

## SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

May 7, 2018

6:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

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.

1. Call to Order

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Steve Scott, at 6:00 p.m.

2. Gadsden County High School External Operator Agreement

Mr. Milton thanked everyone for attending the workshop. He stated that the External Operator Agreement for Gadsden County High School was needed if the school did not receive a letter grade of “C” as required by the Florida Department of Education. He introduced Mr. William Clark with the Rensselaerville Institute to share with the Board key comparisons between an External Operator and External Partner. He also introduced Ms. Mildred Toliver who participated in the workshop via audio and video conference.

Mr. Clark stated that the Core Turnaround Partnership consists of the following: General – Outcomes are student achievement targets in two core areas, serve as catalyst for change by building capacity of school leaders and teachers, 3.5 year partnership with principal and leadership team, and intervene through training, conferences, regular site visits and virtual support. Staffing and Supervision – Advisory role on personnel assignments and hiring, no formal supervision of leaders or teachers, and assess leader’s capacity readiness for leading turnaround. Professional Development – successful classrooms model of helpful feedback to teachers, provide training and ongoing support to school leaders, and provide training and support to district leaders to support school turnaround. Structures and Resources – alignment of resources, diagnosis and data use strategies in place to make changes to schedules, data structures, etc. to increase student outcomes; assess current assets and resources and make recommendations to better align them to student outcomes. Community – use of messages and brand strategy to convey shift in school approach and new direction.

Mr. Clark stated that in comparison the External Operator Partnership consists of the following: General – Outcome to increase in student achievement; school achieves “C” or better as determined by FLDOE; supervision of staff and leadership, capacity building of leadership and staff through intensive daily training, coaching and support, 5 year partnership with full school and gradual release to local leadership, equal partnership with school district to support leading change at Gadsden County High School, provide on-the-ground support through an “in residence” Lead Principal, and TRI has local level control through school leadership structure but mutual consent with district around major decisions. Staffing and Supervision – TRI has primary responsibilities for day-to-day, in collaboration with district, determine staffing based upon readiness and capacity criteria, hire staff as appropriate, and develop new pipelines for teachers and leaders, and establish relationships with higher education institutions for teacher and leader pool. Professional Development – provide training and ongoing support to school leaders and teachers, provide training and support to district leaders to support durable change, develop intensive curriculum training modules, support rigorous professional learning communities, STEAM curriculum and teaching expertise, summer PD academy for teachers and leaders, and ongoing teacher training on core modules and use of data to inform instruction. Structures and Resources – assess current organizational structure’s impact on student outcomes and realign to maximize impact, and assess the school and district’s current assets and resources and align to student outcomes. Community – engagement of students in Community Sparkplug projects for community service credit, and implement Community Sparkplug projects to engage people to drive change at local level.

Mr. Milton shared with the Board information Pursuant to Section 1008.33(4)(b), Florida Statute. He stated that the district must contract with an outside entity that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness to operate the school. To ensure the district is well positioned to contract with an outside entity/external operator for the 2018 - 2019 school year. He stated that there were questions that needed a response by May 15<sup>th</sup> to the Department of Education.

During the presentation of the comparison between an External Operator and External Partner Board members asked questions, shared their concerns and made comments.

Mr. Simmons requested that the Board schedule ongoing workshops to receive updates on the External Operator Contract. He stated for the record that he was not on board with the External Operator Partner, but will support because of the Department of Education mandate. He stated that the Rensselaerville Institute was a great company. He stated that he only has issues with external operators and partners.

Mr. Milton requested a special meeting Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for Board members to take action on the External Operator Agreement for Gadsden County High School.

### 3. School Safety

Mr. Milton stated that he will meet with Sheriff Young on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to discuss School Resource Officers and school safety issues.

In response to Mr. Smith’s concern regarding the appeal request, Mr. Milton stated that there has been no response from the Governor’s Office at this time.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was concerned about the district paying salaries and benefits for the School Resource Officers as required by the Governor. He stated that there should be one officer to serve Carter Parramore Academy and HOPE Academy.

4. Educational Items by the Superintendent

None.

5. School Board Requests and Concerns

None.

6. The workshop adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The Board convened in executive session to discuss collective bargaining issues at 7:21 p.m.; and adjourned at 7:50 p.m.