

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

December 15, 2009

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Isaac Simmons, Chairman; Mr. Roger P. Milton; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Mr. Eric F. Hinson. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Charlie D. Frost was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 4:35 p.m.

2. FINANCIAL DATA REPORT

Mr. Craig McMillan presented the Board with a dividend check in the amount of \$107,767.00 from the Florida Municipal Trust/Property Insurance Fund. He stated that the overall rates for the district have reduced approximately 30%. He stated that last year the district received a dividend check in the amount of \$90,000.00.

Mrs. Tammy McGriff-Farlin, Title I/Grants Coordinator, shared with the Board an overview of the Race To The Top Grant. She stated that there are two parts to the grant, 50% federal entitlement and 50% competitive. She stated that 50% will be awarded to eligible districts, and 50% set forth as competitive grants for which districts can apply. She stated that a letter of intent is due by December 18, 2009; and a Memorandum of Understanding is due on January 12, 2010 to the Department of Education.

Mrs. Bonnie Wood shared with the Board the following monthly budget status summary reports: 1) 110 – General Fund – encumbered \$2,610,200.69; 2) 300 – Capital Projects – encumbered \$105,745.40; 3) 410 – Food Service – encumbered \$396,503.48; 4) 420 – Contracted Projects – encumbered \$995,067.73; 5) 431 – State Fiscal Stabilization; 6) 432- Targeted ARRA Stimulus – encumbered \$245,952.19; 7) 433 – Other ARRA Stimulus Grants – encumbered \$19,263.30. She shared with the Board an article title “Decision Making Under Pressure” from the Futurist Magazine. She stated that “shuttle thinking” is a set of five common pitfalls that are believed to

undermine critical decision-making. She stated that the following are five pitfalls in critical decision making: 1) Unique Situation – must be approached cautiously, considered inherently risky and dangerous, and should be considered invitations to poor decision making; 2) Data Deficit – with adequate information for a critical decision, make it mandatory to obtain additional data; 3) Emotional Denial – frequently shifts our decision making toward the easier, more comfortable solutions. Negative scenarios may be dismissed, but often at your peril; 4) Gambling on Probabilities – relying uncritically on one probable outcome should be considered synonymous with gambling. The full extent of the gamble and its consequences then needs to be considered; and 5) Positive Reinforcement – Gambling and winning tends to reinforce the option of taking additional risks. She stated that the important step toward better decision making is early recognition of the “shuttle thinking” pattern and the role of “probability” in decisions.

3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:30 p.m.