

## SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

September 19, 2019

5:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

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

1. Call To Order

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Steve Scott, at 5:05 p.m.

2. Capital Outlay Plans – FEMA 428 Projects

Mrs. Wood introduced Mr. Tommy Horton and Mr. Keithan Williams with Rostan Solutions to share with the Board an update on the Capital Outlay Plans – FEMA 428 projects.

Mr. Horton stated that the school site visits have been completed. He shared with the Board and explanation of the FEMA 428 Plans. He stated that FEMA has revised its Public Assistance (PA) Alternative Procedures for Permanent Work Pilot (Permanent Work Pilot) to achieve better outcomes and further simplify the delivery of assistance. He stated that the FEMA's objectives are to focus on outcome-based recovery; enable applicants to use funds in a manner that best meets their specific needs for recovery; promote long-term resiliency; improve future preparedness; and simplify the delivery of assistance. He stated that the benefits of using the Pilot are no requirements to rebuild communities back to what existed prior to the disaster; funds can be shared across all Permanent Work Pilot Projects; applicants are not required to track costs to specific work items; applicants are not required to track costs or work to specific Permanent Work Pilot Projects since funds can be shared; excess funds may be used to reduce risk and improve future disaster operations; and hazard mitigation funding may be added to Replacement Projects. He stated that in order to receive benefits for the Pilot Project Requirements, the project must be a Large Project. For Hurricane Florence disasters declared in September, Large Projects are those that are greater than \$125,500. For Hurricane Florence and Michael disasters declared on or after October 1, 2018, Large Projects are those that are greater than \$128,900.00 and applicants are required to accept a fixed cost project. He stated that the fixed cost is based on the estimated amount to rebuild to pre-disaster design and function; any project that does not have a fixed cost accepted within 12 months of the declaration date will be processed using standard PA policies; and FEMA will consider time extensions on a case by case basis. He stated that monies can be used for restoration of buildings.

Mrs. Wood stated that Mr. Williams worked closely with Mr. Horton on each invoice to get the district the maximum amount.

Mr. Milton stated that the Board has been informed of the damages from Hurricane Michael and is tasked with the options to replace or repair damages. He stated that the Board need a plan of action for FEMA 428 projects. He encouraged the Board to begin conversations on the use of monies with FEMA 428 plans. He stated that the public will be aware of the conversations regarding the FEMA 428 plans.

During the discussion, Board members asked questions, shared their concerns, and made comments regarding FEMA's 428 Plan.

Mr. Williams offered to participate in the Board's conversations regarding the FEMA 428 plans.

Mr. Milton and the Board thanked Mr. Horton and Mr. Williams for sharing FEMA's 428 Plan information.

### 3. Educational Items by the Superintendent

Mr. Milton stated that he visited Stewart Street Elementary School to remind staff that the Board is aware of the school's issues with the air conditioners. He assured the staff that he and the Board are doing the very best they can with repairing the AC units, and encouraged staff to promote positive things.

Mr. Milton stated that Gadsden Elementary Magnet School has received the School of Excellence Award since the 2015 – 2016 year. He state that staff received treats from Edible Arrangements along with bonus checks. He stated that George W. Munroe Elementary School was awarded the School of Hope Award and eligible teachers received retention bonuses. He stated that the district received notification from the Department of Education that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program will run through September 30<sup>th</sup> because of funding. He stated that the Area Directors will meet with principals to determine the impact. He stated that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program will be suspended until the district receives new money to support the program. He stated that the district will fund activity buses for the middle and high school students. He stated that he will attend the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conference next week in Orlando.

### 4. School Board Requests and Concerns

Mr. Scott stated that the legislature is working to increase teacher salaries. He stated that administrators are concerned about retaining teachers. He thanked everyone for attending the workshop.

### 5. The workshop adjourned at 6:40 p.m.