

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

May 25, 2010

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. Judge B. Helms; Mr. Eric F. Hinson; and Mr. Charlie D. Frost. 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 6:07 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Judge B. Helms.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Audrey Lewis and Mr. Jerry Smith recognized Mrs. Shayla Lightfoot-Brown as recipient of the Sherry Smith Fellowship Award. Mr. Smith stated that Mrs. Lightfoot-Brown was the 10th teacher to receive the award. The Superintendent and Board members congratulated Mrs. Lightfoot-Brown.

Mr. Hinson recognized the staff and students at East Gadsden High School for their Senior Awards Banquet. He stated that three scholarships were awarded to seniors on behalf of FAMU. He stated that two scholarships will be awarded to students at West Gadsden High School on behalf of FAMU. He stated that he is the Coordinator of Recruitment for FAMU.

Mr. Milton recognized Ms. Bea Hopkins and AmeriCorps Gadsden Reads for Florida's Outstanding Volunteer Services.

Ms. Hopkins stated that the AmeriCorps Gadsden Reads Program focus is improving the reading achievement of elementary students through support in the implementation of the SRA Imagine It program. She stated that the Board's continued support was needed.

Mr. Simmons recognized Ms. Cherry Rankin, Site Coordinator for the Chattahoochee Boys & Girls Club.

Ms. Rankin shared with the Board an overview of the Chattahoochee Boys & Girls Club. She stated that the Chattahoochee Boys & Girls Club is offering an educational enhancement program called Power Hour designed specifically to help members with homework. She stated that this program is available after school, Monday through Thursday. She stated that dedicated staff members, certified teachers and volunteers supervise each session and help members complete their assignments for the day. She stated that when members finish their homework they may choose to participate in a variety of other engaging and educational activities to develop their skills even further.

Mr. Simmons encouraged Ms. Rankin to meet with the Superintendent to review the information for the Chattahoochee Boys & Girls Club.

Mr. Hinson announced that he is on the Board for Senior Citizens. He invited the Board to a gala on June 15th at New Jerusalem Church. He stated that the speaker will be Rev. Julius Harris, and that all proceeds will benefit the senior citizens. He asked each Board member for a donation of \$25.00.

Mr. Simmons added an addendum to agenda item #6a – employee (Gary Habib) resignation.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. April 27, 2010, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. April 27, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. May 4, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- d. May 4, 2010, 7:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- e. May 12, 2010, 4:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop

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.

- b. Budget Amendment Number Sixteen – Correction
 Fund Source: 110 (General) Fund
 Amount: Net Change in this Correction is -0-
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Eight
 Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Fund
 Amount: \$.00
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Budget Amendment Number Thirty
 Fund Source: 410 (Food Service) Funds
 Amount: \$.00
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

- a. AmeriCorps Gadsden Reads
 Fund Source: GCSB, State and Local Funds and Title I, Part A Basic
 Amount: \$35,226 (GCSB, State and Local Funds)
 \$53,486 (Title I, Part A Basic)
 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 – See back-up material
 Case #81-0910-0071
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
 Case #82-0910-0231
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
 Case #84-0910-0071
 ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #86-0910-0231
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #87-0910-0231
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #90-0910-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. HVAC Full Service Agreement with Brooks Air Systems at West Gadsden High School for upcoming fiscal year

Fund Source: 110 Funds
Amount: \$36,750.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- b. Comprehensive Safety Inspection Reports

Fund Source: 110 Funds
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Relocatable Classroom Inspection Reports

Fund Source: 110 Funds
Amount: N/A

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.

- *6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)
 - b. Personnel 2010 – 2011

Mr. Milton stated that he was concerned about all employees being treated the same when it comes to the DROP extension. He stated that he wanted all of them to return with their current salary.

Dr. Bridges stated that June 30th would be the last year for employees with a year to year DROP extension to return at their current salary because there will be no break in service. She stated that after July 1st, employees with DROP extension will have a six month break in service and will have to return at the beginning salary.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried with Mr. Simmons, Mr. Helms, Mr. Frost and Mr. Hinson voting "aye." Mr. Milton voted "nay."

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

c. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Seven

Fund Source: 110 (General) Funds
Amount: \$100,000.00

Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned about budget amendment number twenty-seven being funded with general funds.

Mrs. Wood stated that the funding was for the Criminal Justice Career Academy. She stated that the Criminal Justice Career Academy was under the auspices of Gadsden Technical Institute.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Hinson left the meeting at 6:55 p.m. to present two scholarship awards to two seniors at West Gadsden High School Senior Class Night.

e. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Nine

Fund Source: 431 (State Fiscal Stabilization) Funds
Amount: \$24,663.84

In response to Mr. Helms' concern about the number of years for the Dale Hickman Excellent Teaching Program, Mrs. Wood stated that the Dale Hickman Excellent Teaching Program was for one year with June 30th being the last date to incur expenditures.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms 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.

Mr. Milton left the meeting at 7:05 p.m. to attend a meeting at James A. Shanks Middle School.

g. Budget Amendment Number Thirty-One

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$75,000.00

Mr. Helms requested an explanation of budget amendment number thirty-one.

Mr. Rocky Pace stated that budget amendment number thirty-one was for a K-12 Access Control Domestic Security Grant (State Homeland Security Grant Program). He stated that Board approval was needed to purchase security cameras for all school buses.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms 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.

*8. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

b. Audit for Internal Funds for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$30,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that the district had received its 3rd FCAT scores, and the other test scores should arrive within a week or so. He stated that most of the schools showed strong gains in math.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

In response to Mr. Helms' concern about the Administrator's Institute, Ms. Erica Starling stated that the Administrator's Institute would be held on June 14th and 15th at the Florida State University Club.

Mr. Frost stated that he was concerned about all teachers being certified. He stated that he wants to hire the best qualified teachers for our students. He stated that he wished not to use teachers with temporary certificates.

Ms. Starling stated that a teacher with a temporary certificate is qualified to work in their subject area. She stated that the individual does not have to have an educational degree.

In response to Mr. Frost's concern regarding set goals to improve student gains in reading, Mr. Simmons stated that goals are set in each of the school's improvement plan.

Mr. Simmons shared with the Board a contract for sale and purchase, and a promissory note for Chattahoochee High School from Faith Apostolic Christian Tabernacle Services, Inc.

Following discussion, the Board requested the Attorney review the contract and promissory note from Faith Apostolic Christian Tabernacle Services, Inc.; upon which the Superintendent will submit a recommendation to the Board for review.

Mr. Simmons announced that Mr. Frost had received an award from Gadsden Technical Institute for outstanding service. He stated that Mr. Frost mentors approximately 18 students.

13. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.