

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

August 23, 2011

4:30 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 4:35 p.m.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. PTA TRAINING WORKSHOP

Bishop Jerome Showers, Florida PTA President, shared with the Board a preliminary agenda for the PTA Workshop scheduled for Saturday, September 10th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at East Gadsden High School. He stated that the PTA Workshop would provide training for parents.

b. SERENITY COMMUNITY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

Mrs. Barbara Ivey, Executive Director of Serenity Community Services Organization, shared with the Board information to request proposed funding to operate the Structured To Educate Potential Scholars (STEPS) Program. She stated that additional dollars will be generated from the State of Florida Department of Education for youth re-enrolling at Carter Parramore and Hope academies. She stated that Serenity Community Services Organization currently serve 12 students, 16-19 years old, who are eligible to re-enroll in the public school system. She stated that the purpose of Serenity Community Services Organization is to reduce the current suspension rate for attendance and behavioral issues and reduce the risk of school alienation while providing a positive, safe and supervised environment as an alternative to out-of-school suspension. She stated that the goals at Serenity are to: reduce repeated misbehavior, teach new skills, provide continuity in education, and provide a structured time-out during the regular school day. She stated that a

Suspension Intervention Center Program can reduce the current suspension rate by 70%. She stated that since March 2011, the district alternative program has accrued over 212 total suspensions for any of the following reasons: fighting, harassment, inappropriate behavior, substance abuse, cutting classes, excessive tardiness, or inappropriate dress. She stated that at the end of March 2011, 118 suspensions had been directed to the program either through court, probation, school, parent or self referral. She stated that one hundred percent of the students successfully completed the program, 81% of these students were not suspended a second time. Mrs. Ivey expressed her sentiments for Serenity Community Services Organization.

Following discussion, Board members stated that they will further review and discuss the information provided by Mrs. Ivey for Serenity Community Services Organization.

c. PERFORMING ARTS

3. FINANCIAL DATA REPORT

Mrs. Wood stated that the FTE Audit will begin soon. She shared with the Board an update on staffing. She also shared with the Board a budget status summary report for the general fund showing an encumbrance of \$6,547,872.32.

4. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

5. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Hinson stated that he was concerned about putting more money in technology.

Mrs. Wood stated that computers have basic need to do fundamental things in the cafeteria (internet access).

Following discussion of the need to have a backup for Mr. Stephen Gauss, the Board instructed the Superintendent to restructure the technology department.

Mrs. Wood stated that the Finance Department has spent time in calculating the payouts for non-instructional staff for the 2004 – 2007 years. She stated that there was approximate 60 hours of non-compensated time. She stated that all calculations will be completed by the 2nd week in September. She shared with the Board an update on collective bargaining. She stated that all employees have received a step increase if they were eligible for one.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:50 p.m.