

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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

October 26, 2010

6:00 P.M.

This meeting 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 meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Isaac Simmons, 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

Mr. Chris Worrell, Division of Forestry, presented the Board with a check in the amount of \$15,971.56 for the district's share of the Lake Talquin State Forest proceeds. He stated that Gadsden youth utilizes the Bear Creek Education Center.

Mr. Hinson recognized the following individuals: 1) Town of Havana for hosting a successful pumpkin fest; 2) Havana Lions Club for a great chili cookout; and 3) New Jerusalem Church for their all male meetings on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Milton requested the TCC/Communities In Schools Afterschool Program receive 10% of the proceeds from the Division of Forestry check for academic services.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Simmons entertained a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Roger P. Milton, seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. September 28, 2010, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. September 28, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting
- c. October 5, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting
- d. October 12, 2010, 6:00 p.m. – Student Hearing

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.

- b. Budget Amendment Number One

Fund Source: 420 (Federal) Funds
Amount: \$1,748,451.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- c. Budget Amendment Number Two

Fund Source: 431 Fund
Amount: \$12,529.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Budget Amendment Number Three

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- e. Budget Amendment Number Four

Fund Source: 435 (Education Jobs Fund) Funds
Amount: \$1,116,602.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- f. Budget Amendment Number Five

Fund Source: 433 (ARRA Stimulus Grant) Funds
Amount: \$5,977.47

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

a. Contracted Services

Fund Source: General Fund and Title X
Amount: \$35,400.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Contracted Services

Fund Source: General Fund
Amount: \$8,000.00

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

9. STUDENT MATTERS

a. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #06-1011-0231

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

b. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #07-1011-0071

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. Hinson stated that he was concerned about teachers teaching out-of-field.

Dr. Hightower stated that the principal at Havana Middle School needed a reading instructor, and the teacher was only requesting to teach out-of-field for one class.

Mr. Hinson stated that he want to have certified teachers in all positions. He suggested looking at ways to hire certified coaches in subject areas.

Dr. Jackson stated that the out-of-field teacher is a reading coach and is certified to teach any subject in grades 5 through 9.

In response to Mr. Hinson’s concern regarding whether teachers who are terminated are replaced, Dr. Hightower stated yes.

In response to Mr. Hinson’s concern regarding the transfer of a secretary and paraprofessional from East Gadsden High School, Dr. Hightower stated that it was the principal’s recommendation and to prevent over staffing at the school.

In response to Mr. Helms' concern regarding a law instructor position at West Gadsden High School, Mr. James stated that the position was funded by the School Improvement Grant.

Following discussion, Mr. Eric F. Hinson made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #6a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Judge B. Helms and carried unanimously.

Mr. Simmons requested that the motion for agenda item #6a made by Mr. Hinson be amended to exclude out-of-field teaching.

Mr. Hinson made a motion to amend the motion for agenda item #6a to exclude out-of-field teaching. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

c. Gadsden Technical Institute Memorandum of Agreement for School Store

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons asked for an explanation of the school store housed at Gadsden Technical Institute.

Mr. James stated that the school store provide at no cost, dining facilities (portable) with adequate seating and eating area for students, and any staff. He stated that refreshments are served.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*9. STUDENT MATTERS

c. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #08-1011-0071

Mr. Simmons stated that he did not agree with the Superintendent's recommendation to have student #08-1011-0071 return to their home school upon completion of the expulsion.

Mr. Helms stated that he want the Board to review the student's file at the end of the school year.

Following discussion, Mr. Hinson made a motion to amend the Superintendent's recommendation to expel student #08-1011-0071 to the Adult Education Program for the remainder of the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- d. Student Expulsion – See back-up material

Case #09-1011-0051

Mr. Laron Williams, stepfather of student #09-1011-0051, addressed the Board request a hearing.

Following discussion, Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to defer action on agenda item #9d until the parent or legal guardian requested a hearing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charlie D. Frost and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

***10. SCHOOL FACILITY/PROPERTY**

- a. Five Year District Facilities Work Plan

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms stated that he was concerned about some schools having 50% or less utilization. He asked if there was a committee in place to see what could be done with the small schools.

Mr. James stated that a committee will be established to address utilization in small schools.

Mr. Helms stated that the committee and community need to be involved in the discussion of utilizing space at the small schools. He stated that explanation of changes needed to begin earlier enough to prepare people for changes. He stated that some schools need to be consolidated.

Mr. Hinson stated that the focus need to be on how we spend funds. He stated that the district needed to maintain all schools. He stated that the “c” word did not need to be entertained at this time.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Board has not entertained any issues regarding consolidation.

In response to Mr. Hinson’s concern regarding the sewer system at Havana Elementary School where the 1st and 2nd grade halls are, Mr. Shepard stated that the issue has been addressed with the custodial staff.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve agenda item #10a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*11. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

a. School Advisory Council Rosters

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Helms complimented Ms. Lewis for her hard work with the district. He stated that DOE guidelines required each school to present a SAC roster representative of the community involved. He stated that some of the SAC rosters presented are not reflective of the Hispanic, African American, or White communities.

Ms. Lewis stated that according to Florida Statutes each advisory council shall be composed of the principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and other business and community citizens who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school.

Following discussion, Mr. Judge B. Helms made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve agenda item #11a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

*8. MISCELLANEOUS

d. Lazok v. Gadsden County School Board

Mr. Simmons added to the agenda item #8d – Lazok v. Gadsden County School Board.

Mr. Roger P. Milton made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on agenda item #8d. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

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

a. Discussion and Request to Advertise the Board's Intent to Create School Board Rules Numbered 8.71 (Information Technology Data and Computer Systems: Security, Audits and Controls) and 8.72 (Information Technology Data and Computer Systems: System Passwords and Access)

Fund Source: N/A
Amount: N/A

Mr. Simmons requested the Board approve agenda item #12a and schedule a workshop to further discuss.

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. Eric F. Hinson and carried unanimously.

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

13. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

14. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Milton requested a change for Mr. Helms to serve on the Planning & Zoning Committee, and for him to serve on the Value Adjustment Board due to schedule conflict. Mr. Frost will serve as the Alternate for the Value Adjustment Board; and Mr. Simmons will serve as the Alternate for the Planning & Zoning Committee.

Mr. Frost requested a report on Title I Reimbursements at the next Board meeting.

In response to Mr. Frost concern regarding the location and number of combo classes, Mr. James stated that combo classes are utilized to meet class size.

Mr. Frost requested that all administrators be informed that schools are open to the public.

Mr. Milton stated that he was concerned about the collection of fees for the use of facilities, and how much was being collected.

Mr. Simmons stated that as elected officials, Board members need to be reminded of their positions. He stated that their image should be parallel to the school system and be in a leadership role.

Mr. Hinson stated that the district needs to be mindful of having both high schools' homecoming on the same day. He stated that it causes a conflict with attending both homecoming games on the same night.

In response to Mr. Hinson's concern about the savings with Honeywell, Mrs. Wood stated that the energy savings was a reduction in electrical costs, approximately \$400,000.00 per year.

Mr. Hinson stated that he had received a call from a parent regarding her child being taken out of a Spanish II class because it is no longer being offered at East Gadsden High School. He stated that it is mandatory that students have two foreign languages.

Dr. Jackson stated that students can take Spanish I at East Gadsden High School. She stated that because a Spanish II teacher could not be found, students are given the opportunity to take the Spanish II class online.

Mr. Milton requested that all students are kept on academic track and have access to take their foreign language classes.

Following discussion of the November Board meeting, the Board agreed to schedule the following meetings: 1) November 16th – Workshop at 4:30 p.m.; Organizational Meeting at 5:30 p.m.; Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.; and 2) December 14th – Workshop at 4:30 p.m.; and Regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The Board convened in executive session at 7:45 p.m.; and adjourned at 8:10 p.m.