the community believe that working together, we can make a difference in our students' lives; and whereas, the Escambia County School District is commemorating its twenty-seventh year of collaborating with the Department of Juvenile Justice in providing services to the citizens of Florida, and the District has adopted and proclaimed "Hope, Encouragement, Love, and Patience (HELP)" to be the theme for Youth Success Week 2021. now, therefore, be it resolved that the School Board of Escambia County does hereby recognize the week of April 5 – 9, 2021 as YOUTH SUCCESS WEEK and calls upon families, schools, religious and civic organizations, businesses and communities to become our partners in encouraging, celebrating, motivating, and empowering our youth for success. Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the regular meeting of said Board and a copy be tendered to Kerri L. Coats, Director of the Department of Alternative Education and the Chief Probation Officer for Circuit One, Department of Juvenile Justice, adopted March 23, 2021.

**SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH:** Whereas, school library programs are an important asset in the education of the youth of the state; and whereas, school library programs significantly contribute to student achievement by providing instructional support resources and services; and whereas, school libraries provide access to information in a variety of formats within the school as well as to digital resources outside the school; and whereas, learning to become effective users of information and ideas is essential as Florida's youth prepare for a future filled with challenges and change; and whereas, promoting competencies in using new and emerging technologies is an integral part of school library programs; and whereas, school library programs promote literacy and the enjoyment of reading; and whereas, school librarians are instructional partners and consultants in the teaching and learning process. Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the School Board of Escambia County, Florida, does hereby recognize the month of April, 2021 as SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the regular meeting of said Board and that a copy be tendered to Michelle White, Coordinator, Media Services, adopted on March 23, 2021.

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