

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

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

July 23, 2013

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. Judge B. Helms; and Ms. Audrey D. Lewis. Also present were Mr. Reginald C. James, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; and 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. Isaac Simmons, at 4:35 p.m.

2. FINANCIAL DATA REPORT

Mrs. Wood stated that the district is proceeding with E-TRIM. She stated that the tax decrease was 7.552, with the prior year being 7.719. She stated that the notice for the budget hearing was advertised for July 30th at 6:00 p.m. She stated that there will be challenging times for instructional materials.

In reference to the staffing plan, Dr. Pink Hightower stated that it has been difficult to meet the staffing plan. He stated that he was proposing to the Board to place extra positions as temporary placement contingent upon FTE.

Ms. Wood stated that the financial, operational, and federal single audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012 contained two federal awards findings and questioned costs. She stated that the two findings pertained to the Child Nutrition Cluster program (School Food Service) in which the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services serves as the grantor agency. She stated that resolution of the audit findings by the Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness deemed the corrective action to be satisfactory with no cost findings.

3. ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that there will be reading training for all elementary teachers. He stated that the Back to School Rally was scheduled for Wednesday, August 14th at East Gadsden High School.

Dr. Sylvia Jackson introduced Ms. Barbara Purnell, School Health Coordinator, and Ms. Sarah Hinson with the Gadsden County Health Department, to share with the Board a power-point presentation outlining an overview of the health services provided for the last school year.

Ms. Purnell stated that the Gadsden County Health Department's mission is to protect and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts, supports the major goal of the school health program, "to appraise, protect and promote the health of students". She stated that an explanation of health services included the following: a) children must be healthy to learn and must learn to be healthy. She stated that school health services provide screenings, assistance with daily medication administration and prescribe treatments, acute care for minor illness and injuries and referrals are made when health problems are identified; and b) health screenings are non-invasive and are a quick and inexpensive method of detecting health problems. She stated that the screenings are not diagnostic. She stated that students are referred to physicians for diagnosis and treatment. She stated that immunizations protect the students, teachers, and families from communicable diseases. She stated that students without required immunizations will be excluded from school as required by Florida law. She stated that all students entering school must have immunizations; however, specific immunizations are required for entry into kindergarten and 7th grade. She stated that immunizations are available through the Gadsden County Health Department or the student's physician. She stated that a description of services provided include the following: a) during the 2012 – 2013 school year, the Gadsden County Health Department in cooperation with the School District performed vision screens on 2,061 students in KG, 1st, 3rd and 6th grades to check for acuity and other visual disturbances; b) 1,559 hearing screens were performed on KG, 1st and 6th grade students, where they were presented with various sound levels through earphones at the normal hearing frequency; c) BMI (Body Mass Index): 1,287 students in 1st, 3rd, and 6th grades were screened to determine weight status and risk of certain chronic diseases based on weight and height measurements; scoliosis screenings were completed on 451 students in 6th grade to determine abnormal curvature of the spine. This screen is best performed between the ages of 9-15; d) fluoride applications were provided by dental services to protect the enamel of the teeth from decay; e) 533 students were assisted with administering medication with parental consent; f) first aid treatment was provided to 2,028 students; g) 21,868 students were seen in the Student Health Clinics. 21,393 returned to class and 475 were sent home; and h) additionally, School Health and FSU together provided services to George Munroe Elementary School, James A. Shanks Middle School; and Havana Middle School. A nurse practitioner and counselor were at each site several days a week. They provided primary care services, which included obesity prevention and education.

Board members asked questions, shared their concerns, and made comments during the power-point presentation outlining an overview of the health services provided for the last school year. They thanked Ms. Purnell and Ms. Hinson for their time and sharing information.

4. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

None.

5. The workshop adjourned at 5:30 p.m.