

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

April 4, 2017

7:00 P.M.

The special meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Tyrone D. Smith; and Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis via telephone conference. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Miniis, Attorney for the Board; and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 7:00 p.m.

2. PERSONNEL

a. Employee #020-16-1221

Mr. Simmons removed item #2 from the agenda.

3. SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION

a. Legislative Special Facilities Appropriation

The following individuals from the audience addressed the Board to express their concerns regarding the Legislative Special Facilities Appropriation: 1) Rev. Eddie Allen; 2) Mr. Emanuel Sapp; and 3) Mr. Dwayne Corker.

Mr. Frost stated that he wished to continue with the original ten-year facilities plan to build a new facility to house students at Gretna Elementary and St. John Elementary School.

Mr. Simmons stated that he concurred with the Superintendent to apply for special facilities funding. He stated that the original ten-year facilities plan was not implemented.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the Superintendent made a very good decision to apply for legislative special facilities funding to construct a new K-8 School to replace Stewart Street Elementary School and Gadsden Elementary Magnet School. She stated that she is all for improving educational needs for students.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation on agenda item #3a to apply for legislative special facilities funding to construct a new K-8 School to replace Stewart Street Elementary School and Gadsden Elementary Magnet School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried with Mr. Scott, Mr. Smith and Mrs. Lewis voting "aye". Mr. Simmons and Mr. Frost voted "nay".

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval,

b. Reconfiguration Action

Mr. Frost expressed his concern regarding the transfer of grades four and five from George Munroe Elementary School and St. John Elementary School to James A. Shanks Middle School, and the transfer of grades PK through three students from St. John Elementary School to George Munroe Elementary School and discontinuing operations at St. John Elementary School. He stated that students at St. John Elementary School were not being offered anything. He stated that the St. John community was not getting any justice.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was concerned with James A. Shanks Middle School becoming a 4 to 8 school, and the transportation of students.

The following individuals from the audience addressed the Board to share their concerns regarding the reconfiguration of schools: 1) Mr. Ronnie McMillan; and 2) Mr. Ronte' Harris.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation on agenda item #3b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried with Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Smith and Mr. Scott voting "aye". Mr. Simmons and Mr. Frost voted "nay".

c. Reconfiguration Action

Mr. Simmons read the Superintendent's recommendation to transfer grades 9 through 12 from West Gadsden High School to the current East Gadsden High School. East Gadsden will open the school year with a new name. West Gadsden will become a grade 4 through 8 middle school. Transfers grades four and five from Greensboro and Gretna Elementary Schools to the newly created West Gadsden Middle School. Transfer grades PK through three from Gretna Elementary School to Greensboro Elementary School and discontinue operations at Gretna Elementary School.

Mr. Frost expressed his concerns regarding the need for bus drivers. He stated that he could not understand why Chattahoochee Elementary School was not on the agenda. He stated that he does not agree with the Superintendent's reconfiguration proposal.

Mr. Smith stated that he vote to provide the best education for all students.

Mr. Scott stated that he has to look out for what's best for students.

Mr. Simmons stated that at the community meeting in Chattahoochee, the community did not support the merger of the two high schools. He stated that he does not support the merger of the two high schools. He stated that he supports the concept of having one high school if centrally located. He stated that the transportation department needs to iron out its current issues. He stated that merging of schools will not enhance academics. He requested the Board defer taking action on agenda item #3c.

Mrs. Lewis shared with the Board the following concerns: 1) transportation; 2) convenience; 3) planning; 4) adjustments of time; and 5) the need for parents, teachers and the entire Gadsden County community to help with the reconfiguration of schools.

The following individuals from the audience addressed the Board to share their concerns regarding reconfiguration of schools: 1) Rev. Eddie Allen; 2) Mr. Antonio Jefferson; 3) Rev. Clarence Jackson; 4) Mr. Emanuel Sapp; 5) Mr. Derrick Elias; 6) Mr. Ronte' Harris; 7) Mr. Rick Soskus; 8) Ms. Caldeza Pringley; 9) Mr. Ronnie McMillan; and 10) Mr. Jeff Starks.

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation on agenda item #3c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried with Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Smith and Mr. Scott voting "aye". Mr. Simmons and Mr. Frost voted "nay".

4. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

5. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

6. The workshop adjourned at 8:30 p.m.