

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MAX D. WALKER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
35 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.
QUINCY, FLORIDA 32351

August 11, 2009

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Judge B. Helms, Chairman; Mr. Isaac Simmons; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Eric F. Hinson; and Mr. Roger P. Milton. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, 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 Chairman, Mr. Judge B. Helms, at 6:05 p.m.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Helms removed from the agenda item #4 – East Gadsden High School Improvement Plan of Action. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

2. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS

a. Contracted Services

Fund Source: General Fund and Title I
Amount: \$162,300.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. GASB 45 OPEB Contract

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$8,600.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval

d. Contract for Dental Treatments for Head Start

Fund Source: Special Federal Stimulus – Head Start ARRA
Amount: \$11,538.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Contract for Retirement Plan Compliance and Administration Services Agreement

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$4,852.32 (\$5.42 per eligible employee x 926 employees)

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. Contract for Crossing Guard at WGHS

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$7,200.00

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.

*2. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS

b. Contracted Services

Fund Source: Head Start
Amount: \$73,000.00

Mr. Helms asked if the Head Start Contracted Services were a continuation of services, if the resource teacher was part of the contracted amount, how many students will be served, and if Head Start services could be conducted without the contract.

Mrs. Carolyn Harden, Director of Head Start PreK Programs stated that the resource teacher was included in the contract amount, 34 students would be served under the Head Start Program at Dick Howser Center. She stated that two other schools in the district have the three year old program. She stated that the Head Start Regional Office wants the district to offer 10 hours of full year services. She stated that if the Head Start Three Year Old Program is offered in the schools, they would have to stay at school 10 hours and longer than 108 calendar days.

In response to Mr. Hinson's question about the educational program teachers for the three year olds, Mrs. Harden stated that the teachers use the DLM Curriculum and Core Knowledge programs.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #2b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

3. AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS

- a. Agreement Between Gadsden County School District and Alternative Unlimited, Inc.

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. James asked for the Board's approval to give Alternative Unlimited, Inc. a try. He stated that the agreement would be effective from the date of execution and shall continue in effect until June 30, 2010, unless terminated on an earlier date or otherwise amended.

Mr. Helms asked if students who are expelled from HOPE Academy would have to wait 90 days before attending the Alternative Unlimited, Inc. Program.

Mr. James stated that he thinks the Board could be in a position to expel to this program, but may need to add new language to the contract.

Dr. Bridges stated that she was concerned about FTE while students are at HOPE Academy, and also about a certain amount of time for expulsion to the Alternative Unlimited, Inc. Program.

Mrs. Minnis stated that the district may not be able to use the Alternative Unlimited, Inc. Program for expulsions. She stated that a student is in membership when he/she is officially assigned (not withdrawn) to a course or program by the district.

Mr. Milton stated that a dropout is determined by a certain code. He stated that a student must be a dropout for 90 days. He asked if a student enrolls and completes the Drop Back Program can they re-enter into the district. He asked if the district had a contact person to work with Alternative Unlimited, Inc. He stated that a tracking system needed to be set up for the students, assigned a school number, and attendance kept.

Mr. James stated that he has identified a district staff person to oversee the Alternative Unlimited, Inc. Program. He stated that the Alternative Unlimited, Inc. will be established at church sites.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was confused about what would happen to students that have no ties to the district. He wanted to know why the district had to track these students.

Mr. Milton stated that students will receive a code in the program under the name of the Gadsden County School Board. He stated that the district would act as the fiscal agent. He stated that there might be some expenses to the district.

Mr. Simmons stated that he supports the Alternative Unlimited, Inc. program. He stated that the program could be revisited at the end of the year. He stated that the district may need to increase the percentage from 10% to 15% for FTE/FEFP.

Mr. Hinson stated that he strongly disapprove of the Alternative Unlimited, Inc. Program. He stated that the Board has too many concerns regarding the program. He stated that the timeframe for students to be dropped out of school needs to be 1 year to 1 ½ years before they could enroll in the program. He requested the pros and cons because he thinks there will be a mass layoff because of the number of students that will enter into the program. He stated that if the district markets Carter Parramore Academy Alternative Program, students will return.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #3a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried with Mr. Milton, Mr. Frost, Mr. Helms, and Mr. Simmons voting "aye." Mr. Hinson voted "nay."

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Loan for Purchase of 24 School Buses

Fund Source: Capital Improvements Fund

Amount: Loan Amount \$2,318,042.00 with a fixed rate of 3.45%

Mrs. Wood stated that the district had attempted to secure two local bids and urged that the Board's decision not be made at this time because further information is needed.

Mr. Pace stated that proposals from Capital City Bank and Daimler Chrysler showed differences to each loan. He stated that there are some contractual language that needs to be cleared and companies are willing to negotiate with the bank on the language needed. He stated that the same length of amortization is

longer for Daimler Chrysler so it reduces the overall financing of the buses. He stated that Capital City Bank accesses an administrative fee and Chrysler does not. He stated that the quotes are only good through September 1st and has to be finalized by September 23rd. He stated that the Board did not need to make a decision tonight, but the 25th is the target date.

Mr. Hinson asked who the district advertised bidding for the Lease/Purchase of School Buses.

Mr. Pace stated that the bidding for the Lease/Purchase of School Buses was advertised in the local papers and went to local banks and manufacture bus companies.

Mr. James stated that he was ready to make a recommendation based on the information he has in hand.

Mr. Helms stated that he wanted someone to review the contract and the figures, and then have the Superintendent make recommendation at the regular Board meeting on August 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to defer action on agenda item #3b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

5. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James announced that the Back to School Assembly would be held on Tuesday, August 18th beginning with breakfast at 7:30 a.m., East Gadsden High School. He stated that there would not be a rally chant because a lot of time would be spent on in-service. He stated that Liberty, Calhoun and Madison Counties will join in for the rally. He stated that the trainings would be focused on the Continuous Improvement Model (CIM). He stated that the district designed most of the training.

6. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Milton stated that DOE has officially notified Stewart Street Elementary School of its 2nd year for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant. He stated that he will be meeting with the principal, Ms. Lisa Robinson, on Thursday morning. He stated that he would be the Project Director for the program.

Mr. Frost stated that he visited Carter Parramore Academy and hopes that when school starts the district has teachers in classrooms and not substitutes on the 1st day of school. He stated that there are a lot of students behind by grade level. He stated that he wants the Board to look at an alternative program to serve elementary school students.

Mr. Helms made the following announcements: 1) School Board Retreat – August 22nd, 8 a.m. -12 p.m. at Pat Thomas Law Academy; 2) East Gadsden Open House – August 20th, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. for 10th thru 12th graders; 3) West Gadsden Open House – August 12th, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.; 4) Shanks Ribbon Cutting for the Shanks Make Over Project, August 21st – 10:00 a.m.; 5) Regular Board Meeting, August 25th, 6:00 p.m. – Financial Workshop, 4:00 p.m.; and 6) Shanks Community Day – September 10th, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m..

Mrs. Wood reminded the Board of the following: 1) Superintendent’s Annual Report – September 8th, 6:00 p.m.; and 2) Final Budget Hearing – September 15th, 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Helms shared with the Board an open enrollment schedule for insurance/fringe benefits for the district. He stated that open enrollment for the district office was scheduled for August 21st, 9:00 a.m. in the Board room.

7. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.