

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

November 17, 2009

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman, by telephone conference; Mr. Roger P. Milton; Mr. Judge B. Helms; Mr. Eric F. Hinson; and Mr. Charlie D. Frost. 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 Vice Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Rev. Douglas Harris.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Milton stated that at the organizational meeting he was voted to serve as Vice Chairman, and Mr. Simmons was voted to serve as Chairman for the 2009-2010 year. He thanked Mr. Helms for serving as Chairman for the 2008-2009 year.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was looking forward to the coming year. He stated that he look forward to working with the staff and the Board. He stated that the district will face a lot of challenges, but can overcome them. He thanked Mr. Milton for chairing the meeting.

Mr. Helms thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Chairman for the 2008 – 2009 year. He stated that he appreciated the support, suggestions and the comments were very helpful to him.

Mr. James thanked Mr. Helms for serving as chairman and stated that he has enjoyed working with him this past year. He recognized Mrs. Audrey Potter and her staff for the hard work with the Stop, Drop & Read Campaign kickoff. He stated that the parent resource mobile will be traveling throughout the district promoting reading.

Mr. Helms invited the Board to the Children's Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 15th, 12:00 noon at the First Baptist Church. He stated that the Children's Christmas Party was sponsored by the Quincy Kiwanis Club, and proceeds from the fruit sales help with the children gifts.

Mr. Frost recognized Ms. Eric Starling for her efforts with the mentoring program at Carter Parramore Academy. He stated that mentors are still needed.

Mr. Hinson recognized the Lions Club for their efforts with raising funds for the blind. He also recognized the Town of Havana for their hard work in putting together a successful Octoberfest.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. October 27, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. October 27, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

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 Two

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$1,896,971.71

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS/AGREEMENTS

- a. Voluntary Public School Choice Program & Parent Resource Center Project

Fund Source: Nova Southeastern University, Inc.
Amount: \$45,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Transfer – See back-up material

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #19-0910-0071

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Request to Delete from Capital Assets – Motor Vehicles

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

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

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.

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

Mr. Helms questioned the number of classroom teachers and other certified personnel, and the number of administrators listed on the personnel cover page. He requested the figures be reversed to read 487 classroom teachers and other certified personnel, and 44 administrators.

Following discussion, Mr. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a with the correction to reverse the figures to read 487 classroom teachers and other certified personnel, and 44 administrators. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS/AGREEMENTS

- b. Lease Agreement with Midway Unity Fellowship, Inc. for the Property Located on Land Mine Road

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: As Per Agreement

Mr. Milton requested the lease agreement with Midway Unity Fellowship, Inc. be deferred because of the number of concerns from the Board regarding the lease agreement.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to defer action on agenda item #8b until the next regular Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

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

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. Chris Riddle, Attorney for the Town of Greensboro, introduced Mr. William K. Pitts, Mayor of Greensboro and Mr. Max Fletcher. Mr. Riddle addressed the Board to request permission to annex school property into the city of Greensboro. He stated that the move would increase the tax base and promote vibrancy for Greensboro. He stated that the properties in question are areas of the campuses of Greensboro Elementary School and West Gadsden High School not already annexed into the town limits. He stated that the annexation cannot take place unless the district cooperates, because any properties annexed in must be contiguous with current city limits. He stated that the greatest advantage for annexation would be that the police and fire departments located in the town of Greensboro would offer services to the schools if located within the city limits.

Mr. James stated that he recommends approval of the annexation. He stated that he did not see anything negative that would impact the Board with moving forward with the annexation.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #12a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Approval of School Board Rules Numbered 2.25 (Subsection Student Progression Plan), 4.11 (Student Progression Plan), 5.14 (Homeless Students) and 6.78 (Social Security Numbers)

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms stated that a change was submitted to add the William C. Golden Professional Development Program to School Board Rule 2.25. He requested that the change be added to School Board Rule 2.25.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to approve agenda item #13a with the correction to add the William C. Golden Professional Development Program to School Board Rule 2.25. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

14. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Schell Collins and Mr. Doug Hemanes, representatives from the Searching for the One Ministries, addressed the Board to request the use of the Havana Northside High School. Mr. Collins stated that the idea was to take the boards down and refurbish the facility as part of a lease agreement with the Board. He stated that the property would be used for after school and summer programming for children of all ages, at no cost, as well as programming for adults in the evenings. He stated that the programs would be conducted through private donations. He stated that ministry leaders would be willing to use the facility for as long as the district would allow, freeing the Board to keep the property on the market.

Board members indicated that they like the idea of using the building, rather than seeing it fall into further decline while vacant. The Board requested representatives for Searching for the One Ministries put their proposal to use Havana Northside High School in writing and present at the December Board meeting.

Mr. James stated that he had spoken with individuals interested in the Chattahoochee High School property. He invited the Board to the district's Christmas Party on Friday, December 18th at 12:00 noon.

15. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Helms stated that a Board member needed to be appointed to serve as the legislative liaison for the Florida School Boards Association.

The Board appointed Mr. Eric Hinson to serve as the legislative liaison for the Florida School Boards Association, and Mr. Isaac Simmons to serve as the alternate.

In response to Mr. Helms' concern regarding an update on the H1N1 vaccine, Mr. James stated that letters have been sent home with all area school children requesting permission to receive the H1N1 vaccine. He stated that health department officials began administering the vaccine November 10th to those students whose parents had granted permission. He stated that no major out-breaks of H1N1 have been reported to date. He stated that he has met with the custodial staff and encouraged them to give their all in wiping and cleaning the schools.

Mr. Hinson stated that he was concerned about surveillance cameras being put in all schools because of the recent increase in abduction of children. He stated that safety was a priority for all students.

Mr. James stated that only the newer schools have surveillance cameras, and that safety was a priority for all students.

Mr. William Pitts thanked the Board for their support with the annexation of Greensboro Elementary School and West Gadsden High School into the Town of Greensboro.

Mr. Hinson stated that he appreciated Mr. Pitts for his vision to move the City of Greensboro.

16. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.