

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

October 27, 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. Eric F. Hinson; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; 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 Mr. Charlie D. Frost.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Sonja Bridges recognized the Mr. Daryl Parks (Parks & Crump Law Firm) for providing monetary donations to the following students for participating in the 2009 Summer Reading Challenge: 1) Da'Marrius McMillion; 2) Sha'Quavious Childress; 3) Vaniah Cunningham; 4) Jazmin Rostro; 5) Juan Francisco-Pascual; 6) Kristin Fleming; and 7) Favioloa Corona. The Board and Superintendent congratulated each of the students.

Mr. Hinson recognized Mr. Daryl Parks as being a very important role model. He stated that Mr. Parks serves on the Board of Trustees for Florida A&M University.

Mr. Frost recognized Mrs. Elizabeth Turner for her hard work and dedication to the district. He stated that he had a good visit at St. John Elementary School and found the teachers teaching. He recognized Havana Middle School and Gadsden Technical Institute for having very informative websites.

Mr. Hinson recognized St. Hebron A.M.E. Church. He thanked St. Hebron A.M.E. Church family for allowing him to sing a selection at their recent service.

Mr. James thanked Ms. Erica Starling for her efforts with the mentoring program at Carter Parramore Academy. He stated that the district is soliciting mentors for all schools.

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. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. September 15, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – Final Budget Hearing
- b. September 22, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. September 22, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- d. September 22, 2009, Immediately Following Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing

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. Budget Amendment Number One

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$1,099,849.79

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Crossroad Academy Monthly Financial Reports – September 2009

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- b. Professional Services Contract

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$20,517.30 (estimate)

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #04-0910-9106

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Transfers

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. School Advisory Council Rosters

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. School Improvement Plans for Chattahoochee Elementary, East Gadsden High, Gadsden Elementary Magnet, George Munroe Elementary, Greensboro Elementary, Gretna Elementary, Havana Elementary, Havana Middle, James A. Shanks Middle, St. John Elementary, Stewart Street Elementary and West Gadsden High **WEBSITE www.flbsi.org**

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.

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

- a. Personnel 2009 - 2010

In response to Mr. Helms' concern about the non-instructional recreational specialist position, Mr. James stated that the recreational specialist position was part-time and funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant.

Mr. Helms stated that he was concern about hiring teachers to teach academic courses out of field. He recommended pulling the Math and Reading positions from the out of field list.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a with the noted corrections to pull the Math and Reading positions from the out of field list. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

a. Contract with Independent Contractor (Music Therapist)

Fund Source: IDEA
Amount: \$19,000.00

Mr. Hinson asked for an explanation of the Music Therapist Contract.

Mrs. Wilma Jackson stated that the independent contractor for music therapist was an ongoing contract. She stated that the district did not hire a music teacher to teach music therapy, because the contract was for music therapy and not music education. She stated that music therapy is provided for self contained classes.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Settlement Agreement and Final Release

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$10,000.00

Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

a. District Project Priority List (PPL) List

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Hinson asked for an explanation of the district's project priority list.

Mr. Shepard stated that the district's project priority list consists of a list of projects to be completed for the schools. He stated that the project priority list correlates with the district's five-year work plan. He stated that training was held last week with the principals regarding the completion of work orders on the computer. He stated that principals can view the status of work orders and print work orders from the computer beginning in January.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Resolution for the Sale of School Board Property

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. 5 Year District Facilities Work Plan

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Hinson asked for an explanation of the 5 Year District Facilities Work Plan.

Mr. Shepard stated that the district's five year work plan correlates with the project priority list. He stated that the district's facilities work program must be a complete, balanced capital outlay plan that is financially feasible.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

Mr. Simmons left the meeting at 6:35 p.m. during the discussion of the 5 Year District Facilities Work Plan.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Request to Delete from Capital Assets – Motor Vehicles

Fund Source: Applicable Funds
Amount: (\$185,260.00)

Mr. Hinson stated that he was concern as to whether or not the vehicles were bidded and what would happen to the vehicles when deleted from the books.

Mrs. Wood stated that the vehicles are being removed from the books. She stated that the vehicles needed to be removed from the books in order to comply with the financial statements. She stated that the request to delete the vehicles from capital assets came from the Director of Transportation.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to defer action on agenda item #10d. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Delete Capital Assets – Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

Fund Source: All Funds
Amount: \$258,445.06

In response to Mr. Hinson’s concern whether there would be an auction for the items being deleted, Mr. James recommended the Board defer action in order to allow a response from the Inventory Control Specialist.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to defer action on agenda item #10e. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. School Advisory Council Rosters

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

In response to Mr. Helms’ concern if all the schools had complete representation by community citizens for the School Advisory Council rosters, Mrs. Audrey Lewis Potter stated, yes.

Mr. Helms asked for clarification on the School Advisory Council Membership Roster for Carter Parramore Academy with member Arrie Battles’ race and position. He asked that the race and position be corrected for member Arrie Battles.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #11a with the correction to change the race and position for member Arrie Battles. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Discussion and Request to Advertise the Board’s Intent to Amend School Board Rules 2.25, 4.11 (Student Progression Plan) 5.14 (Homeless Students) and 6.78 (Social Security Numbers)

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #12a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that he anticipates the district will move upward with graduation rates this year. He stated that a comprehensive assessment system has been developed by the district's assessment coordinator.

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mr. Hinson's concern about East Gadsden High School's vision, Mr. James stated that he will have the new principal present an educational plan to the Board.

In response to Mr. Hinson's concern regarding a checklist for principals that would show students who were enrolled during FTE count but did not attend school; Dr. Bridges stated that student exit interviews are performed.

Jerome Maples reported that Carter Parramore Academy has chosen a representative for their Student Council. On behalf of the students he thanked the Board for a Social Studies Teacher at West Gadsden High School. He stated that he would be working with Mr. Rick Soskus on the "We Can Day" project. He stated that students will be asked to bring a canned food to school on Thursday, November 12th.

Mr. Frost stated that he wanted to ensure that Alternative Unlimited, Inc. was honoring their contract with the "buy back program". He requested an update on the "buy back program".

Mr. Helms reminded the Board that in accordance with Florida Statute 1001.371 the Organizational meeting needed to be held on the third Tuesday, November 17, 2009. He asked the Board to consider scheduling the regular November meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2009.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to schedule the following meetings on Tuesday, November 17, 2009: 1) workshop – 4:00 p.m.; 2) organizational meeting – 5:30 p.m.; and 3) regular meeting – 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Helms volunteered to serve on the Planning/Zoning Committee after he informed the Board that a member needed to be appointed to serve on the Planning/Zoning Committee.

Mrs. Minnis requested a closed-door session to discuss a pending litigation matter.

Mr. James recognized Ms. Amanda Jenkins, the new reporter for Havana Herald.

The Board recessed the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.; convened in a closed-door session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss a pending litigation matter. The closed-door session ended at 8:12 p.m.

15. The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 8:15 p.m.; and adjourned at 8:17 p.m.