

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

August 25, 2020

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan and Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board. Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, Chairwoman; Mr. Steve Scott; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others were present via telephone conference. Mr. Tyrone D. Smith was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis, at 6:02 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Charlie D. Frost.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Lewis thanked the administrators for their work with making things pleasant for employees return to school.

Mr. Milton requested Mrs. Minnis share with the Board a brief update on the lawsuit with Judge Dobson and the Florida Education Association.

Mrs. Minnis stated that Judge Dobson's ruling regarding the Department of Education's Emergency Order was unconstitutional. She stated that an appeal is expected by the Governor with a stay of the judge's ruling. She stated that the Emergency Order was still in effect.

Master Sergeant Charles Roberts, Athletic Director, addressed the Board to share an update on sports. He stated that the high school football players are returning to practice under the FHSAA guidance. He stated that staff is minimizing risk for athletes to safely return to practice. He stated that they are minimizing risks by managing schedules and having team training sessions. He stated that communication between staff and athletes are very important. He stated that there are facility and equipment cleaning and sanitizing procedures in place. He stated that there are training safety risk factors in place following periods of inactivity. He stated that all student athletes will have their own water bottles. He stated that water bottles must not be shared. He stated that hydration stations (water cows, water trough, water fountains, etc.) will not be utilized. He stated that all coaches and students will

be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to a workout. He stated that screening includes a temperature check. He stated that responses to screening questions for each person will be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19.

The Board members shared their issues and concerns regarding students participating in sports safely with limited contact.

Mr. Milton stated that the Board has to ultimately make a decision on whether to allow fall sports in the high schools. He stated that there will be no sports played in the middle schools. He stated that Master Sergeant Roberts only shared with the Board information regarding guidance on student athletes' safe return to training and playing sports.

Mr. Milton congratulated Ms. Karema Dudley on her election to the School Board for District Five. He stated that Ms. Dudley will be sworn in as a School Board Member on Tuesday, November 17th. He stated that Mrs. Mary Davis will be the contact person for Mrs. Dudley. He congratulated Mrs. Audrey Lewis on her winning the primary race for School Board Member District I; and Mr. Elijah Key on his winning in the primary race for Superintendent of Schools. He stated that Mrs. Lewis and Mr. Key both have opponents and will be on the general election ballot.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mrs. Lewis entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Scott. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. July 28, 2020, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. July 28, 2020, 6:00 p.m. – Tentative Budget Hearing
- c. July 28, 2020 – Immediately Following Tentative Budget Hearing at 6:00 p.m. - Regular School Board Meeting
- d. August 4, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – Special School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)

- a. Personnel 2020 -2021

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Health Insurance Premiums for Insurance Year Beginning 10/01/2020

Fund Source: All Funds with employees

Amount: Net Increase of \$70,873 in the \$3,671,529.84 Board Cost for Health Insurance

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Retirement Plan Compliance and Administration Services Agreement – TSA Consulting Group
 Fund Source: General Fund
 Amount: \$3,545.52 annually
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Agreement between the Gadsden County Public Schools and Talk of the Town Speech Therapy, LLC
 Fund Source: FEFP Dollars
 Amount: \$55.00 (per hour for actual hours worked)
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. The School Board of Gadsden County, Contract with Independent Contractor Janice M. Gilchriest
 Fund Source: IDEA Dollars
 Amount: \$45.00 (per hour for actual hours worked)
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- e. Agreement between The School Board of Gadsden County and the Healing Hearts Music Therapy
 Fund Source: IDEA Dollars
 Amount: \$25,000.00 (not to exceed)
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Agreement between the School Board of Gadsden County, FL., Capital Health Plan, Inc., World Class Schools of Leon County, Inc., and the Titus Sports Academy, LLC
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. PAEC Professional Learning Catalog 2020 - 2021
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- b. Athena Scholastic Educator Success Micro Learning Suite
 Fund Source: N/A
 Amount: N/A
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

- a. Request to Advertise Notice of Intent (Policy Numbered 6.543, Illness-Or-Injury-In-The-Line-Of-Duty Leave)

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Approval of 2020 – 2021 Threat Assessment Procedures Manual

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Approval of 2020 – 2021 Code of Student Conduct as Required by School Board Policy 2.25

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

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 moved to the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

*8. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. RFP 2020 – 0005 Pre-Qualification of Construction Mangers for Capital Improvements Projects

Fund Source: Capital Projects and Federal Projects Funds
Amount: Budgeted by Project within Available Revenues

In response to Mr. Frost’s concern regarding what qualifications were used to narrow the list of construction managers to 10, Mr. Hunter stated that a set group of questions were used and the point system for answers given. He stated that all applications were reviewed. He stated that 10 applications were received. He stated that the pre-qualification process allows all construction firms to bid on the district’s capital outlay projects regardless of the size of the project for capital improvements.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #8a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

a. Approval of School Board Policy 7.70

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Steve Scott made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #11a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leroy McMillan and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. FACILITIES UPDATE

Mr. Hunter stated that the Restart Grant was in process. He stated that roofing projects are taking place at the following schools: repaired 3 portables at Stewart Street Elementary School; repaired roofs on building 14 & 12 at Gadsden Technical Institute; re-roofed all portables at George W. Munroe Elementary School and repaired walkways; addressed the leaky roofs at James A. Shanks Middle School; re-roofed all portables at Greensboro Elementary School; repaired roof on round building at Gadsden Elementary Magnet School; and patch work was done at Havana Magnet School. He stated that the maintenance building need repair work. He stated that the HVAC issues are being worked on. He stated that there will be ongoing repair work and upgrades at Gadsden County High School and West Gadsden Middle School. He stated that doors have been ordered for Havana Magnet School.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Milton stated that tomorrow (August 26th) the Department of Health will sponsor a drive-thru health fair in the parking lot at James A. Shanks Middle School from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He stated that there will be free COVID-19 testing at the Migrant Office on Saturday, August 29th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He stated that on Friday, August 28th at 11:00 a.m. there will be a Zoom Meeting with the Health Department for all employees to receive safety information and updates as it relates to COVID-19. He stated that the district has access to have 500 employees on a zoom call at once. He stated that a lot of work is going on at the schools. He stated that there are concerns from staff and parents regarding the return to school. He stated that the district is doing the very best it can to keep everyone safe. He stated that transportation meetings will be held this week to discuss safety bus routes for students. He stated that the bus routes will be the same with adjustments being made as needed. He stated that by having 75% of the students on distance learning helps with social distance. He stated that the Teacher Supply Allocation will be given to teachers as soon as possible. He encouraged Board members to visit schools to share an encouraging word with staff. He stated that there are daily conference calls between the Department of Education and Superintendents. He stated that he was thankful to have everyone committed. He encouraged parents to stay with their choice of online or brick and mortar education for their students. He stated that bus drivers will not get to schools early. He stated that the school buses will be disinfected frequently. He stated that there will be no after school activities for a while. He stated that there are concerns about buses being overcrowded. He encouraged parents to bring their child to school if they can. He that he was concerned about students not being in school having a financial impact on the district. He asked Mr. Darren Wade to share information on COVID-19 Anti-body rapid tests.

Mr. Wade stated that Healgen testing kits are EUA approved. He stated that the Healgen COVID-19 antibody rapid tests are used to get students and faculty back to school safely. He stated that this week tests have been sold to three colleges to get faculty and staff back to school safely. He shared his contact information with the Board for any questions or concerns.

Mr. Milton thanked Mr. Wade for sharing the COVID-19 antibody testing information with the Board. He stated that he will share the information with the Department of Health.

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mrs. Lewis' concern for the Board to have some discussion on infrastructure, Mr. Scott requested the Board schedule a special meeting to discuss infrastructure and athletics.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to have discussion on infrastructure and athletics at the Final Budget Hearing on Tuesday, September 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Judith Mandela, President GCCTA, addressed the Board with concerns regarding the insurance committee receiving information in a timely manner. She stated that the policy change was good for helping employees find ways to get protected from issues related to COVID-19. She read the following script from the Judge's decision "evidence is clear that teachers wanted to be in classroom..." She stated that for many places schools are in unsafe conditions. She stated that some teachers at James A. Shanks Middle School are exposed or have tested positive. She stated that schools are still unsafe. She encouraged the delay of having face-to-face schools. She stated that in her opinion, schools are unsafe because tests are not being negative for all. She encouraged the Board to not place staff and students in an unsafe environment.

Mr. Frost stated that it is not the Board's decision to have students return to brick and mortar. He stated that school district's must adhere to the Governor and the Commissioner of Education's Executive Order. He stated that many members would not support opening "brick and mortar" but there is no choice.

Mr. Milton stated that as of Monday, August 24th, the Florida Department of Education's Executive Order 20-06 is being appealed and at a stay.

Mrs. Lewis stated that part of the Florida Department of Education's Executive Order will withhold funding if students don't return to brick and mortar. She stated that the Board have deep concerns regarding student and faculty safety. She stated that she want local Boards to have the authority to make decisions. She thanked Mrs. Mandela for sharing her concerns.

Mrs. Wood clarified with the Board that there will be a change in worker's compensation, auto and liability insurances. She stated that there will be no change in insurance benefits and deductions.

Mrs. Lewis thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She stated that these are trying times for everyone. She stated that we are all in this together.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.