

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

October 25, 2011

6:00 P.M.

This meeting 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; Mr. Eric F. Hinson; 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Roger P. Milton, at 6:30 p.m. He stated that prior to the Board meeting teachers were recognized and received performance pay for reading learning gains.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Charlie D. Frost.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Milton recognized Ms. Shaun Green and her two daughters who attend the Communities In Schools After-school Program. He stated that the students shared their progress reports with him.

Mr. James commended Dr. Ida Walker and Dr. Sylvia Jackson for a job well done with the Race To The Top Grant incentives. He stated that 103 Gadsden County teachers received performance pay for reading learning gains. He stated that the district has started its FTE Audit. He stated that the graduation rate was expected to increase. He stated the district is partnering with Big Bend Hospice to raise funds to help support the needs of Hospice patients in Gadsden County. He stated that a financial contribution will help our friends and neighbors who are in need.

Mr. Hinson stated that the Havana Pumpkin fest was a success. He recognized the Havana firefighters, and one of his interns, Ms. Howard.

Mr. Helms announced that the Quincy Kiwanis Club Children's Christmas Party was scheduled for December 13th, 12:00 noon at the First Baptist Church. He stated that students from Gretna Elementary, St. John Elementary, Stewart Street Elementary, and George W. Munroe Elementary will benefit from the proceeds of the fruit sales. He stated that the deadline to order fruit was November 15th.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

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

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. September 27, 2011, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. September 27, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. October 11, 2011, 2:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting
- d. October 11, 2011 – School Board Workshop
Immediately following Special Board Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2011 - 2012

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

- a. Budget Amendment Number Five

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$1,286,276.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Budget Amendment Number Six

Fund Source: 432 (Targeted ARRA Stimulus) Funds
Amount: \$1,284,820.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Budget Amendment Number Seven

Fund Source: 434 (Race To The Top) Funds
Amount: \$ 2,304,819.91

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Agreement Between Gadsden County School Board And The City Of Quincy
For Use Of Property For Parking

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

i. Contracts for Federal Projects

Fund Source: Title I Regular and 21st Century

Amount: \$55,575.24

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

j. Contacts for Capital Improvements Fund

Fund Source: Capital Improvements Fund

Amount: \$24,635.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

k. Contracts for Federal Projects –ARRA

Fund Source: Title I School Improvement – ARRA

Amount: \$40,620.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #13-1112-9102

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #14-1112-9102

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

b. Declaration Of Restrictive Covenant

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

c. Bleachers Bid - #1112-09

Fund Source: 379 Funds

Amount: \$24,635.00

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.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- b. Agreement Between Gadsden County School Board And Neola, Inc.

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: 3 Year Agreement \$22,995.00 (\$7,795.00) per year

Mr. Simmons requested an overview of the agreement with Neola, Inc.

Mrs. Smith stated that several school districts are using Neola to provide continuous updates to School Board Policies, Procedures Manual and job descriptions. She stated that Neola will ensure that all statutory requirements are updated. She stated that there will be no contractual obligation to the current vendor.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Contract Between The School Board of Gadsden County, Florida and Catapult Learning, LLC

Fund Source: Federal Programs (431262S)

Amount: \$24,750.00

Mr. Hinson requested an overview of the contract with Catapult Learning, LLC.

Ms. Rose Raynak, Director of Federal Programs, stated that Catapult Learning, LLC will provide an extended day program for reading at East Gadsden High School.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d.. Contract With Soliant Health

Fund Source: FEFP

Amount: \$46.25 per hour (Bachelors Level)

Mr. Hinson requested an overview of the contract with Soliant Health.

Ms. Sharon Thomas, Director of Exceptional Student Education, stated that Soliant Health will make available up to two Speech Language Pathologists to provide speech and language services to elementary and middle school students. She stated that these services will replace vacant Speech/Language positions.

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. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

e. Interlocal Agreement

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons stated that he was concern about the County maintenance on unpaved and paved roads and streets within Gadsden County.

Mr. Shepard stated that the maintenance on the unpaved and paved roads is strictly School Board property.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

f. Contract for 457 (b) Deferred Compensation Plan

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: Optional Employee Deductions

Mr. Frost requested an overview of the contract for the 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan.

Mrs. Wood stated that the Insurance Committee met on October 20th to discuss the optional deduction provided by the 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan for employees. She stated that the committee unanimously approved the 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan for employees. She stated that the plan offers additional tax-deferred options, and will enhance savings and retirement for employees

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8f. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

g. Contracts from General Fund

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$14,950.00

In response to Mr. Hinson's concern whether the contracts were included in the general fund budget, Mrs. Wood responded that the district is working to pay for the contractual services from capital improvement funds.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

h. Contracts for General Fund

Fund Source: General Fund

Amount: \$32,048.12

Mr. Helms stated that he was concern about the district paying for health insurance for AmeriCorp members. He stated that AmeriCorp has paid for member health insurance in the past.

Mr. Simmons asked if the district received administrative cost from AmeriCorp.

Mrs. Wood stated that, no the district does not receive administrative cost.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

i. Approval of the Purchase of an Upgrade to the AS400 System

Fund Source: Capital Outlay/General Fund

Amount: \$96,253.83 annually for three years

In response to Mr. Simmons' concern whether the upgrade to the AS400 System had been budgeted for, Mrs. Wood stated the purchase order for upgrading the AS400 system has been encumbered.

Dr. Sonja Bridges, Director of Media & Technology Services, stated that the AS400 system upgrade is needed to accommodate the upgrade to the student database system that is required by the Race To The Top initiative by the state of Florida. She stated that IBM/Mainline will partner with the Gadsden School District to provide these services because IBM is the only vendor of this type system. She stated that the district will lease this system over a three year period and then own the system at the end of the lease period.

In response to Mr. Helms' question if the district would own the AS400 system after three years, Dr. Bridges responded yes.

Dr. Bridges stated that presentations by the vendors (Crosspointe, Skyward and Focus) were scheduled for Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. (October 26th)

Mr. Simmons stated that in a previous Board meeting, it was the Board's decision to be apart of the presentations for student data base.

In response to Mr. Milton's question why Board members were not invited to attend the vendor presentations, Mr. James stated that he left the previous Board meeting with the impression that the Board would act on the Superintendent's recommendation.

Mr. Milton stated that he would attend the meeting on October 26th for vendor presentations on the upgrade of the AS400 system.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #81. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

m. Supplemental Educational Services

Fund Source: Title I Part A, Supplemental Education Services
Amount: \$353,250.00

Mr. Frost expressed his concerns with the SES Providers not providing academic service to students. He stated that the SES Providers should be teaching from the district academic standards.

Mr. Helms stated that he was concern about accountability for the SES Providers.

Ms. Raynak stated that only 16 of the SES Providers have been chosen to provide services to students.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #8m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Department of Education Spot Survey To Declare Some Portable Classrooms Surplus

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

Mr. Frost requested an overview of the Department of Education Spot Survey to Declare Some Portable Classrooms Surplus.

Mr. Shepard stated that the Department of Education Spot Survey required the removal of 13 portable classrooms from the FISH report and declared them surplus. He stated that this will also reduce the district's student station count by 260. He stated that a resolution was required for approval.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to defer action on agenda item #10a because the resolution was not included with the spot survey. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

*11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. School Advisory Council Rosters

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

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. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Approval of School Board Policies 2.94 (Universal Breakfast Program) and 2.95 (Wellness Program)

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #12a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James congratulated Mr. Frost on his reappointment as a state member of the State School Choice Parent Advisory Council (SCPAC). He announced that Coach Fuller and the East Gadsden High School Football Team were in the playoffs. He stated that the district had an outstanding inservice day. He recognized Ms. Sarah Knight for being an outstanding reading coach. He also recognized Dr. Hightower, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Wood for their hard work and dedication.

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost thanked the Superintendent and Mrs. Smith for sending information to schools regarding parental treatment. He commended Coach Fuller and the East Gadsden High School Football Team for their good behavior conduct at the last game.

Mr. Simmons stated that the district seems to be moving in the right direction and improving academically. He stated that the Board needed improvement with engagement in the business process.

Mr. Helms stated that he appreciated the Superintendent and staff for their hard work.

Mr. Hinson applauded the Board members on a great meeting. He stated that there was great dialogue. He stated that the Board needs to schedule a retreat. He invited Board members to be part of "Get Going Gadsden" because it promoted good health.

Following discussion of the November Board meeting, Board members agreed to schedule the following meetings: 1) November 15th – Workshop at 4:30 p.m.; Organizational Meeting at 5:30 p.m.; and the Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Milton stated that in an effort to reduce the number of Board meetings, he requested that other issues not pertaining to financial data be addressed at the regular Board meetings instead of financial workshops.

15. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.