

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

June 29, 2010

4:30 P.M.

This workshop 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 workshop was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, at 4:35 p.m.

2. FINANCIAL DATA REPORT

Mrs. Wood recognized Mr. Arduster House and Mr. Dennis Wester for their hard work. She shared with the Board the following budget status summary report: 1) 110 – General Fund – Encumbered \$558,025.53; 2) 300 – Capital Projects Fund – Encumbered \$761,208.46; 3) 410 – Food Service Fund – Encumbered \$97,300.74; 4) 420 – Contracted Projected Funds - \$688,921.87; 5) 431 – State Fiscal Stabilization Funds – Encumbered \$975.00; 6) 432 – Targeted ARRA Stimulus Funds – Encumbered \$10,189.68; and 7) 433 – Other ARRA Stimulus Grants – Encumbered \$15,825.09.

Mrs. Wood stated that the insurance committee makes recommendation to the Board regarding insurance. She stated that the insurance committee will bring 100% data to the Board regarding its previous meetings and recommendations. She stated that in accordance with the public openings law, fifteen proposals were provided and responses were received. She stated that eighteen meetings were held with the insurance committee. She stated that each vendor had an opportunity to make a presentation to the insurance committee. She stated that everyone had access to all other proposals. She stated that members of the insurance committee were comprised of: Mr. Dwayne Ivory, Ms. Arnita Grice-Walker, Ms. Sandra Joseph, Ms. Regina Munroe, Ms. Maggie Brown, Mr. Henry Hatten, Ms. Amy Howell, Ms. Diana Engling, and herself.

Mr. Helms stated that he was concern about approving the life insurance before the health insurance. He stated that he needed to know the premiums. He stated that there were several questions that needed to be addressed.

Mrs. Wood stated that the premiums are being reduced for life, health and dental insurance.

Mr. Milton stated that it is the responsibility of the Board to do their homework for an understanding and clarity of the insurances. He stated that the insurance committee should not be at blame, because it is ultimately the Board's decision.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Board receives recommendations from the Superintendent.

Mrs. Shaia Beckwith-James shared with the Board an overview of the recent FCAT scores. She stated that the middle and high school students are performing at higher levels and there are FCAT scores in to prove it. She stated that the FCAT scores show that the students continue to make gains on the yearly administered high stakes testing. She stated that the students are scoring at or above the state average and many schools are seeing the highest achievement levels since the inception of the FCAT test. She stated that scores reflect that middle and high school students are showing steady growth in reading, math, and writing. She stated that an overall review of the district's FCAT scores show that the students made progress in nearly every grade except 5th where the district's scores followed the state trend and decreased in reading, math and science.

Mr. James stated that he credits the gains to the hard working parents, teachers, administrators and community. He stated that he is very pleased with the progress made by the middle schools.

Ms. Jane Hammelman addressed the Board to share her concern regarding the closing of the warehouse. She stated that the warehouse provide a savings and service to the district. She provided the Board with information concerning warehouse operations and service. She stated that she would appreciate the district not closing the warehouse.

3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:26 p.m.