

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

February 19, 2013

2:00 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 Ms. Audrey D. Lewis. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; and others. Mr. Charlie D. Frost and Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board were absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 2:08 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT'S 2012 – 2013 BUDGET

Mrs. Wood shared with the Board budget information regarding the following: 1) Fiscal Recovery Plan; 2) ERATE; 3) Student FTE; 4) Revenue; 5) Programmatic Changes; 6) Purchase of New School Buses; and 7) Property Insurance.

Board members asked questions, shared their concerns, and made comments during the discussion of the district's budget.

Board members and the Superintendent thanked Mrs. Wood for her presentation.

3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that the district's task is to reduce personnel to align with funding. He stated that the SACS Accreditation Review went very well. He thanked Dr. Hightower and staff for their work with the SACS Review Committee. He stated that the district received a high rating in leadership. He stated that the district will have an ongoing series of video-taping to interview a variety of persons to speak on education. He stated that it would be very positive to merge Havana Elementary School and Havana Middle School. He stated that the Gadsden Technical Institute proposal was moving forward. He stated that he will be meeting with Dr. Murdaugh to discuss the issue. He stated that a decision needed to be made to merge Havana Elementary

School and Havana Middle School. He stated that Superintendent Jackie Pons stated that he would pass along marketing tools for the ½ cents sales tax. He stated that the district would have a Referendum for the ½ cents sales tax on the November 2014 ballot.

Mr. Milton stated that maintaining programs will be a challenge for the district. He stated that it would be easier to maintain programs if schools are combined.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Lewis shared with the Board a memo outlining her budget concerns. She stated that technology was paramount.

In response to Mr. Helms' concern regarding the Magnet Grant, Mr. James stated that the Magnet Grant was on track. He stated that he would have Dr. Nash give the Board an update on the Magnet Grant.

Ms. Lewis stated that she had spoken with Dr. Nash, and letters of support for the Magnet Grant were needed from the Superintendent and other entities. She stated that Dr. Shirley Aaron was willing to provide a letter of support.

Mr. Simmons thanked the Superintendent for the budget information. He stated that the Board needed to have a retreat to discuss goals for the district. He stated that the Board needed to invest time in planning, and more educational conversation was needed to discuss the district's future.

Mr. Milton suggested the Board become proactive rather than re-active with issues.

Ms. Lewis stated that she had visited Havana Elementary School and Havana Middle School. She stated that she met with the faculty and staff to reiterate her platform priorities to ensure success for our students. She stated that the concerns for each school were minimal.

Mr. James stated that a plan has to be put in place to increase reserved funds.

Mrs. Wood stated that the district's business plan goal has been achieved.

Mr. Simmons stated that he will schedule a roundtable workshop for Board members to discuss goals for the district. He stated that the budget workshop was very informative. He stated that Board members expressed their opinions during the workshop. He thanked everyone for attending the workshop.

5. The workshop adjourned at 4:10 p.m.