

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

July 10, 2018

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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

2. REQUEST PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING

3. AGREEMENTS

a. Clark vs. Gadsden County School Board

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.

***3. AGREEMENTS**

b. 2018 – 2019 Capital Health Plan Rates

Fund Source: All Funds with Payroll

Amount: Estimated total cost of health insurance to Board = \$3,587,320

In response to Mr. Simmons' request for an overview of the new Capital Health Plan rates, Mrs. Wood stated that the Insurance Committee reviewed the options for health insurance for the insurance year beginning October 1, 2018 and recommended the CHP Capital Select plan with the prescription co-payments of \$15/\$30/\$50. She stated that the rate increase was 5.5%. She stated that in addition, the Insurance Committee recommended the CHP Value Selection Plan with the \$15/\$50/\$100 prescription co-payments that meet the requirements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). She shared with the Board a copy of an employee letter showing employee compensation and the related benefits and deductions. She stated that the benefits are payments made by the School Board that are in addition to the employee's salary. She stated that the amount of Board paid benefits amounts between 33% and 45% of salaries for employees. She stated that deductions are withheld from an employee's gross salary due to required taxes or to pay the cost of your voluntary selections. She stated that there are many options available to employees to meet their individual needs. She stated that all employees need to participate in the Open Enrollment period for benefits/deductions this year. She stated that Pat Thomas & Associates Insurance Company will be guiding the Open Enrollment process. She stated that the district's goal is to ensure full transparency in providing essential information regarding benefits and deductions.

Mr. John Pat Thomas and Mr. Bradley Joyner with Pat Thomas & Associates Insurance Company stated that they were elated with the 5.5% insurance rate increase. Mr. Thomas stated they were expecting a 9 or 10% rate increase. He stated that Capital Health Plan uses a community rating system.

In response to Mr. Simmons' concern about reducing the insurance rates for employees, Mr. Thomas stated that there are other options for employees with higher co-pays.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #3b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*4. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #117-1718-0051

Mr. Simmons stated that he was concerned about the reason for deferring action on student case #117-1718-0051 at the last Board meeting. He stated that there should be counseling in place for the student. He stated that the district need to find ways to correct the student's behavior. He stated that the Board need to take a harsh stand on student discipline.

Mr. John Pat Thomas stated that what happened last week in the district was very important. He praised everyone for their part in the high school receiving a “C” letter grade.

Mr. Simmons stated that he wished to defer action or amend the Superintendent’s recommendation on agenda item #4a.

Mr. Frost stated that the district has student discipline procedures in place, they just needed to be followed.

Mr. Smith stated that parents want their students in a safe learning environment. He asked if the district could afford to rehabilitate its current student discipline program, or how does the district revitalize its current discipline program.

Mr. Simmons suggested the Board schedule a workshop to further discuss student discipline. He stated that student discipline should be handled on a case by case issue.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to defer action on agenda item #4a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tyrone D. Smith and carried with Mr. Smith, Mr. Simmons, and Mr. Scott voting “aye”. Mr. Frost voted “nay”.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

5. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS

a. Controlled Open Enrollment 2018 – 2019

Mrs. Carolyn Francis stated that beginning with the 2017 - 2018 school year, each district school Board and charter school must adopt a controlled open enrollment plan that allows a parent from any school district in the State to enroll his or her child in and transport his or her child to any public school that has not reached capacity pursuant to F.S. 1002.31(2) (a). She stated that the controlled open enrollment plan includes all existing school choice options in the district such as magnet schools, alternative schools, special programs, advanced placement, and dual enrollment. She stated that there were a few changes to the application process for controlled open enrollment.

b. Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) Guidelines

Mrs. Francis stated that Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) is open to all eligible students within the district. She stated that the VIP is an innovative educational experience that takes place in an interactive learning environment created through technology. She stated that the VIP guidelines contain the process a virtual school or home school parent would follow when enrolling for virtual school opportunities that are not provided in regular public school classrooms in Gadsden County.

c. School Safety – SRO Contract

Mr. Bruce James stated that the sheriff's department will increase the rate per School Resource Officer. He stated that a proposal will be given to the finance department for review. He stated that the district is currently exploring other avenues for additional officers. He stated that the Integrity Committee will meet on July 12th to further discuss safe school plans and the needs of the district. He stated that there will be continuing dialogue with the sheriff's department. He stated that currently the county commissioners are not willing to work with the district on safety issues. He encouraged the Board to reach out to the county commissioners for assistance.

6. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mrs. Judith Mandela's request to have the meeting agendas on the district's website in a timely manner, Mr. Scott stated that every effort is being made to have the agendas put online in a timely manner.

Ms. Raynak stated that the Superintendent had received a call from the Chancellor to attend the State Board meeting in Orlando. She stated that the Superintendent has been asked to share the district's strategies used to obtain a "C" letter grade at the high school. She reminded the Board of the PAEC Leadership Conference in Panama City next week.

7. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.