

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

March 25, 2014

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; Ms. Audrey D. Lewis; Mr. Charlie D. Frost; Mr. Judge B. Helms; 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 6:05 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

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

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

The Gadsden Writing Challenger Student winners were recognized by the Board and Havana Herald. Trimel Charlton – 8th grader at Havana Middle School; Aveyonna Godwin – 3rd grader at Stewart Street Elementary School; Ronald Hernandez – 4th grader at Chattahoochee Elementary School, and Azha Herron – 5th grader at Gadsden Elementary Magnet School. Each of the students received a subscription to the Havana Herald, goodie bag and a trophy.

On behalf of Monts Law Firm, Ms. Lee McKnight represented the Board with a check over \$2,000 from the “Striking for Success” fundraiser to benefit the Head Start PreK program.

Mr. Chris Worrell, Division of Forestry, presented the Board with a check in the amount of \$11,889.21 for its share of proceeds from timber sales and recreational fees.

Mr. Milton recognized Mrs. Carolyn Francis for her sponsorship of children to attend the Communities In Schools Summer Program. He also recognized Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Maples.

Mr. Maples shared with the Board his most recent progress. He stated that he was published in the Tallahassee Community College African American History Calendar, interviewed with the Tallahassee Community College 22 News Channel Network, and was recipient of the National Marshall Award.

Mr. Milton pulled from the agenda item #9g – Approval to Continue Maintenance for the HVAC Systems at EGHS and WGHS for the balance of the current fiscal year; Discussion Item #8c – Student Expulsion #58-1314-9102; and Revised Item #6a - Personnel. He entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Judge B. Helms, seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. February 25, 2014, 1:00 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. February 25, 2014, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- c. February 25, 2014, 5:45 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- d. February 25, 2014, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- e. March 4, 2014, 3:00 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
- f. March 4, 2014, 5:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- g. March 4, 2014, 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing
- h. March 4, 2014, 6:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard – Student Hearing

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

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

- a. Personnel 2013 – 2014

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. 2014 – 2015 Calendars

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- a. Approval of ESE Vendor for STEM Licenses for ESE schools

Fund Source: Federal Programs
Amount: \$5,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Approval to Increase MOE for ESE Services in the Current Year to Cover Therapy Services Needed in the Current Fiscal Year

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$120,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #52-1314-0071

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #57-1314-9102

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. Approval to Continue Grounds Maintenance Contracts as per page (2)(c) of Bid #1314-02 Grounds Maintenance – Groups 1,2,3,4 & 6

Fund Source: 110
Amount: \$76,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Approval to Continue Agreement with North Florida Vault & Septic for Pump Out Services of Grease Traps and Sewer Plants

Fund Source: 110
Amount: \$8,520.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Approval to Continue the Grounds Maintenance Agreement with Mike Bryant Lawn Care for the Max D. Walker Building Complex

Fund Source: 110
Amount: \$6,500.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Approval to Continue Pest and Weed Control for Athletic Field's Contract as per page (3)(c) of Bid #1213-09 Pest and Weed Control Services for Athletic Fields District Wide

Fund Source: 110
Amount: \$19,519.50

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Approval to Continue Mowing Services for EGHS and WGHS for the remainder of the current fiscal year

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$8,800.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- f. Approval to Issue a PO for Tractor Work and Grounds Maintenance District-wide for Vendor

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$1,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- h. Approval to Continue Purchasing L.P. Gas for Heating and Kitchen Use per Bid #1213-20 L.P. Gas District Wide

Fund Source: 110 and 410
Amount: \$36,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- i. Annual Certification of Facilities Data

Fund Source: N/A
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.

*7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

c. Head Start Restoration Funds and Cost-of-Living Adjustment Funds (COLA)

Fund Source: Head Start
Amount: \$165,554.00

Ms. Lewis requested an overview of the Head Start Restoration Funds and Cost-of-Living Adjustment Funds (COLA).

Mrs. Carolyn Harden stated that the Head Start staff are paid according to the Gadsden County School District's salary schedule and is part of the Collective Bargaining Unit. She stated that to give the Head Start staff a cost-of-living increase at this time would put staff salaries out of line with similar positions in the school district, thereby, undermining the collective bargaining process, and would not be in the best interest of the Head Start Program. She stated that in lieu of a salary increase for staff, at this time, the Gadsden County School District's Head Start Program would like to request authorization to use available cost-of-living funds for the purpose of increasing funds in fuel cost and maintenance for the Head Start buses and van.

Ms. Lewis stated that she was concerned whether there had been any conversation with district staff regarding the vacant property near Havana Middle School to secure PreK students.

Mrs. Harden stated that there have been conversations with Mr. Shepard. She stated that she attended a Havana Middle School Planning Meeting. She stated that there are no Head Start/PreK monies for new construction, but renovations can be done. She stated that there are options for Head Start/Prek to contract with childcare centers to keep students in the community.

Ms. Lewis stated that the district should look at programs to expand three and four year old programs.

Following discussion, Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #7c. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

Ms. Lewis thanked Mrs. Harden, her son (Attorney Adaryll Lee), and the Midway Police Department for their support with the students of Gadsden County.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

d. Amended Charter Agreement for Crossroad Academy Charter School of Business

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

In response to Mr. Simmons' concern regarding the enrollment expansion, Mrs. Minis stated that the charter can expand its enrollment once per year up to the capacity of the facility.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

a. Gadsden District-Level Administrator Evaluation System

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

In response to Mr. Frost's request for an overview of the Gadsden District Level Administration Evaluation System, Dr. Sylvia Jackson stated that as part of the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the Florida Department of Education, the Race To The Top Application was written to the specifications of the Department of Education. She stated that the district developed a District Level Administrator Evaluation (DLEA) to honor the District's Race To The Top Memorandum of Understanding.

Following discussion, Mr. Charlie D. Frost made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Exceptional Student Education Amendments and Updates to Current Policies and Procedures

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

In response to Ms. Lewis' request for an overview of the Exceptional Student Education Amendments and Updates to Current Policies and Procedures, Ms. Sharon Thomas stated that the district's ESE Procedures and Guidelines have been approved by the Department of Education.

The Board thanked Ms. Thomas for her hard work and dedication to the district.

Following discussion, Ms. Audrey D. Lewis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #10b. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. STUDENT MATTERS

c. Student Suspension – See back-up material

Case #58-1314-9102

Mr. Helms made a motion to extend the suspension of student #58-1314-9102. The motion was seconded by Mr. Isaac Simmons and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that the school data looked very well. He stated that a FCAT Rally was scheduled on Saturday, April 5th from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Corry Field. He stated that the community as a whole was engaged in the process for the FCAT Rally.

12. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Frost stated that the Board needed to set standards of excellence.

Mr. Helms announced that a luncheon by the Quincy Kiwanis Golf Tournament was scheduled on Tuesday, April 25th. He stated that proceeds from the golf tournament will benefit the seniors at East Gadsden High School, West Gadsden High School and Robert F. Munroe School.

Mr. Simmons stated that the district needed to focus on the goals and objectives from the retreat. He stated that customer service training was needed for all administrators and staff.

Ms. Lewis stated that she was proud to see the evaluation component as part of the Gadsden District-Level Administrative Evaluation System. She stated that the district needed to ensure that accomplishments were being made with reading.

In response to Ms. Lewis' question regarding SAC Training, Dr. Hightower stated that a trainer from the Department of Education will be available in April or May.

Ms. Lewis stated that she was pleased with the Head Start presentation by Ms. Robin Chandler Jones, Head Start National Training Technical Services, of Atlanta, GA.

Mr. Milton announced that the GCCTA Gala was scheduled on Friday, April 5th. He responded yes to Mrs. Melanie King's question regarding receipt of notification by Crossroad Academy to expand their charter.

In response to Mrs. King's question whether district administrators will receive a bonus; Dr. Jackson stated that school site administrators will receive a bonus if State funds are available.

In response to Mrs. King's concern whether or not all administrators will be included to receive a bonus according to Florida Statute, Mrs. Minnis stated no, administrators must be designated in order to receive a bonus.

Mrs. King stated that policy and procedures were needed for donating sick leave according to the new statute.

Mrs. Ferree stated that during the summer, a workshop will be scheduled with Neola staff to update Board policies to include donating sick leave.

13. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.