

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

December 15, 2009

6:00 P.M.

This meeting 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 Mr. Eric F. Hinson. 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Bishop Terry Fitzgerald, Pastor of Faith Apostolic Christian Tabernacle Services.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. James recognized Mrs. Roland Jackson, Mrs. Wilma Jackson, and all guidance counselors for their role with the graduation rate increase and being a part of the graduation rate task force.

Bishop Terry Fitzgerald, Pastor of Faith Apostolic Christian Tabernacle Services, commended the Gadsden County Public School System for being instrumental in his daughter's education. He stated that his daughter was transferred from the Gadsden County School District to a private school. He stated that his daughter has won her second National Congressional Scholar Award. He stated that his daughter was transferred back to the Gadsden County Public School System. He requested the use of Chattahoochee High School facility. He introduced Dr. Abe Johnson of Gulf Coast School of Ministry and Professor Tab Bush, Executive President of Gulf Coast School of Ministry.

Dr. Johnson shared with the Board an overview of Gulf Coast School of Ministry. He stated that Faith Apostolic Christian Tabernacle Services (FACTS) is a reporting center designed to bridge the gap between the school, parent/home, and the courts. He stated that more than a suspension baby-sitter, the FACTS Center is dedicated to

befriending and helping children find balance during the time of suspension and jump-starting each child towards a positive future.

Professor Tab Bush stated that the Gulf Coast School of Ministry is a mentoring program “Youth With A Purpose” (YWAP). He stated that the YWAP is a signature pilot program of FACTS, designed to awaken youth to God’s design for their lives. He stated that it deals with issuers of forgiveness, self-pity, rejection, ill-dependencies, and fosters hope in overcoming the obstacles of realities. He stated that YWAP focuses on developing the capacities of the trainee to see his/her failures as “overcomeable”. He stated that the Gulf Coast School of Ministry has a shelter institution as well as many other programs.

Mr. Simmons requested the Board schedule a workshop in January to discuss vacant properties.

Mr. Helms announced that the Quincy Kiwanis Children’s Christmas Party was scheduled for Wednesday, December 16th beginning at 12:00 noon at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall; and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Luncheon was scheduled for Thursday, December 17th, 12:00 noon at the Gadsden Arts Center.

Mr. Hinson recognized the Lions Club for their efforts with raising funds for the blind. He also recognized Rev. Salters as being a fruit for the community of Havana. He announced that he was invited to participate on a Christmas Program at Neal’s Temple Church, Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. James complimented Mr. Charles Wood, he stated that turkeys were provided to the Community of Midway. He stated that 500 books were distributed to the students in Gadsden County for the project Read for the Holidays.

Mr. Hinson complimented the 21st Century Community Learning Center and Mr. Marshall Williams for an outstanding after school program. He also complimented Bishop Terry Fitzgerald for being supportive of the Gadsden community.

Jerome Maples, Student Board Representative, stated that the distinguished gentlemen group donated can goods to two needy families. He stated that the students at West Gadsden High School have a productive aspect for reading because of Mrs. Kirkland, English teacher.

Mr. Milton requested that agenda item #13a (Lease Agreement for Havana Northside High School Property) be removed from the agenda because a workshop would be scheduled in January to discuss vacant properties.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Simmons entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Judge B. Helms, seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. November 17, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. November 17, 2009, 5:30 p.m. – Organizational Board Meeting
- c. November 17, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)
 - a. Personnel 2009 - 2010
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS
 - a. Approval of bills and vouchers - See back-up material
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - d. Budget Amendment Number Five
Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$780,989.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - f. Budget Amendment Number Seven
Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$288,542.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
8. PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS/AGREEMENTS
 - f. Lease Agreement with Midway Unity Fellowship, Inc. for Unimproved Land Located at Mine Road, Midway, Florida
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: As Per Agreement
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
9. STUDENT MATTERS
 - a. Student Transfers – See back-up material
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - b. Student Expulsion (Change of Placement) – See back-up material
Case #23-0910-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
 - c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #24-0910-0051
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Student Expulsion (Change of Placement) – See back-up material
Case #26-0910-0051
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #27-0910-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items preceded by an (*) asterisk were removed from the CONSENT agenda at the beginning of the meeting and acted upon during the DISCUSSION portion of the agenda.

Mr. Simmons addressed the agenda items out of the norm and began with item #9d.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #25-0910-0051

Mr. Christopher Ward, father of student #25-0910-0051 addressed the Board to request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9d until a hearing was held on January 5, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- b. Budget Amendment Number Three
Fund Source: 110 (General Funds)
Amount: \$0.00

Mr. Hinson requested an explanation of budget amendment number three.

Mrs. Wood stated that budget amendment number three appropriations exceeded the original revenue. She stated that the appropriated budget for GTI's AT&T Grant needed to match current expenditures. She stated that the appropriations needed to be reduced for the Adults with Disabilities Grant Program to match revenue per approved grant notification.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Budget Amendment Number Four

Fund Source: 432 (Targeted ARRA Stimulus) Funds
Amount: \$1,565,856.54

Mr. Hinson stated that he was concern whether or not stimulus funds could be used to revitalize schools.

Mrs. Wood stated that all stimulus monies are for targeted work. She stated that the process began in the Spring. She stated that the district did not receive any monies for shovel ready projects.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Budget Amendment Number Six

Fund Source: 410 (Food Service) Funds
Amount: \$0.00

Mr. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7e. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

g. Budget Amendment Number Eight

Fund Source: 110 (General) Fund
Amount: \$275,000.00

Mr. Hinson requested an explanation of budget amendment number eight.

Mr. Ronald Williams, Director of the Gadsden County Drop Back-In Academy, shared with the Board an overview of the Drop Back-In Academy Program. He stated that he was in constant contact with Dr. Bridges. He stated that 53 students are actively being served and there are 29 students on the waiting list. He stated that there is one location in Quincy (Children Are Our Future); two in the Havana area (Havana Learning Center, and Havana Annex); and one in Chattahoochee (Greater Bethel Baptist Church). He stated that he was actively engaged in the community by speaking at churches. He thanked the Board for their advice and assistance with the program. He stated that he was adhering to the guidelines for the program. He stated that he was not recruiting any students from the schools.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7g. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

h. Budget Amendment Number Nine

Fund Source: 110 (General) Fund
Amount: \$508,419.46

Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7h. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS/AGREEMENTS

a. Copyright and Trademark License Agreement

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned about others coming forth with similar requests for copyright and trademark license agreement. He stated that he would not be able to vote on this issue because of the ramifications it may cause in the future.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was concerned about using the copyright and trademark license agreement for profit as long as the employee was employed with the district. He stated that other requests will be handled on an as needed basis.

Attorney Minnis stated that the copyrights belong to the Board. She stated that the Board is being asked to transfer the rights of the license.

Board members stated that they were concerned about the employee using the license agreement for profit while employed for the district.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8a and to include in the agreement not for use as long as the employee is employed with the district. The motion was seconded by Mr. Frost and carried with Mr. Frost, Mr. Milton and Mr. Hinson voting "aye". Mr. Helms and Mr. Simmons voted "nay".

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Maintenance Agreement with IBM Corporation

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$44,404.11

Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Amendment to Contract with Barkley Security

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$13,836.48 (\$12.18/hour x 8 hours/day x 142 days of school)

Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned about the monies coming out of the general fund for an additional security guard.

Mr. Simmons stated that an additional security guard was needed because of the increase in the number of students.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roger P. Milton and carried with Mr. Simmons, Mr. Milton, Mr. Hinson, and Mr. Frost voting "aye". Mr. Helms voted "nay".

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Contract for Unemployment Compensation Cost Control Services

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$3,100.00 annually (\$775.00 per quarter)

Mr. Hinson stated that he was concerned whether or not the unemployment compensation cost control services needed to be bid.

Mrs. Wood stated that only contracts in excess of \$15,000.00 needed Board approval.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8d. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Contractual Agreement for Deliverance Temple Ministries First Born Church

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$10,000.00

Mr. Helms requested the funding source for the contractual agreement for Deliverance Temple Ministries First Born Church be changed to the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8e with the noted correction to change the funding source to the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. City of Chattahoochee Request of Intent to Terminate Lease Agreement for the Southside School Facility

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms stated that the City of Chattahoochee has had a lease agreement for several years for the Southside School facility.

Mr. Simmons stated that several organizations are interested in the property located at the Southside School facility. He stated that a workshop will be scheduled to further discuss vacant properties in the district.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. Compliance with Senate Bill 1676 Education Conforming Bill

Fund Source: All Funds
Amount: Expenditures for out-of-state travel, cell phones, and other electronic communication devices

Mr. Frost requested an explanation of the district's compliance with Senate Bill 1676 Education Conforming Bill.

Mrs. Wood stated that Board approval is requested for use of public funds for out-of-state travel, cell phones, or other electronic communication devices in accordance with the provisions of Section 1011.09 Florida Statutes (as contained in Senate Bill 1676 Education Conforming Bill).

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #11a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. 2010 Technology Plan

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #11b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. CONSIDERATION, PROPOSAL, AND/OR ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND RELATED MATTERS

- a. Discussion and Request to Advertise the Board's Intent to Amend School Board Rules 5.14 (Homeless Students) and 5.141 (Homeless Dispute Resolution)

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #12a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

On behalf of Mr. Darrel Simmons, Owner of Party Headquarters, Mr. Michael Simmons addressed the Board to solicit their support for a toy drive in Havana on December 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Havana Elementary School. He stated that the proceeds will be used to provide toys to students from needy families in Havana.

14. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James announced that the Stop, Drop & Read Campaign had begun. He stated that the Parent Resource Mobile had already visited the city of Gretna and Havana, and was scheduled to be in Chattahoochee tomorrow evening (December 16th) at 5:30 p.m. He invited Board members to the district's Christmas Lunch on Friday, December 18th at 12:00 noon.

15. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Hinson stated that a book drive was being held at Havana Middle School. He stated that "writing for the holidays" project was called Jingle Bells. He stated that Jingle Bells require students to write 30 line sentences, and prizes would be given to the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners. He solicited donations for the Gadsden County Connection.

Jerome Maples, Student Board Representative, stated that assessments were given to students and the data showed that students have the ability to learn. He stated that West Gadsden High School students are preparing for the FCAT with a 44 day blitz.

Mr. Simmons stated that he will organize committees such as finance, insurance, transportation and facilities for Board members. He stated that Board members serving on the various committees would share updated information at Board meetings. He stated that he was up for another challenging year and he want each Board member to work hard and be a resource for the Superintendent.

16. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The Board convened in executive session at 8:35 p.m., and adjourned at 9:00 p.m.