

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

December 4, 2012

4:00 P.M.

This special meeting 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 Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board, and others. Mr. Charlie D. Frost was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 4:05 p.m.

2. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)

a. Personnel 2012 – 2013

In response to Mr. Helms' concern whether or not all promotional positions were advertised, Dr. Hightowerr stated yes, but the interim positions will be official on the next Board agenda.

Mr. Helms stated that the Board does not have to fill all vacancies. He stated that staff can be moved around to help out. He stated that the Board needs to think about reducing personnel. He asked the Board to be very cautious, and try not to increase personnel this year. He stated that he was concerned with having three principals on one campus.

Mr. Milton stated that the Board could look at the number of administrators at Carter Parramore Academy to eliminate positions.

Mr. James stated that he did not add a position to Carter Parramore Academy; he stated that he simply moved staff to where they might be more effective. He stated that there was no position increase.

In response to Ms. Lewis question whether the changes affected salary, Mr. James stated yes because it's a higher position.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #2a. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

3. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

- a. Letter Purchase Order for Services Pursuant to Agreement No. DESF 030928-PAEC

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$34,886.80

Mr. Helms stated that he wanted to ensure that the salary for the Interim Administrative Assistant did not exceed the salary paid for the position through June 30, 2013.

Mrs. Wood stated that in accordance with the provisions of the agreement approved by the Board on September 25, 2012, the total cost of the provision of service under the letter purchase orders including the DESF mark up, the position does not exceed the salary paid for the position during the 2012-2013 school year. She stated that the amount estimated overtime hours have been included.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #3a. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Acceptance of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Gadsden County Public School District and Leon County School Board

Fund Source: U. S. Department of Education
Amount: Revenue - unknown

Mr. Helms stated that he had numerous questions and concerns regarding the Acceptance of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Gadsden County Public School District and Leon County School Board.

Mrs. Wood stated that the purpose of this MOU was to establish an Inter-district agreement and the guidelines for collaboration between Gadsden County Public School District and Leon County School Board. She stated that Gadsden County School District and Leon County School Board intend to submit a joint fundable proposal to the United States Department of Education. She stated that the Magnet Schools Assistance Program will be announced in 2013. She stated that the term of this MOU was for a period of the fiscal year 2012-2013 from the effective date of this agreement and may be extended upon written mutual agreement. She stated that the RFP has not been released. She stated that Leon County has already approved the MOU. She stated that this was a three or four year grant for a magnet school. She stated that there will need to be monthly updates to the Board. She stated that the Board's approval was needed in order to allow the district to work with Leon County on the MOU. She stated that this was a competitive grant.

Mr. Simmons stated that he wanted to schedule a workshop to further discuss and review.

Ms. Lewis stated that she was responsible for bringing the grant to the attention of the staff. She stated that the definition of Magnet School means a public elementary or secondary school. She stated that the MOU offers a special curriculum capable of attracting substantial numbers of students of different racial backgrounds.

Mr. Milton appointed Mrs. Lewis to be the Board's representative to attend meetings with staff regarding the MOU.

Mr. James stated that he wants the district to have an opportunity to apply for the monies for the MOU. He stated that the grant was time sensitive.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #3b and schedule a workshop for further review. The motion was seconded by Ms. Audrey D. Lewis and carried with Mr. Helms, Mr. Milton and Ms. Lewis voting "aye." Mr. Simmons voted "nay."

The Board scheduled a workshop for Tuesday, December 11th at 4:00 p.m.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that the district received its graduation rates last Friday, November 30th. He stated that the district high school grades will be arriving soon. He stated that the federal graduation rates are a filtered version of graduation rates. He stated that the federal graduation rates are calculated by the number of students from grades 9 to 12 who graduate in four years. He stated that the East Gadsden High School's graduation rate was 81%, and West Gadsden High School's graduation rate was 72%. He stated that the district has a good committee to work on retaining students and getting them to graduate. He stated that he believe that if the high schools maintain what they are doing, the district can continue to improve. He stated that Coach Fuller and the East Gadsden Football Team are planning to have a winning season next year. He stated that due to a prior engagement he had to leave the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

4. REVIEW OF TRANEISHA GALLOWAY CHARTER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION

Ms. Traneisha Galloway shared with the Board a power-point presentation outlining an overview of the Charter School of Business And Integrated Technology Application. She introduced Attorney Mutafo Akbar as her representative.

Ms. Galloway stated that the vision for the Charter School of Business And Integrated Technology was to provide students with individual support and development of an appropriate educational program as well as a plan that meets the student's needs, resulting in high academic achievement producing life-long learners in an inclusive society. She stated that the mission was to create a safe learning environment to cultivate and equip the whole child with the knowledge and capability to succeed in today's society. She stated that the school will strive to promote edifying opportunities that lead to the road of success by providing language

immersion, launching kids into Business – entrepreneurship and integrated technology that represent the three global economic powers which will lead our students to success in the 21st century. She stated that the guiding principles are not just limited to only reading and math. She stated that the core academic and program areas go beyond reading and math. She stated that the core academic and program areas include the following: Core Academics, Reading and Language Arts Program, Phonemic Awareness, Systematic - Explicit Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, Compression, Excel Math, Develop Higher-Order Thinking Skills, Build Proficiency, Produce Confidence, Integrate Lessons, Balances New and Review, Science, and Social Studies. She stated that the charter school is preparing students to succeed in a highly globalized society. She stated that the students will receive immediate feedback on pronunciation through advanced speech – recognition technology. She stated that the student’s language skills will be strengthened through various features such as supplementary online practice sessions with native speakers, and educational games and activities. She stated that the charter school will implement components from the Rosetta Stone K-12 Education Program. She stated that the charter school will serve students identified as at-risk in accordance with federal and state anti-discrimination laws. She stated that the charter school will ensure supporting teaching methods and high standards for learning, and teachers will adhere to The Insight Core Framework. She stated that the charter school Progress Monitoring Plan will provide students, parents, teachers, and administrators with specific academic intervention information on 4th – 5th grade students and retained 3rd grade students who perform below Level 3 on the FCAT; 1st – 3rd grade students who perform below the 25th percentile on the standardized test; and Kindergarten students who are not demonstrating adequate progress. She stated that the Progress Monitoring Plan lists students’ areas of academic weakness and describe interventions that can implement in the areas of writing, reading, mathematics or science. She stated that each student meeting the criteria must have a Progress Monitoring Plan. She stated that the Progress Monitoring Plan must be reviewed by all stakeholders after at least 12 weeks of instruction, in order to assess whether implemented strategies are increasing students achievement in the identified area. She stated that students will receive academic/homework help sessions and tutoring. She stated that the charter school will adopt the Gadsden County School District Student Code of Conduct. She stated that the charter school will provide transportation for their students, and will contract with a transportation service. She stated that the charter school intends to use USDA National School Lunch Program.

During the overview of the power-point presentation outlining the Traneisha Galloway Charter School of Business And Integrated Technology Application, Board members shared their concerns, asked questions, and made comments. The Board thanked Ms. Galloway for her presentation and stated that a decision will be made on her Charter Application at the Board meeting on Tuesday, December 18th.

6. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Lewis requested an update on the SAC Accreditation.

Dr. Hightower stated that SAC Accreditation was due on January 19th. He stated that the SAC Review will take place on February 10th – 13th. He stated that all schools are prepared for the study. He stated that the SAC Review Team wants to see the district’s continuous growth. He stated that the Five Standards for review will include purpose and direction, governance and leadership, teaching and assessing for learning, resources and support system, and using results for continuous improvement.

Mr. Helms made the following announcements: 1) Quincy Kiwanis Children’s Christmas Party on December 12th, 12:00 noon at the First Baptist Church; 2) FAC –

Coach Taylor at East Gadsden High School on December 12th at 7:00 a.m.; 3) Florida Rural Turnaround Leadership Training on December 12th and 13th; 4) Christmas Musical – December 7th through 9th, 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church.

In reference to the individuals who purchased three of the schools, Mr. Simmons stated that notification has been sent to the individuals regarding the delinquency of their accounts with the schools. He stated that the accounts need to be brought current.

The Board requested to receive follow-up information in January regarding the status of the individuals with the delinquent accounts.

In response to the invitation Mr. Simmons received for Board members to attend a Cancer Awareness Brunch with Sisters in Pink, Board members stated that they were unable to attend.

7. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.