

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

March 29, 2011

6:00 P.M.

This meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Judge B. Helms, Vice Chairman; 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; Mr. Kevin Carroll, Attorney for the Board; and others. Mr. Roger P. Milton, Chairman, was absent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chairman, Mr. Judge B. Helms, 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 Superintendent and Board recognized the following students: 1) Alexia Phillips – Middle School Winner for the Tropicana Speech Contest; 2) Leonardo Torres – Elementary School Winner for the Tropicana Speech Contest; and Orynell Lewis – Perfect score on Math/Reading FCAT. Students Alexia Phillips and Leonardo Torres recited their Tropicana speeches for the Board.

Mr. Hinson encouraged the students to get involved with speaking engagements. He recognized Ms. Alice Dupont – Gadsden County Times Editor, Mr. Byron Spires – Havana Herald Editor; Dr. Kimblin NeSmith and Ms. Debra Rackley for reaching their goals with the Gadsden Leadership and Law Academy.

Mr. James stated that the gala for the Gadsden Leadership and Law Academy was outstanding. He stated that another Superintendent attended the gala to observe the program.

Mr. Hinson invited everyone to the Alpha Scholarship Banquet on May 13th at 7:00 p.m.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Helms 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. February 22, 2011, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. February 22, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

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.

- a. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-One

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$1,639,041.30

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Two

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Three

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$722,755.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Four

Fund Source: 432 Targeted ARRA Stimulus Funds
Amount: \$.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- f. Budget Amendment Number Twenty-Five

Fund Source: 431 Funds
Amount: \$5,537.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT APPLICATIONS

- a. Contract for Unemployment Compensation Cost Control Services
Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$3,100.00 annually (\$775.00 per quarter)
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- b. Contracted Services
Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$11,600.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Contracted Services
Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$5,600.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Contracted Services
Fund Source: Title I School Improvement ARRA – Project #432261S
Amount: \$38,950.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

- a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #53-1011-0231
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #54-1011-0231
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #55-1011-0231
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #56-1011-0231
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #58-1011-0211
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- f. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #59-1011-0211
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- g. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #61-1011-0051
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- h. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #63-1011-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- i. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #71-1011-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- j. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #72-1011-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- k. Student Expulsion – See back-up material
Case #74-1011-0071
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

- a. HVAC Full Service Agreement with Brooks Air System at East Gadsden High School

Fund Source: 110 Fund
Amount: \$45,924.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. Walkway Cover Replacement at George W. Munroe Elementary School
Fund Source: Capital Outlay
Amount: \$11,650.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- c. New Parking and Road Paving at Greensboro Elementary School
Fund Source: General/Dollars Earmarked for Paving
Amount: \$41,750.00
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.
- d. Certification of Facilities Data
Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- a. ESOL Add –On Endorsement Plan
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.

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

- a. Personnel 2010 – 2011

Mr. Helms requested correction on page #7 of the agenda to remove Sara Anzualda from the personnel leave of absence list.

Following discussion, Mr. Isaac Simmons made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #6a with the noted correction to remove Sara Anzualda from the personnel leave of absence list. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost.

In response to Mr. Hinson’s concern about when substitutes are going to get a pay increase, Mr. James stated that no one has received a pay increase in years and substitutes are no different.

The motion for agenda item #6a carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENTS/PROJECT/GRANT/APPLICATIONS

e. 2011 – 2012 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant Applications

Fund Source: Florida Department of Education
Amount: Determined by Grant Approval

Mr. Helms requested an overview of agenda item #8e – 2011 – 2012 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant Applications.

Mrs. Joannette Thomas shared with the Board a brief overview of the 2011-2012 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant Application. She stated that the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 authorized funds for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for all states. She stated that all participating schools must offer fresh fruit and vegetable as a snack to students during the school day. She stated that five schools are presently participating in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and seven schools will be eligible to participate the next school year. She stated that the fresh fruit and vegetables are served at 2:45 p.m., and students receive curriculum on fruit and vegetables.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY

e. Request to Delete from Capital Assets – Motor Vehicles

Fund Source: Applicable Funds
Amount: \$76,224.00

Mr. Simmons asked what were the actual purchased price for the motor vehicles to be deleted from capital assets.

Mr. Bruce James stated that the vehicles have depreciated value at this time. He stated that vehicles will be advertised for sale and have open bids. He stated that Board approval is needed to delete the applicable depreciation from the Motor Vehicle Capital Assets. He stated that this action is based on information received from the Maintenance Department.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

12. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. James stated that the Student Success Act (Senate Bill 736) passed legislation. He stated that Senate Bill 736 will no longer require teacher tenure; evaluations will be done every three years; the 97-day rule will no longer be in tact; and a new performance appraisal for principals. He stated that the district is preparing for a new era. He stated that there will be flexibility with class size. He stated that FCAT testing will be administered in two weeks. He stated that the proficiency level has been increased. He stated there will be challenges with the new math. He stated that his prediction is there will be no failing schools this year. He stated that East Gadsden High School received an outstanding rating from the State. He stated that the coaches were extended an invitation to present at the State-wide conference.

State Representative Alan Williams presented the Board with a check in the amount of \$3,000 from his campaign funds. He praised the Board and Superintendent for their success in the district. He stated that the district should brand its programs such as the Gadsden Leadership and Law Academy because other districts want to follow with similar programs. He complimented the district for having three “A” schools. He stated that he made the contribution because of the needs in the county and his commitment to give back to the community. He stated that the check was made out to the Gadsden County Educational Foundation, a non-profit organization that aids in educational functions for the district.

The Superintendent and Board thanked State Representative Alan Williams for his contribution.

Mr. James stated that he attended the function to meet the new President of Tallahassee Community College, Dr. Murdaugh. He commended Dr. Murdaugh for his support to the Gadsden district. He also commended Mr. Milton. He stated that many of Gadsden’s students were featured at the President’s meet and greet function.

13. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Hinson stated that a district-wide process needed to be put in place for students entering the schools from other districts. He stated that he was concern that students who had discipline problems in other districts were allowed into the Gadsden district without proper background checks.

Mr. James stated that Mr. Hinson had a valid point in regards to the district putting in place a district-wide process for students to enter schools from other districts. He stated that he would look into developing a process that could be followed district-wide. He stated that currently principals check the students out as they transfer into the district.

Mr. Helms introduced Attorney Kevin Carroll with Ausley & McMullen Law Firm. He requested the Board have a closed-door session immediately following the regular meeting to discuss a pending litigation matter.

14. Mr. Helms recessed the meeting at 7:08 p.m. for a closed-door session to discuss a pending litigation matter. The closed-door session adjourned at 7:18 p.m.; the regular meeting reconvened at 7:19 p.m.; and adjourned at 7:20 p.m.