

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MAX D. WALKER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
35 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.
QUINCY, FLORIDA

February 25, 2020

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, Chairwoman; Mr. Leroy McMillan; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Steve Scott; and Mr. Tyrone D. Smith. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Reverend Leroy Colston, Pastor of New St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church in Tallahassee.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Milton thanked and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Reverend Colston for the prayer. He shared his condolences to Mrs. Vicki Johnson and her family in the loss of her sister. He thanked Mrs. Johnson for attending the meeting.

Mrs. Vicki Johnson recognized four Gadsden County students who are part of the Links Beautillion. She stated that two of the students attend Gadsden County High School and two students attend Crossroad Academy Charter School. She also recognized Mrs. Linda Dilworth with the Links Beautillion.

Mrs. Dilworth stated that the Links, Incorporated of Tallahassee is celebrating its milestone year for the Chapter's Signature Program. She stated that the 10th Annual Links Beautillion Program is celebrating and recognizing the accomplishments of 19 high school seniors, four of whom attend Gadsden County Schools. She stated that Jalen Black and Seste Wilson, IV attend Crossroad Academy Charter School; and Phillip Hinson, II and Demetrius Lawson attend Gadsden County High School. She stated that these young men have been involved in a 9-week curriculum based program of extraordinary exposure and opportunities that began on January 12, 2020 at their Green Coat Ceremony. She stated that the students participated in Leadership Development, Mentoring, Character Education, etc. She stated that their program will culminate with a Links Beautillion Formal Presentation and Scholarship Awards on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Florida A&M University's Al Lawson Center.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mrs. Lewis entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith, seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. January 28, 2020, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. January 28, 2020, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. February 11, 2020, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- b. Board Review Requested for the 12/31/2019 Financial Statements from Crossroad Academy Charter School

Fund Source: All Public Funds at Crossroad Academy Charter School

Amount: Crossroad Academy Charter School Financial Statements attached

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Purchase Order Request for Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP to Serve Greensboro Elementary School

Fund Source: To Be Determined

Amount: \$18,376.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #52-1920-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #54-1920-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #55-1920-0051

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items preceded by an (*) asterisk were removed from the CONSENT agenda at the beginning of the meeting and acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

*6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)

a. Personnel 2019 – 2020

Following Mrs. Lewis' request to have and (*) to denote when employees resign to accept new positions within the district, she made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

a. Board Approval for Federal Projects Budget Amendments

Fund Source: 4200 Fund Federal Programs

Amount: Attachments indicate amounts by project number

Mrs. Lewis stated that Mrs. Wood previously discussed the Federal Projects Budget Amendments in a workshop.

Mrs. Wood stated that the district is bringing all financial transactions into compliance.

Following discussion, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #51-1920-0051

Mr. McMillan stated that he was concerned about a statement made by student #51-1920-0051. He requested that student #51-1920-0051 receive anger management counseling.

Mr. Milton stated that the district was following the law and the student should continue to receive educational services. He amended his recommendation to add mandatory counseling for student #51-1920-0051.

Following discussion, Mr. Leroy McMillan made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to add mandatory counseling for student #51-1920-0051. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

a. Five Year District Facilities Work Plan

Fund Source: Various Sources

Amount: N/A

Mrs. Lewis thanked Mr. Hunter for the extensive report on the district's five year facilities work plan. She stated that the five year facilities work plan will be discussed further on Thursday, March 27th 4:30 p.m. in a workshop setting.

Following discussion, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*11. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

a. Approval of Job Descriptions

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mrs. Lewis stated that she was concerned about the goals and responsibilities for the Licensed Clinical Social Worker and the Social Worker, MSW, Education.

Mr. Milton stated that both the Licensed Clinical Social Worker and the Social Worker, MSW, Education were grant funded positions by PAEC. She stated that both positions will serve six districts. He stated that both positions are funded by the Elevate Rural Florida Grant. He stated two schools will be served in Gadsden County.

Following discussion, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #11a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter stated that the maintenance department is preparing for the hot weather. He stated that he was concerned about personnel. He stated that there are currently five positions vacant in the maintenance department. He stated that he was focused on filling the vacant positions in the maintenance department.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton stated that the Black History Parade was scheduled on Saturday, February 29th beginning at 11:00 a.m. He invited everyone to a luncheon at the district office on Saturday, February 29th beginning at 12:00 noon sponsored by the international teachers. He stated that the district was gearing up for testing. He stated that the district is receiving resources and funding from Hurricane Michael. He stated that the district received a Restart Grant to assist with expenses related to Hurricane Michael. He stated that the district also received the Elevate Florida Grant to assist with mental health. He stated that the district is beginning to recover from Hurricane Michael. He stated that all the blue tarps have been removed from the roofs. He stated that a workshop will be scheduled to discuss how monies will be used on schools to ensure safety and maintenance upkeep. He stated that the community will be invited to the workshop to share input.

Mr. Smith thanked the Superintendent and Mrs. Wood for management of the district's finances. He suggested the Board have community meetings to discuss the consideration of possible reconfiguration.

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost requested that the district develop procedures to have reports showing what foods were distributed and received. He stated that the district is in a battle with private schools. He stated that when students return to the district from other counties, the district will not receive funds. He stated that testing is constantly changing. He applauded teachers for teaching and trying to raise students. He encouraged everyone to team with Gadsden.

Mr. Scott complimented Mr. Hunter and the finance department for their dedication and hard work.

Mr. Smith stated that he was excited about the international teachers. He encouraged everyone to come support them on Saturday, February 29th at 12:00 noon for a luncheon.

Mrs. Lewis thanked Mrs. Farlin for her work with literacy. She stated that literacy programs are in place. She stated that books are given to students. She encouraged everyone to join the Board and Superintendent to give the gift of a book to a student. She stated that the district's focus is put on reading. She stated that communication should be increased with parents.

Mr. Emanuel Sapp addressed the Board to share information on the location of the graduation ceremony for seniors at Gadsden County High School. He stated that there are approximately 150 of 224 seniors that are graduation ready. He shared cost information to use the Al Lawson Jr. Multi-purpose Center, decorations, etc. for the location of the graduation ceremony. He stated that transportation and security for the seniors will be covered by himself and his colleagues.

The following individuals from the audience addressed the Board to express their concerns in regards to the location of the high school graduation: 1) Mr. Gabrielle Showers; 2) Mrs. Karen Hall; and 3) Mrs. Barbara Thomas.

Mr. Milton and Board members thanked Mr. Sapp and the other individuals for sharing their concerns regarding the location of the high school graduation. Mr. Milton and the Board requested the parents provide a contract, copy of insurance liability and all receipts for bus transportation relating to the location of the high school graduation.

Mrs. Judith Mandela, President of GCCTA, addressed the Board to inform everyone of National Public School Week. She encouraged everyone to wear something red tomorrow (February 26th) to show support of National Public School Week. She stated that it is very important that Board meetings are held when teachers can attend, and not during the regular school hours. She requested that the district provide professional development to help teachers become certified. She stated that some teachers have not been told what is needed for certification.

Mrs. Lewis stated that professional learners for teachers is very much needed and important.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.