

## SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

September 27, 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; 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. Eric F. Hinson was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 4:32 p.m.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. PERFORMING ARTS

Ms. Donna Callaway, Former State Board of Education Member and Principal at Raa Middle School, shared with the Board a power-point presentation outlining the Florida Center for Performing Arts and Education. Ms. Callaway stated that for over thirty years the construction of a performing arts center in Florida's Capital City has been viewed as a priority by citizens, community groups, government, and elected officials, who recognize the beneficial impact such a facility will have on the City of Tallahassee, the surrounding region, and even the entire state. She stated that efforts to build the performing arts center have progressed with the designation of the 4<sup>th</sup> cent of the tourist tax, the completion of the Theatre Projects Consultants study, the selection and option to acquire the Johns Building site, and the formation of The Florida Center for Performing Arts and Education, Inc., a non-profit organization charged with raising funds and constructing the facility. She stated that the Florida Center will serve as "Florida Classroom," providing a learning environment for students of all ages, from pre-kindergarteners to senior citizens and special needs groups, to participate in matinee performances, lectures, and other educational and community outreach programs. She stated that Florida's students will be able to take advantage of the programs when visiting The State Capitol and other cultural and historical landmarks nearby. She stated that studies have shown that exposure to the arts has many positive effects on students, including higher SAT scores, increased self-esteem and improved academic performance. She stated that the Florida Center will also enhance, and be enhanced by, university artists, both students and faculty, and provide opportunities for collaboration with FSU, FAMU

and TCC. She stated that in order to secure the Johns Site with the City of Tallahassee, \$10 million must be raised in the next few years. She stated that they are in the early phase of the \$20 million Building the Stage for their future campaign. She stated that successful attainment of these fundraising goals will allow for the movement with The Florida Center for Performing Arts and Education, and positively transform North Florida and our community for years and generations to come. She requested the Board draft a resolution to support the concept of the Florida Center for Performing Arts.

b. MIDWAY PROPERTY

Rev. Douglas Harris and Mrs. Patricia Harris addressed the Board to request the purchase of an additional 10 acres of land located on Brickyard Road at the intersection with Mine Road to establish a facility to locally devise and implement programs which focus on the needs and concerns of the youth, students, and parents within the Midway community and Gadsden County School District. Rev. Harris stated that he wished to purchase the property for \$5,000 per acre. Rev. Harris currently leases 5 acres of property on Mine Road.

Following discussion, Mr. James asked Rev. Harris to interact with the Board members individually to discuss the purchase of an additional 10 acres of property located on Brickyard Road at the intersection with Mine Road.

The Board instructed Mr. Shepard to research the fair market value of the property located on Brickyard Road at the intersection with Mine Road.

c. OPEN WORD WORSHIP CENTER

Mr. Robert West, Founding Pastor of Open Word Worship Center, and Mr. Demarcus Akins, Interim Pastor of Open Word Worship Center, addressed the Board to request stewardship of the former Greensboro Elementary School property located at 62 Lonnie Clark Road.

Mr. Akins stated that the Open Word Worship Center is a full fledged Southern Baptist affiliated church ministry in spiritual association and partnership with the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church of Herndon, VA, and is a manifest ministry whose purpose is the fulfillment of God's divine will. He stated that the goal of OWWC is to increase the opportunities for the Body to operate in faith for the kingdom's work. He stated that the former Greensboro Elementary School facility will serve as a base to launch its evangelistic and missionary missions and to train and prepare disciples gleamed from the great commission efforts. He stated that OWWC would be a one-stop means for both spiritual and physical wellness of the believer and non-believer. He stated that although the first priority focus of this ministry is salvation for the unbeliever, it is their belief that it is essential to our purpose as a full fledged ministry to serve the community by providing services which address physical, mental and social needs resulting from the complexities and uncertainties presented by everyday life. He stated that the ministry will provide weekly church services, prayer groups and youth ministry and educational enrichment, community involvement, spiritual revival and much more. He stated that OWWC will provide

yearly insurance of comprehensive coverage on all buildings and grounds. He stated that the proposed amount for purchase will be \$125,000 plus interest of one percent (1.00%) per annum, payable in monthly installments. He requested that the commencement of payments begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> month following the district's approval and continuing for one hundred and eighty (180) months thereafter.

Mr. Helms expressed his concerns regarding OWWC financial obligation for 15 years. He stated that was too long for the district to finance property.

Following discussion, Mr. Simmons requested Mr. Shepard research the fair market value of the property located at 62 Lonnie Clark Road (former Greensboro Elementary School). He stated that he was in support of formulating an agreement with OWWC.

d. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF QUINCY AND GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

On behalf of the City of Quincy, Mr. Charles Hayes addressed the Board to request the use of the district's parking space for the Tanyard Creek Park. He stated that additional parking space was needed for the Tanyard Creek Park. He requested the use of parking space for the Carter Parramore Academy football field and parking lots, Gadsden Technical Institute, and the District's Administration Building parking lot. He stated that the City of Quincy will provide security during use of the parking spaces.

Following discussion, Board members requested that the City of Quincy only be allowed to use parking space for Gadsden Technical Institute's open space, and Carter Parramore Academy parking lot only, parking for no more than 1,400 vehicles on the parcels. No parking is permitted on the Carter Parramore Academy football field or any area not designated for parking at Carter Parramore Academy.

3. FINANCIAL DATA REPORT

Mrs. Wood shared with the Board a preliminary view of student FTE. She stated that the ESE and PreK students were not included because they are funded separately. She shared with the Board the following budget status summary report: 1) General Fund – Encumbered \$2,841,114.56; 2) 300 – Capital Projects – Encumbered \$386,488.46; 3) 410 – Food Service – Encumbered \$1,476,278.48; 4) 420 – Federal Projects – Encumbered - \$984,142.86; and 5) 430 – Stimulus Funds – Encumbered \$51,543.04.

4. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

5. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

6. The workshop adjourned at 5:55 p.m.