

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

July 31, 2012

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Judge B. Helms, at 4:35 p.m.

2. ALTERNATIVES UNLIMITED DROP BACK IN ACADEMY

Mr. Rontarrious Robinson, Director of the Quincy Area Drop Back In Academy, shared with the Board a power-point presentation outlining the annual report for the 2011 – 2012 year. He stated that the Gadsden County Drop Back In Academy has 4 sites (Quincy, Midway, Havana Annex, and Chattahoochee). He stated that two graduates have graduated from Tallahassee Community College with an AA Degree; in 2010 – 2011 two of four graduates enrolled at Tallahassee Community College and one enrolled at Alabama State University; and in 2011 – 2012 two of four graduates enrolled at Tallahassee Community College and two applied for enrollment at Tallahassee Community College. He stated that the Drop Back In Academy staff has decided to shift their testing instructions towards ACT preparations. He stated that their 2011 – 2012 ACT testing results demonstrate the effectiveness of content and specific instructional strategies. He stated that out of the 15 students that tested for FCAT Reading in 2011 – 2012, none of those students participated in the ACT prep classes due to various reasons. He stated that by gearing instructional time in favor of ACT prep, students will meet state requirements for high school graduation and most importantly have the necessary requirements for college admission. He stated that in conclusion, Drop Back In Academy had the opportunity to graduate eight of our seniors who only require a passing reading score via ACT preparations. He stated that during the previous school year, Drop Back In Academy has experienced emotional highs and lows. He stated that from students being overwhelmed with joy after receiving passing scores, to graduation night and dreams being one step closer, Drop Back In Academy have endured many obstacles. He stated that some of the major issues were

transportation, day care and adapting to students' work schedule. He stated that during the summer, Drop Back In Academy would like to work more with the school district to take full advantage of resources to help students. He stated that as stake holders in our student's educational experience, Drop Back In Academy need to ensure that all are exposed to opportunities for success.

Mr. Steven Dixon, Director of the Alternatives Unlimited (Drop Back In Academy) requested the Board provide transportation for students who are having trouble getting to school; and he also requested the Board increase the enrollment cap for Drop Back In Academy.

Following discussion Mr. Simmons requested a workshop to further discuss the contract with Drop Back In Academy.

3. FINANCIAL DATA REPORT

Mrs. Wood shared with the Board information received from the Florida Department of Education regarding the sequestration of federal funds and suggested possible actions that districts may take to mitigate the effects of sequestration during the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year. She stated that the possibility of sequestration was raised by the Budget Control Act. She stated that sequestration, as defined by the Congressional Budget Office, is an enforcement mechanism by which the President orders the cancellation of budgetary resources in amounts sufficient to eliminate a deficit. She stated that a budget sequester is when funds that would otherwise be spent under current law reserved and used instead for deficit reduction. She stated that the Budget Control Act is comprised of two possible scenarios under which federal spending could be sequestered. She stated that districts have the following two options in planning federal grant budgets for 2012 – 2013: 1) Determine an amount for a possible reduction. The Department will allow sub recipients to indicate this amount in a separate line item described as "funds for possible sequestration". The function code will appear as "9999," with the associated object code of "999." When the final decisions regarding sequestration are known, the sequestration amount will be deleted and either the budget will be amended to increase allowable expenditures and/or to decrease the award amount. This is the approach that the Department of Education recommends; or 2) prepare two budgets – one for submission with your grant applications and one to put into effect mid-year should sequestration be implemented. Mrs. Wood stated that under either scenario, districts will need to submit amended budgets mid-year, hopefully in conjunction with the roll-forward process, if funds are sequestered. She stated that in making plans, districts should consider the availability of roll-forward dollars from 2011 – 2012 (these funds will not be affected by sequestration and could help to make up the shortfall for 2012 – 2013 in the event that funds are sequestered).

Mrs. Wood noted that corrections needed to be made to Board agenda item #8z (Health Insurance Contracts for 2012 – 2013). She stated that the amount for the Board's portion with CHP for employees should be \$22.18 and not \$21.93; and the Board's portion with BCBS for employees should be \$13.28 and not \$31.28.

4. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

5. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:46 p.m