

EXECUTIVE SESSION - SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

April 17, 2018

10:00 A.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The Board convened in executive session at 10:00 a.m. to discuss collective bargaining issues; and adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

The workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Steve Scott, at 11:30 a.m.

The Board recessed the workshop at 11:33 a.m.; and reconvened at 11:53 a.m.

2. SENATE BILL 7026 (Security Officers)

Mr. Bruce James shared with the Board a narrative of Senate Bill 7026 – Public Safety. He stated that the Bill (Chapter 2018-3, L.O.F.) comprehensively addresses the crisis of gun violence, including but not limited to, gun violence on school campuses. He stated that the Legislature intends to address this crisis by providing law enforcement and the courts with the tools to enhance public safety by temporarily restricting firearm possession by a person who is undergoing a mental health crisis and when there is evidence of a threat of violence, and by promoting school safety and enhanced coordination between education and law enforcement entities at the state and local level.

Mr. James also shared with the Board Governor Scott's plan of implementing the new law, as well as some of the highlights of the new law, and the deadlines each school district must meet:

- By May 1, 2018, the Florida Department of Education (DOE) will hire a Director for their newly created Office of Safe Schools.
- Upon SB 7026 becoming law, DOE immediately began working to implement active shooter training to each teacher, student, faculty member and school safety officer to make sure they know what to do during a crisis. This training must be done at least every semester.
- By July 1, 2018, Superintendents must designate a district School Safety Specialist.
- By August 1, 2018, each school district must complete a security risk assessment for each public school campus. The assessment must be conducted in consultation with local law enforcement. Although the \$99 million in funding for school hardening will be distributed as quickly as possible, school districts should use existing funding to make any critical safety improvements immediately.
- Before the start of the 2018 - 2019 school year, DOE will begin to identify a security consulting firm for the independent, third-party review of the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool, as required by the new law.
- By September 1, 2018, each school should establish a threat assessment team with expertise in mental health counseling, academic instruction, law enforcement and school administration that will meet monthly to review any potential threats to students and staff at school.
- By July 1, 2018, the Governor expect each School Board, in coordination with their County Sheriff to determine how many people they intend to train using the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program. This program is 100 percent voluntary. Once participation decisions have been made, DOE will work with the Governor's Office and the Legislature to redirect any unused funding from this program to hire additional school officers.
- In the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, Florida schools were provided \$97.5 million to hire additional school safety officers. The Governor's expectation is that there is at least one school safety officer at each school at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. The Governor understands that according to the most recent data before the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, approximately 1,500 law enforcement officers were working in our schools.
- Before the start of the 2018 – 2019 school year, DOE will establish a youth mental health awareness and assistance training program to train school personnel to better identify signs of mental illness in students and how to seek the proper treatment.
- In the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, Florida schools were provided \$69 million to establish or expand school-based mental health care. The expectations are that each student in Florida has access to a mental health professional at school by the 2018 – 2019 school year. He stated that the plans must be submitted to DOE by August 1, 2018.

Mr. Milton stated that the Safe Schools Allocation in FEFP for the 2017- 2018 school year was \$160,960, and for 2018 – 2019 is \$467,461 (increase of \$306,501). He stated that the expenditures included five School Resource Officers (75%/25% Payment of Sal/Bene) \$226,982; six additional School Resource Officers for Prek-12 schools; Security Guards (unarmed) total of 11 - \$167,342; Security Guard at Gadsden Central Academy - \$46,440; Total expenditures \$440,764. Revenue allocation minus expenditures totaled (\$279,804).

Board members requested Mrs. Minnis craft a letter to the State informing them that Gadsden does not wish to participate in the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program.

During the discussion of Senate Bill 7026, Board members asked questions, shared their concerns, and made comments.

In response to Mr. Milton’s request for a joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners, Mr. Scott requested that the agenda be limited to the discussion of safe schools.

3. FEES FOR USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Following the discussion of fees for use of school facilities, Mr. Milton requested Mrs. Minnis review the use of facilities form for updates and share with the Board.

4. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton stated that in reference to district communications, principals or their school designee will have the responsibility to send their messages out through Parent Link. He stated that professional development training for administrators will be held at the PAEC Leadership Conference. He stated that ongoing professional development training will be provided for staff. He stated that he reminded leaders to be aware of attendance or absences. He stated that he will advocate for employees to come to work. He stated that the district’s four day work week will begin the first week of June. He stated that FSA testing was in place. He stated that the AdvancEd Team was scheduled to visit the district May 6 – 9, 2018.

5. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

6. The workshop adjourned at 1:15 p.m.