

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

February 26, 2018

6:00 P.M.

This workshop was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Steve Scott, Chairman; Mr. Tyrone D. Smith; Mrs. Audrey D. Lewis; and Mr. Isaac Simmons. Also present were Mr. Roger P. Milton, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Charlie D. Frost was absent.

1. Call to Order

The workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Steve Scott, at 6:02 p.m.

2. Gadsden County High School External Operator Agreement

Mr. Milton shared with the Board a draft copy of the Gadsden County High School External Operator Agreement. He stated that the agreement will be terminated and void if the school earns a "C" or higher accountability grade on the 2017 – 2018 Florida State Assessment (FSA) Test. He stated that once The Rensselaerville Institute (TRI) determines the focus of the functional areas (following a full-scale district and school analysis) and gains agreement with the district on the non-negotiables, TRI and the district will finalize the agreement. He stated that the effective date of this agreement will be the date approved by both parties. He stated that the district will retain responsibility for providing any programs at the school such as summer school, etc. where such programs are to be delivered before the August 2018 school start date. He stated that the term of this agreement shall be no longer than five (5) years commencing on July 1, 2018 and ending on June 30, 2023 unless GCSB determines that the final two years of support and gradual release to ensure durability and continued improvement are not necessary. He stated that the agreement may be modified upon approval by both parties in writing and approved by TRI and GCSB. He stated that the agreement may be renewed as provided for in this agreement. He stated that GCSB shall annually evaluate TRI and the school on its performance and progress toward meeting the standards and targets included in the contract, including academic achievement goals. He stated that TRI will have full authority to make the final decisions on retention and hiring of the principal and leadership team. He stated that all current leaders may reapply for their jobs but there was no guarantee that they will be hired. He stated that TRI has established a selection process with criteria and rubrics, as well as strong connections to pipelines of effective turnaround leaders.

Board members asked questions, shared their concerns, and made comments during the discussion of the Gadsden County High School External Operator Agreement in regards to the following: 1) does the agreement ensure the Independent Operator (IO) cost does not exceed FEFP and Restricted Funding (e.g. Federal Title dollars generated by GCHS; 2) does the agreement ensure that additional costs (requested by IO) does not shift back to the district; 3) will the district know school grade or have a credible projection before August; 4) how much will TRI charge the district to enter into this agreement; how much of a difference is this from what the district pays them now; 5) will FLDOE make available School Improvement Dollars (e.g. UNISIG); 6) how will the district and TRI mediate disputes; 7) what happens if TRI does not move the school after one year, two years or three years; 8) how will the district evaluate TRI; 9) should there be more specific language regarding when either partner (TRI/district) can terminate the agreement. Will FLDOE provide guidance with the language that can be used; and 10) can there be a comparative analysis between full charter, full independent operator, and the agreement being proposed – control of school, cost to the district, impact on remaining district schools, and other.

Attorney Minnis stated that she was concerned about the hold harmless and indemnification in the Gadsden County High School External Operator Agreement. She stated that she will provide the Board with the correct language for the agreement.

Mrs. Edna Hussein Forehand and Ms. Millie Forehand participated in the discussion regarding the cost of services that will be provided to Gadsden County High School.

3. School Board Requests and Concerns

Board members scheduled an executive session following the workshop at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27th.

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