

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

September 22, 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 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Rev. Annie Berry, Executive Pastor of Greater Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Audrey Lewis Potter recognized Rev. Clarence Jackson, Sr. Pastor, Greater Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, and their associate ministers: Min. Annie Berry, Min. Janice Harris, and Min. Gerald McGill as being the district's faith-based partner. She stated that Greater Bethel Missionary Baptist Church donated 200 personal hygiene kits to the district to be disbursed among the schools. The Board thanked Pastor Jackson and Greater Missionary Baptist Church for their support.

Jerome Maples, Student School Board Representative, thanked Amber McCullough, Student Government Association President at West Gadsden High School, for her support.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Helms entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Isaac Simmons, seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. August 25, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. August 25, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. September 8, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting
- d. September 8, 2009, Immediately Following Special Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2009 – 2010

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Approval of bills and vouchers - See back-up material

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Crossroad Academy Monthly Financial Reports - August 2009

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. CONTRACT/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

- a. Copyright and Trademark License Agreement

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Contract with Soliant Health

Fund Source: FEFP

Amount: \$54.00 per hour

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Interinstitutional Articulation Agreement Between TCC and Gadsden County Public Schools

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. The PAEC Professional Development Center Resolution and Contract for District Participation
Fund Source: Title II
Amount: \$8,050.19
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - e. 2009 – 2010 Participation in PAEC Gateway Consortium for Personnel, Payroll and Finance Functions
Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$20,978.83
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - f. Contract with Gadsden County Sheriff’s Department
Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: Not to Exceed \$226,982.36 (\$29.62/hour)
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - g. Loan to Purchase 24 School Buses
Fund Source: Capital Improvements Fund
Amount: Loan Amount \$1,818,042.00 with a fixed rate of 3.45%
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - h. Gadsden’s K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan
Fund Source: FEFP (K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan)
Amount: \$287,158.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - i. Supplemental Educational Services Providers Contract
Fund Source: Title I, Part A, Basic (NCLB Public School Options)
Amount: An Amount Not to Exceed \$1,235.00 per eligible student
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
9. STUDENT MATTERS
- a. Student Transfers – See back-up material
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Resolution Affirming District's Participation in the Small School District Council Consortium for fiscal year 2009 - 2010

Revenue: General Fund
Amount: \$2,850.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. School Advisory Council Rosters

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Master Inservice Plan Approval Verification

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 acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

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

- a. Approval of School Board Rule 2.25 (Job Description) and 7.51 (Payroll Procedures)

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons added the following addendum to School Board Rule 7.51 (Payroll Procedures) Section 4: Compensation shall be based on the duly adopted salary schedule for each position. No payment above the amount agreed upon by the employee at the time of the recommendation for hire or reappointment and after approval of that amount by the Board shall be paid without subsequent approval by the Board. From time-to-time payments in the form of bonus, increase contracts or other legally authorized payments may be made only after recommendation to and approval by the Board. He stated that this policy shall supercede any prior policies or other documents relating to this issue.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for approval of agenda item #11a with the addendum. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Annexing Greensboro Elementary School and West Gadsden High School Property into the Town of Greensboro

Mr. James stated that he had received a request from the Town of Greensboro regarding the annexation of Greensboro Elementary School and West Gadsden High School properties into the town of Greensboro.

Following discussion, the Board requested Mrs. Minnis research information to see whether or not any additional fees would impact the Board in reference to annexing property into the Town of Greensboro.

Mr. Simmons requested Mr. James contact Mr. William Pitts, Mayor Town of Greensboro, to inform him of the Board's concern regarding annexing school property into the Town of Greensboro.

c. Removal of Home from Greensboro Elementary School Property

Mr. Shepard stated that he needed direction from the Board in regards to moving a house off the property located at Greensboro Elementary School. He stated that he needed instruction from the Board on whether to sell or demolish the house. He stated that the property could be used to expand the parking lot at Greensboro Elementary School.

Mr. Simmons stated that he wanted to follow the guidelines used to sell the house (property). He stated that public advertisement could be used to sell the property.

The Board instructed the Superintendent to move forward with selling the house and update the Board at the next meeting.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that there were no major outbreaks with the swine flu in Gadsden County. He stated that he has met with the custodial staff and stressed to them the importance of using extra effort in sanitizing and re-sanitizing all schools and buses. He asked Mr. Shepard to express his thanks to the custodial staff. He stated that Mrs. Audrey Lewis Potter is the district's contact and will send letters out to parents to see if they wish to have their child vaccinated. He stated that the FTE count will be provided soon. He stated that he is focusing more on East Gadsden High School and West Gadsden High School this school year. He stated that the district had received

SACS accreditation for another five years. He expressed his appreciation to his staff especially the Assistant Superintendent's. He stated that he would update the Board on the district's graduation rates at the next meeting.

Mr. Helms instructed the Superintendent to stress to principals the importance of students being in school during FTE count.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mr. Milton's question about whether there was an expense to the parents for the H1N1 vaccination; Mr. James stated that there was no expense.

Mr. Hinson stated that he had visited several schools. He stated that he talked with several retired teachers regarding health insurance. He stated that one of the reasons teachers return to work after retirement is because they cannot afford the cost for health insurance. He stated that some of the parents are concerned about before school daycare. He stated that some parents did not receive notification that the schools were not offering before school daycare. He stated that he wanted the Board to discuss the pros and cons for having before school daycare at a later date. He stated that at a previous Board meeting he had informed the Board of the old piping system at Havana Elementary School. He stated that the Havana Elementary School SAC committee has expressed a desire to address the Board regarding the old piping system at Havana Elementary School.

Jerome Maples shared with the Board an update on student councils. He stated that he is working with Ms. Gail Bridges-Bright on the guidelines for forming student councils. He stated that all principals will be provided with a complete set of student council guidelines.

Mr. James stated that Mr. Rick Soskus has requested students participate in the "We Can Day" project. He stated that students are asked to bring one can good per week as a means to replenish the food bank.

The Board requested the Superintendent have Mr. Soskus put the request in writing for student participation in the "We Can Day" project.

Mr. James stated that he would have Jerome Maples contact Mr. Soskus because this could be a project for the students in the Student Government Association.

In response to Mr. Helms' concern about the Midway Charter proposal, Mrs. Minnis stated that the Charter School Review Committee met with the Midway Charter School representatives and reviewed the application. Mrs. Minnis stated that Midway want to withdraw their charter school application and resubmit at a later date.

Mr. Hinson stated that there is an influx of new homeowners in Midway. He stated that he wants the Board to look at moving toward putting a public school in the City of Midway, if no charter school is approved.

14. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.