

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

July 16, 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. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Judge B. Helms; and Ms. Audrey D. Lewis. 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 workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 2:05 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT'S BUDGET

Mrs. Wood introduced Mrs. Paula Milton to share with the Board an overview of the Community Eligibility Option (CEO) for food service applications.

Mrs. Milton stated that every student in the district will eat breakfast and lunch at no cost. She stated that processing applications for the different programs will be done by herself and Mrs. Melanie Davis. She stated that printing of the applications will be paid for by the entity.

Mrs. Smith stated that for convenience and a point of accuracy for collecting the district's data for demographics, there are other options to retrieve data such as from the county and state.

Mrs. Wood shared with the Board a handbook with information regarding the district's budget by funds. She stated that the budget information included preliminary data, general fund balance, total estimated revenues, expenditures, staffing, comparisons, and teacher loads.

During the discussion of the district's budget, Board members shared their concerns regarding the Army JROTC Program and Law Enforcement Academy Program. Board members made the consensus to keep both the Army JROTC and Law Enforcement Academy Programs.

Mr. James stated that Tallahassee Community College will no longer sponsor the Law Enforcement Academy Program. He stated that Ms. Debra Rackley will share with the Board a plan to maintain the program. He stated that a workshop will be scheduled to further discuss the Law Enforcement Academy Program.

Mr. James commended Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Smith, and Dr. Hightower for working on a plan for the district's budget.

Board members thanked Mrs. Wood and staff for a very informative budget workshop.

3. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that in a recent State Board of Education Meeting, the Board adopted a recommendation requested by many of Florida's district superintendents that implements a rule that stipulates no individual school's grade will drop more than one letter grade in any one year until the state's transition to the Common Core standards are complete, and the assessment scores of students attending Exceptional Student Education (ESE) center schools not be applied to the student's home school for the purpose of school grade calculations. He stated that the ESE provision applies to students who have never previously enrolled in a non-ESE center school within the district and who score at the emergent level on the Florida Alternative Assessment. He stated that the districts focus this year will be reading and technology.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that he appreciates staff for their hard work. He stated that he wanted to include in the personnel packet information regarding individuals who are not recommended back for hire. He stated that he also wanted the district to start the school year with all teachers, and not substitutes. He stated that the district needed to incorporate winning schools, and do the best it can for staff.

Mr. James stated that the Board has done a good job and the district is headed in the right direction.

Ms. Lewis asked for permission to have a Board Retreat to share individual goals for the district.

Mr. Simmons stated that it was good to have educational conversation. He stated that at the next meeting a date will be scheduled for a Board Retreat.

Mr. Helms stated that he attended the Administrative Institute last week. He stated that he was a member of the Brownfields Committee. He stated that the Brownfields Initiative will help secure the center building located at the old Quincy High School. He stated that Board members were invited to attend the Gadsden Summer STEM Academy Culminating Activities Program on Wednesday, July 17th at Havana Middle School.

5. The workshop adjourned at 4:25 p.m.